

CHILDREN

# SEARCH

The

# SCRIPTURES

**VOLUME 1**

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## **Search the Scriptures**

### **Volume I**

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## LESSON 1

# THE CREATION AND ORIGIN OF MAN

Genesis 1:1-31; 2:1-25

**T**he opening chapter of the Bible begins with “**In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**” This summarizes the whole project of creation. We learn from the text that the earth was without form, empty and dark. Then God's Spirit moved over the waters preparing to perform God's creative word. Then God began to speak into existence His creation.

The account of creation in Genesis chapter one is a timeless story which children love to hear. It reveals God's awesome power, His purpose of creating all things and His unique relationship with man as the crown of His creation. The Bible gives us a daily account of the creation process. Then at last, as the crown of His work, God made man in His own image. Man was provided a great opportunity and privilege to be what God wants him to be. God has a divine purpose for creating all things, He was not just doing experiment. Boys and girls must strive to fulfill the purpose for which God made them. This is the whole essence of life.



## **1. THE CREATION OF THE WORLD:**

Genesis 1:1-31; Psalms 33:6,7; Isaiah 45:18; 48:13

God is the creator of heaven, earth and everything in them. God called into existence everything that had no prior existence. Before then, everywhere was empty and dark. Then God created the light to take away the darkness (Genesis 1:3-5), gave form to the universe (Genesis 1:6-13) and filled the earth with living things (Genesis 1:20-28). God created all things in the world with the power of His word. Over and over it is stated "And God said ...". In other words, God spoke everything that was created into being by His word (Psalm 33:6,9). The creation process was very orderly and reveals the day to day activities of the Creator.

Day 1 – God created light and separated the light from the darkness calling the light day and darkness night (Genesis 1:1-5).

Day 2 – God created a wide stretch to separate the waters and called it firmament (Genesis 1:6-8).

Day 3 – God created the dry land (earth) and gathered the waters together and called it seas. He also created vegetation (plants and trees) (Genesis 1:9-13).

Day 4 – God created the sun, moon and the stars to give light to the earth and to govern. Also, to separate the day and the night. These would also serve as signs to mark seasons, days and years (Genesis 1:14-19).

Day 5 – God created every living creature of the seas and every winged bird, blessing them to multiply and fill the waters and the sky with life (Genesis 1:20-23).

Day 6 – God created the animals to fill the earth. On the sixth day, God also created man and woman in His own image to commune with Him. He blessed and gave to them every creature and the whole earth to rule over, cultivate and care for them.

God first created all the things that would make man comfortable and happy before He made them the crown of His creation.

Day 7 – God finished His work of creation and so He rested on the seventh day, blessing it and making it holy. All that God created was good, He was pleased with His creation. Throughout the process of creating all things, God stopped and looked at each of all that He made and saw that it was good. On final inspection of all that He had made, God declared that it was 'very good'.

God delighted in His work and valued it for itself. Likewise, friends of Jesus should regard nature and its beauty as good things to be enjoyed and of great value. Although nature is now corrupted by sin, it still has great value as an expression of God's glory and love for mankind. We should also pray for complete restoration of all things from sin and decay (Romans 8:21; Revelation 21:1).

## **2. THE ORIGIN OF MAN:** Genesis 1:26,27; 2:4-25; 5:2; Psalms 8:6-8; Matthew 19:4

Every boy and girl regardless of their colour, height, status, nationality, are created by God. The man and woman were created on the sixth day, after

God had created other things (Genesis 1:26-27). He formed man out of the dust, breathed into him and man became a living soul. Man did not develop from lower animals as some scientists claim. We are wonderfully and fearfully made by God (Psalm 139:14). Man is a product of the breath of God. As a living soul, man is not like animals. He is created in the image of God. He is an ever-living being. When animals die, they do not exist anymore but when man dies, he continues to live in another realm either in heaven or hell.

Adam was alone dressing the garden of Eden. God then said, **“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him”**. Therefore, God caused a deep sleep upon Adam, took one of his ribs and made the woman (Eve). The woman became his partner and helpmeet. They were together in the garden enjoying fellowship with God and with one another. This is the origin of our ancestors. God is great and greatly to be praised.

He made everything that the man needed to live comfortably around him. However, He gave him a commandment not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17). God has made you wonderfully and provided you with all that you need to be successful in life. However, you need to be born again and continue to keep all His commandments and obey the word of God to enjoy all the blessings that God has in store for you.

### **3. THE PURPOSE OF GOD IN CREATING ALL THINGS:**

Psalm 33:6-9; Isaiah 43:6,7; Psalm 148:1-13; 139:14

God has specific reasons for creating the world and everything in it. The Bible teaches us that God created the world and all that is in it for His own glory. The creation of all things demonstrates His glory, love, grace, mercy, wisdom, power and goodness (Psalm 19:1; 8:1; 50:6; 89:5). God created the heavens and the earth to: (i) Receive the glory and honour due Him. All the things He created – sun, moon, stars, trees, rain, rivers, hills, mountains, animals and birds – were created to glorify God. (ii) Provide a place where His purpose and goals for mankind might be fulfilled. (iii) Have a loving personal relationship with man for all eternity. Even when Satan succeeded in tempting Adam and Eve to disobey, God promised to send a Saviour to save mankind from the consequences of sin.

Boys and girls are special in the sight of God. He desires to possess them so that they can glorify Him and live before Him in righteousness and holiness (Isaiah 60:21; 61:1-3; 1 Peter 2:9). Anyone that is still living in sin is not fulfilling the purpose for which God created him. To fulfill that purpose, such a child must repent, confess his sins, ask for pardon and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Invite Jesus into his heart to be his Saviour and Lord. Then, such a child becomes a new creature who will love God, serve and glorify Him in all his ways. Pray that God will help you to fulfill the purpose for which you are born.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. How many days did it take God to create everything?
2. What was the first thing God created?
3. What were the duties of Adam in the garden of Eden?
4. Mention reasons why God created all that He made.
5. (a) Can a sinful child enter into loving relationship with God?  
(b) Mention the steps that a sinful child needs to take in order to enter into this divine relationship.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

**LESSON:** Boys and girls regardless of their races, complexion, height, nationality, cultural and family background, general appearance, were created by God.

**THOUGHT:** I will live to glorify God who is my Creator.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should mention what God created in each of the days of creation.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 14 - HOW GREAT THOU ART**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Jesus loves the little children (2) I live for Jesus day after day (3) God made me, I am wonderfully made.

**HOMEWORK:** Every child should draw at least one 'creature' which God created in each of the days of creation.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	PSALM	33:6-8
TUESDAY	ISAIAH	43:6-9
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	18:1-4
THURSDAY	JOHN	1:1-3
FRIDAY	COLOSSIANS	1:15-18
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	19:4-6
SUNDAY	GENESIS	5:1-3

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Creation 2. Origin 3. Project 4. Purpose 5. Demonstrate.



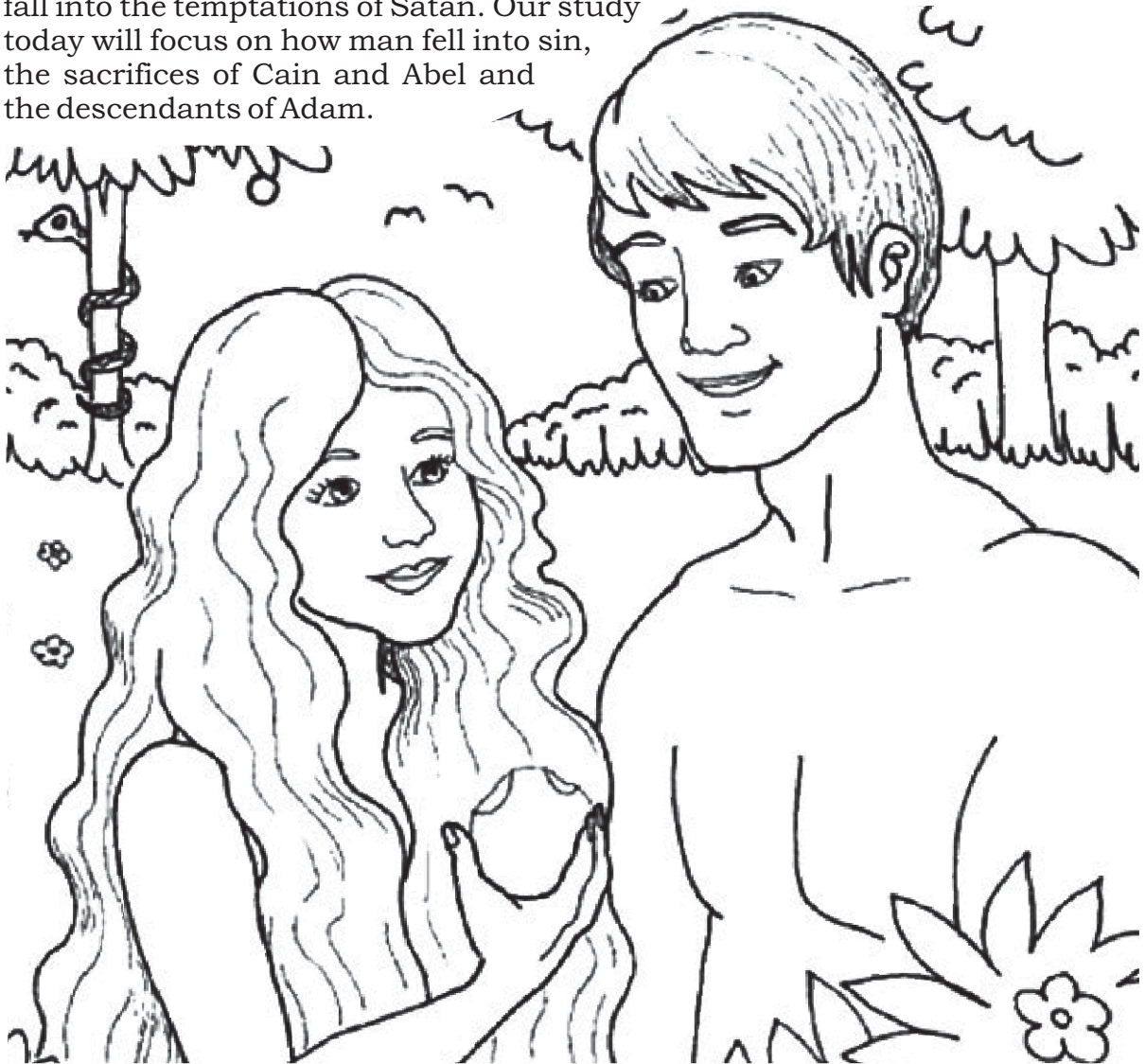
## LESSON 2

# THE FALL OF MAN

Genesis 3:1-24; 4:1-26; 5:1-32

In the previous study, we learned about how God created the world. He created the heaven and the earth. Everything God created was good. He created Adam and Eve and put them in the garden of Eden. He instructed them not to eat of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. Satan, in the form of a serpent, deceived Eve. Satan was out to destroy the works of God. He made Eve to doubt and disobey God and caused the downfall of the human race through his deception (Romans 5:12-20).

Satan can tempt anyone. He tempted Eve and also tempted our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:1-10). It is not a sin to be tempted but yielding to Satan's temptations becomes sin. You need to pray that God will keep you so as not to fall into the temptations of Satan. Our study today will focus on how man fell into sin, the sacrifices of Cain and Abel and the descendants of Adam.



## 1. SATAN DECEIVED ADAM AND EVE:

Genesis 3:1-24; 1 John 2:15-17; Matthew 4:1-11

Satan made Eve to doubt God. She yielded to Satan by eating of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden. This was a great disobedience. Eve also gave the fruit to her husband, Adam. Eve made Adam to disobey God. Satan is your enemy. He wants you to disobey God and miss heaven. You need to keep the word of God in your heart so as not to commit sin. Don't bring sin into your family and the Children Church. The Bible says, **"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not"** (Proverbs 1:10). If anybody comes to you to invite you to participate in any form of evil, don't agree. The eyes of the Lord are everywhere watching everybody, including you.

After Adam and Eve had disobeyed God's word, they saw that they were naked, and they covered their nakedness with fig leaves. Can fig leaves cover one's nakedness? No! When God came in the evening to fellowship with them, they hid themselves. Adam and Eve lost their God given-righteousness and went into self-righteousness. The guilt of sin made Adam and Eve to hide from God. They were afraid and uncomfortable in His presence because they had sinned, and God was not happy with them. Sin will make you to run away from fellowship with godly people and will hinder you from hearing God's voice. God punished Adam and Eve for their disobedience as well as the serpent who deceived them. If you are a friend of Jesus, Christ has redeemed you from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13).

God later covered the nakedness of Adam and Eve with animals' skins. God loves us but hates the sins in the life of the sinner. Do not cover your sins. The Bible says that, **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"** (Proverbs 28:13). Confess your sins to Jesus today. God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and put an angel with a flaming sword at the gate to watch over the entrance to the tree of life. If you remain in your sins, the door of heaven will be shut against you. Give your life to Jesus, repent of your sins and ask Jesus to come into your heart to be your personal Lord and Saviour.

## 2. SACRIFICES OF CAIN AND ABEL:

Genesis 4:1-26; Deuteronomy 11:26-28; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12

Adam and Eve gave birth to Cain and Abel. Both of them were engaged in profitable works. Cain grew crops while Abel was a shepherd, rearing and taking care of his sheep. Cain brought an offering of the fruit of his farm which symbolizes self-righteousness. Abel brought the firstlings of his flock for an offering which shows that without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22). God accepted the offering of Abel but rejected that of Cain. God accepted the offering of Abel because he came before God in true faith and righteousness but rejected Cain's offering because he lacked sincere faith and his deeds were evil. Cain was not happy because God rejected his sacrifice. He became jealous and bitter. As a result, he murdered his brother, Abel. When God asked him about his brother, he was rude to God. **"And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my**



**brother's keeper?"** (Genesis 4:9). Cain told a lie that he did not know anything about his brother. Cain did not humble himself in godly sorrow and repentance but chose to be rebellious. His sin of murder led to the sin of lying.

When you commit sin and cover it up, it will lead you into committing another sin. There is nothing you do in the secret that God does not know. You cannot hide anything from Him. God cursed Cain because of his wickedness in killing his brother which brought much suffering on him. Sin brings punishment and judgment. Do not commit sin. Cain was not sorry for his sins and had to bear the punishment for them. However, God is merciful. Today, if any child repents of his sins, God will forgive him and wash him clean with the blood of Jesus. God gave Adam and Eve another child, called Seth, to replace Abel who was killed. God does not forget His children. He has a better replacement for all that His friends might have lost. What have you lost? Is it wisdom, understanding, or any other thing? Call upon God in prayer and He will surely give you a better replacement in Jesus Name.

### **3. SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ADAM:**

Genesis 5:1-32; Ecclesiastes 3:1,2

Our Bible passage gives a list of descendants of Adam. After the death of Abel, Adam gave birth to Seth. Seth gave birth to Enos. Enos gave birth to Cainan. Cainan gave birth to Mahalaleel. Mahalaleel gave birth to Jared. Jared gave birth to Enoch. Enoch gave birth to Methuselah. Methuselah gave birth to Lamech. Lamech gave birth to Noah. Noah gave birth to Shem, Ham and Japheth. There is time for everything. Everything that has a beginning must also have an end. In Genesis Chapter 5, the word "died" appeared eight times. Adam lived for 930 years and died. Seth lived for 912 years and died. Enos lived for 905 years and died. Methuselah lived for 969 years and died. This shows that everybody born into this world will die one day except at rapture when true believers will go to meet Christ in the air without dying.

Death can come at any time but one person was singled out who escaped death, his name is Enoch. He walked with God. He was a preacher of righteousness (Jude 14,15). God took him to heaven by rapture. He did not taste death.

There are some lessons you need to learn from this section.

(i) Be like Enoch, a preacher of righteousness. Preach the gospel, anywhere you find yourself – in the school, at home, on the play-ground, in the bus and everywhere. You must preach the gospel, when it is convenient and not convenient (2 Timothy 4:2).

(ii) Walk with God. This means you should be holy as He is holy. Enoch walked with God. Let God be your Alpha and Omega – the beginning and the end.

(iii) Do not remain in your sinful ways. A day of judgment is coming. God will judge all sinners.

God is not interested in the death of any sinner. He wants everyone to be saved. A sinner who refuses salvation will go to hell. If you are still doing bad things - like stealing, telling lies, fighting, cursing, abusing and cheating in examination, do not remain in your sinful condition. Give your life to Jesus today by

taking the steps to salvation. Know yourself as a sinner, confess your sins to God, ask for forgiveness of your sins, ask Jesus to cleanse you with His blood, forsake all your sins and invite Jesus to come into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour. Believe that Jesus has forgiven you and continue to live a holy life.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Satan deceived \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did God send Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden?
3. What do you learn from the fig leaves and skin of animal used in covering Adam and Eve?
4. Why did God curse Cain?
5. Enoch did not taste death. Yes/No?
6. What will a sinner do to avoid hell?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15).

**LESSON:** Obedience to God's word leads to eternal life while disobedience leads to eternal death.

**THOUGHT:** I will obey God so as to have eternal life.

**ACTIVITY:** Children and teachers are to pray fervently for grace not to fall into temptation.

### CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 40 - WASH ME, O LAMB OF GOD

**CHORUSES:** (1) You cannot hide it from God (2) I will never let the devil win the battle (3) Happiness is to know the Saviour.

**HOMEWORK:** Search the scriptures and write in your church notebook, three people that were tempted by Satan.

### DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ROMANS	5:12-14
TUESDAY	ROMANS	5:15-17
WEDNESDAY	ROMANS	5:18-21
THURSDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	15:20-22
FRIDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	15:23-26
SATURDAY	ROMANS	3:9-12
SUNDAY	ROMANS	3:23-26

### BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Descendant 2. Bruise 3. Void 4. Sacrifices 5. Replacement.

### LESSON 3

## THE FLOOD AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Genesis 6:1-22; 7:1-24; 8:1-22; 9:1-29; 10:1-32; 11:1-32

**T**he flood here refers to the great flood during the time of Noah when God, in His anger destroyed all living things on the surface of the earth. Noah, his family and a few animals alone were saved. Before Adam, the first man and his wife Eve disobeyed God they were holy and had the righteous nature of God. But after they disobeyed God, they lost the glory and favour of God. They became servants of sin and were corrupt in their nature. They also became wicked and brought the judgment of God upon the world. They were driven from the garden and every child that was born through them inherited their disobedient and sinful nature. This was how sin, and evil began to multiply on the earth. As men were multiplying, unrighteousness multiplied also.

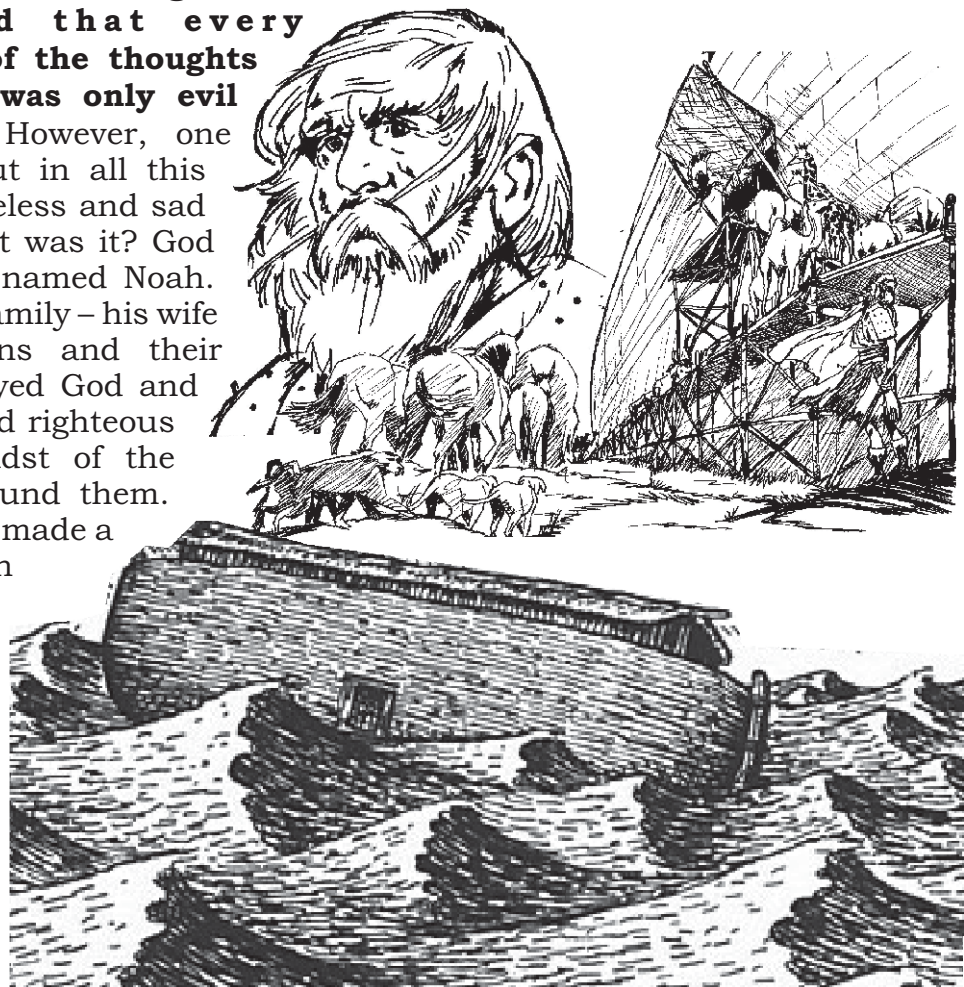
Thus, God decided to destroy man from off the surface of the earth. Consider how God described man in Genesis 6:5. **“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the**

**earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”** However, one

thing stood out in all this seemingly hopeless and sad situation. What was it? God found a man, named Noah. Noah and his family – his wife and three sons and their wives still obeyed God and lived a holy and righteous life in the midst of the corruption around them.

Therefore, God made a

covenant with them that He would not destroy them when He judged the rest of the world and wiped them all off the surface of the earth. The story of



the flood and its consequences on the human race is what we shall consider in this study.

### **1. THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN:**

Genesis 6:1-13; 8:21; Psalm 14:1-3; Jeremiah 4:22; 17:9,10

After the fall of man, people began to multiply and fill the earth. The descendants from the godly line of Seth began to intermarry with the women from the ungodly family of Cain (Genesis 6:1,2). This union of the godly with the unrighteous led to “wickedness” (Genesis 6:5). They all continued to do evil. As a result, the earth became corrupt and filled with violence.

This provoked and made God unhappy. The situation has not changed in our present generation. There is sin everywhere - fornication, stealing, murder, violence, fighting, cheating, immorality, lies, and all ungodly acts. Sin is so rampant that you do not need to teach a baby before he starts to do bad things. The wickedness of the people in Noah's time made God to instruct Noah to build the ark. In the process of building the ark, he preached and warned the people of the coming judgment. The people continued as if they did not see Noah and the ark. The flood came and destroyed all living things. Noah, his family and selected animals were saved. Sinners today are still behaving like the people in Noah's time. Repent and believe the gospel and do not join them to continue in sin.

### **2. THE FLOOD AND ITS CONSEQUENCES:**

Genesis 7:1-24; Job 11:20; 21:30; Psalm 9:17; Jeremiah 4:23-27;  
Matthew 24:36-39

**“And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark”** (Genesis 7:23). This passage summarizes the judgment through the flood and the effect it had on the earth. The flood story shows both judgment and salvation by a righteous and Holy God. God caused rain to fall continuously for forty days and forty nights. The consequence was that: (i) All living creatures outside the ark died, both human and animal (Matthew 24:37-39; 1 Peter 3:20). (ii) Water rose to such great heights that it covered all the high hills that were in the whole earth. This means that the entire earth was covered with water. (iii) The whole earth perished (2 Peter 3:6). Thus, the earth changed both physically and geologically.

The flood was God's righteous judgment on an ungodly and unrepentant world. This judgment would have served as a means to help those who were saved to remain sinless and serve God with holy fear. But it is not so. Immediately after the deliverance of Noah and his family, sin and wickedness reared its head again through his son. Thereafter, sin continues to multiply and spread till this day. However, it is important to note that God will again judge the whole world at the end of time and this time, it will be by fire (2 Peter



2:5; 3:10). God calls friends of Jesus today, as He called Noah of old to warn the unsaved about this 'terrible day'. He is urging sinners to repent of their sins, turn to God through Christ and be saved.

As a sinner, do not delay your salvation. Run to Jesus, our Ark of salvation. Ask Him to forgive you and wash your heart clean with His blood. Ask Him also to be your Saviour and friend. Live a holy life. Preach to sinners and expect the rapture any moment from now.

### **3. DELIVERANCE AND BLESSING FOR THE GODLY:**

Genesis 7:1; 8:1-22; 9:1-29; Psalm 1:6; 112:6; Proverbs 10:30  
God remembered Noah and his family and delivered them from the destruction. The earth dried up and Noah came out of the ark three hundred and seventy-one (371) days after the flood began. God preserved him in the ark. That is how God will deliver and preserve all boys and girls who have given their lives to Jesus and abide in Him. All that Noah and his family needed were in the ark. All that we need today to be saved is Jesus. When we face troubles in the world, we must stay with Him Noah obeyed God till the end. He did not go out of the ark until God told him to do so (Genesis 8:16). Boys and girls must also hear from God before taking decisions either to go to a school, choose a career, go on a journey or in choosing a friend. Proverbs 3:6 says **“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”**.

Noah built an altar to the Lord after his great deliverance. You must cultivate the habit of thanking God all the time for all the great things He is doing in your life. God promised that He would send a rainbow as a sign that He would not destroy the earth again with a flood. The rainbow is to remind us of God's mercy and faithfulness to His word. God again blessed Noah with the blessing of multiplication as he did for Adam and Eve. He told Adam to be fruitful and multiply. You must not be stagnant. Bring others to the kingdom so that our churches and fellowships will grow.

After the flood also, Noah worked hard as a farmer and planted a vineyard. He was not lazy and God blessed him. But he was careless and got drunk one day and one of his sons saw his nakedness and told his brothers. However, his brothers were wiser than him and they covered their father without seeing his nakedness. You must cover your nakedness and do not expose your body to people. Ham received a curse from his father for looking at his father's nakedness.

God still blessed Noah with long life for he still lived for another 350 years after the flood. He lived a total of 950 years because he was 600 years old when the flood came. This shows that one of the blessings we will receive from God if we obey Him is long life. There is deliverance and abundant blessings for you when you are righteous and obedient to God's word. You will get to heaven and live eternally with Jesus at the end.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did God decide to destroy the earth?
2. How did God destroy the earth?
3. How many people were saved from the flood?
4. How were they saved?
5. How can sinners be saved from the judgment to come?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and everything that is in the earth shall die” (Genesis 6:17).

**LESSON:** Though the world around may be evil, the righteous will be delivered.

**THOUGHT:** I will keep myself pure and separate from the world so as to be delivered from God's judgment.

**ACTIVITY:** Two children – a boy and a girl should be called out to speak on why it was good for God to destroy the whole earth with the flood.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 207 - THERE'S A GREAT DAY COMING**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Judgment is coming, tomorrow may be late (2) One day be one day (3) The Lord, told Noah there's going to be a floody, floody.

**HOMEWORK:** From the story of Noah, write out the names of the descendants of each of the sons of Noah to the fourth generation.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	JEREMIAH	17:9,10
TUESDAY	JEREMIAH	4:25-28
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	9:15-17
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	24:36-39
FRIDAY	1 PETER	3:20-22
SATURDAY	2 PETER	3:8-11
SUNDAY	1 PETER	2:4-9

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Geologically
2. Judgment
3. Descendant
4. Consequence
5. Ark.

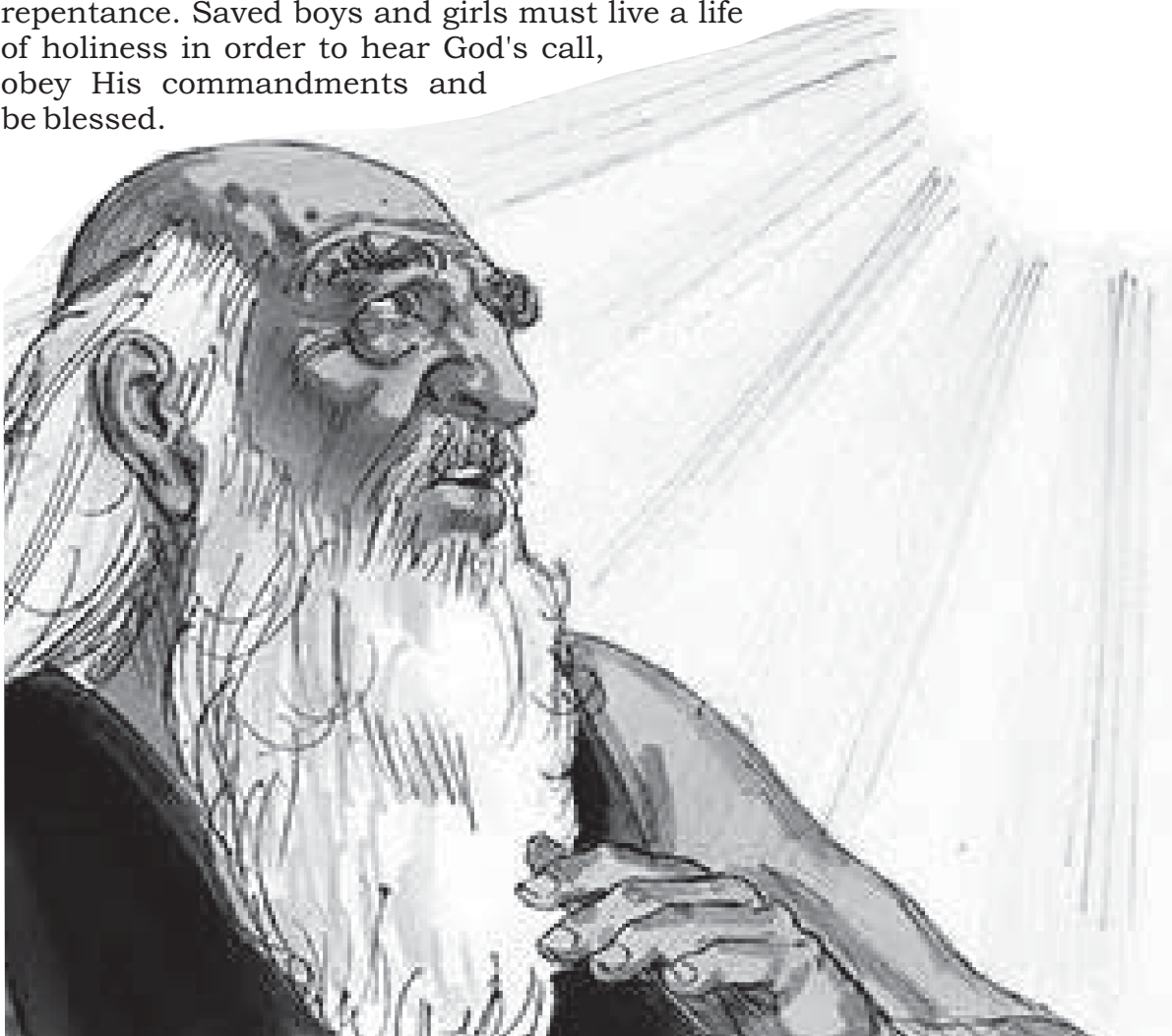
#### LESSON 4

## GOD'S CALL AND COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-20;13:1-18;14:1-24;15:1-21;16:1-16;17:1-27

**G**od called Abraham and told him to leave his country to a foreign land where He would bless him greatly. Abraham obeyed immediately and departed from his country. This was the beginning of the fulfillment of God's plan to redeem mankind. The fall of Adam and Eve had affected God's original plan for mankind. Therefore, the call of Abraham was God's way of building up a nation to bring His promise to fulfillment. God called Abraham and also made a covenant to bless him. A covenant is a binding agreement between two or more people. God entered into a covenant relationship to bless Abraham and make him a great nation.

God called Abraham for a special task and bound it with a covenant. God is also calling sinners to repentance, saved children to be holy and righteous like Abraham - our father of faith. Today if you are still a sinner, God calls you to repentance. Saved boys and girls must live a life of holiness in order to hear God's call, obey His commandments and be blessed.



## **1. THE CALL OF ABRAHAM:**

Genesis 12:1-20; 13:14-18; 14:17-24; Acts 7:1-8; Hebrews 11:8-10

Abraham was called when he was seventy-five years old, he obeyed the call without looking back and went with his whole family and possessions. His answer to the call of God to an unknown place is an evidence of complete obedience and strong faith in God. The call of Abraham was made very clearly. When God called him, He told him the price he had to pay. He was to break away completely from the past and face the direction God was leading him. It is also very significant that God told Abraham to come out from among his people and country. Likewise, friends of Jesus are called to come out of the world and live a separate life from the sinful influences of the world around them. Every form of sin must be forsaken, and evil associations must be cut off. When one becomes born again, he/she must do away with old sinful habits. The call of God demands that we live a holy life and continue to follow Jesus steadfastly to the very end.

## **2. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM:**

Genesis 15:1-21; 16:1-16

When God entered into a covenant relationship with Abraham, He expected Abraham to fulfil his own part by being obedient. There are two parties to a covenant. This covenant involved the Almighty God and Abraham, His friend. Therefore, if Abraham was not obedient, he would not receive the promises of the covenant. God expressly offered several promises in His covenant relationship with Abraham. (i) God would be his shield and reward (ii) Abraham would become the father of many nations even when his wife had not yet given birth to a child. God changed his name from Abram meaning exalted father to Abraham – father of many nations. (iii) The land of Canaan would be his inheritance. God called Abraham to respond in faith to these promises, to accept them and to trust in God as his Lord. Because he obeyed, Abraham was accepted by God as righteous.

God's covenant with Abraham was called an “everlasting covenant”. God, through many witnesses, proved that He would fulfill His promise to Abraham. Thus, Melchizedek as a type of Christ appeared to him. He was told to be circumcised. God wanted the covenant to be a permanent one. However, if Abraham's descendants broke the covenant agreement, then God was no longer bound to His promises. God is also calling friends of Jesus today to enter into a covenant relationship with Him by living a holy life and in return, God will bless them abundantly.

The covenant between God and Abraham attracted lots of blessings into his life. God blessed him with an heir, made him fruitful, protected him and he became a very great nation (Genesis 15:18-21). God wants every boy and girl to come into a covenant relationship with Him by repenting of their sins and being born again. As you continue to live a holy life, God's promises for Abraham will also be fulfilled in your life. Such blessings include – success, protection, good health, divine provision and many other good things.



### **3. GOD'S COVENANT BLESSINGS FOR OBEDIENT CHILDREN:**

Genesis 17:1-27; Deuteronomy 18:13; 30:6; Ezekiel 11:19,20; 36:24-28;  
Acts 7:8; Romans 4:9-12

**“... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”** (Genesis 12:3b). This Bible verse is the focus or central truth of the covenant that God made with Abraham. After the fall of man, God promised that the 'seed' of the woman would bruise the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15). Genesis 12:3b is the second prophesy concerning the coming of Jesus Christ. It speaks of a spiritual blessing that would come through Abraham's seed. The New Testament confirms that the seed is Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16). The blessings therefore refer to the gospel of Christ offered to all the nations. God's promise to Abraham reveals that from the very beginning, the purpose of the gospel was to bless all the nations with salvation and eternal life.

The call of God to Abraham was in two parts: (i) He was called to come out of idol worship, separate from his native land to follow God and become His friend. He obeyed and left everything despite the fact that he did not know exactly where God was leading him. He encountered a lot of difficulties, temptations and pain on the journey (famine, childlessness, fear, war etc.), yet he continued to follow God in faith and obedience. (ii) He was called to walk before the Lord and be perfect. This is a holy calling. The sign of this covenant call was circumcision of all male members of Abraham's family. He also obeyed and God confirmed His covenant blessings on Abraham and his descendants.

Today, boys and girls can enjoy covenant blessings if they answer the call of God. As a sinner, you are called to repent of all sins, ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Invite Jesus into your heart to be your Saviour and Lord. As a friend of Jesus, you will make progress spiritually by desiring and seeking to be sanctified. Then the Lord will circumcise your heart and make you holy and righteous in your conduct and character. There are great physical and spiritual blessings that you will enjoy as you serve God in faith and obedience.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. A covenant is \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Abraham's action when God called him?
3. God's call demands that we should be separated from the world. Yes/No?
4. Mention 3 promises that God made to Abraham.
5. How can sinful children enter into covenant relationship with God?

**MEMORY VERSE: “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing”** (Genesis 12:1-2).

**LESSON:** God's covenant is for obedient children.

**THOUGHT:** I will obey the Lord so that His covenant blessings will be fulfilled in my life.

**ACTIVITY:** Two children (a boy and girl) should narrate the story of God's call to Abraham.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 88 - WHEREVER HE LEADS I'LL GO**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Abraham's blessings are mine (2) Father Abraham has many sons (3) Covenant keeping God.

**HOMEWORK:** Children should write in their homework notebook, five things they will do to show their obedience to God's call.

#### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	ACTS	7:2-6
TUESDAY	ROMANS	4:1-5
WEDNESDAY	ROMANS	4:9-11
THURSDAY	ROMANS	4:12-15
FRIDAY	ROMANS	4:16-18
SATURDAY	ROMANS	4:19-25
SUNDAY	EZEKIEL	36:24-28

#### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Covenant 2. Expressly 3. Steadfastly 4. Significant 5. Influence.

## LESSON 5

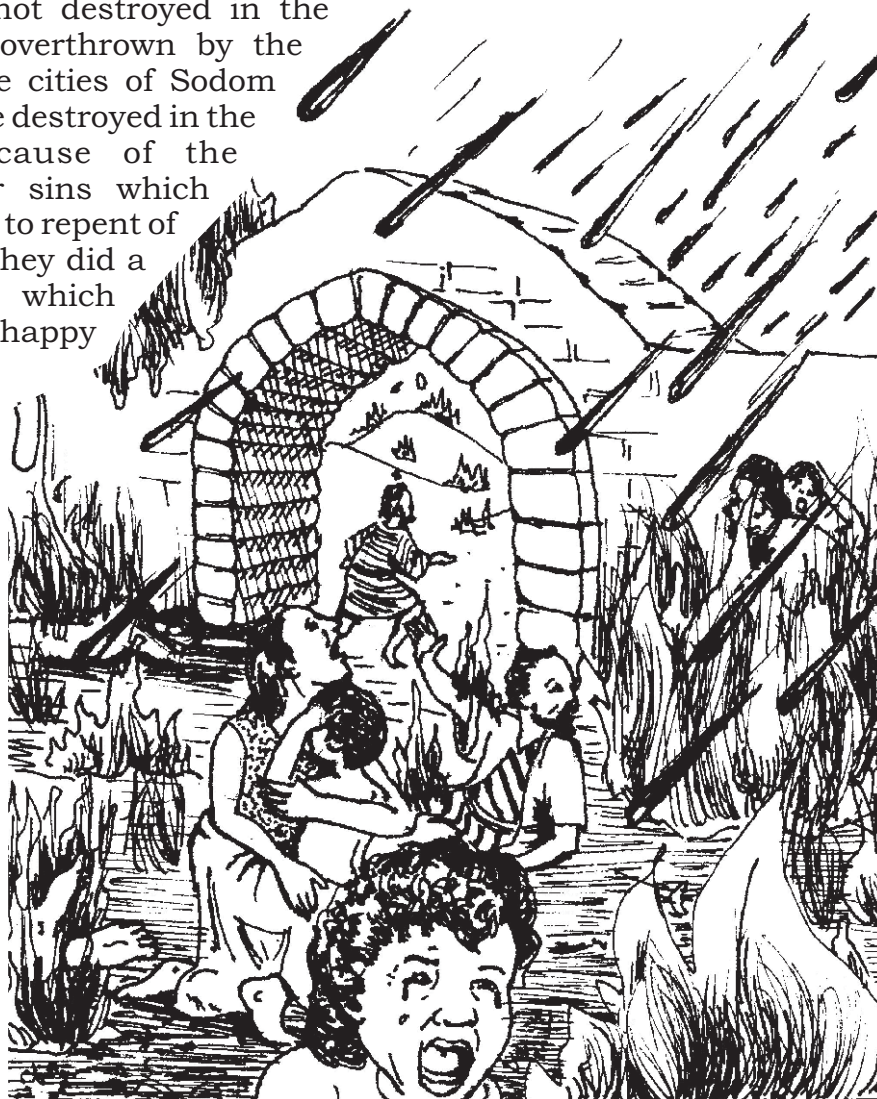
# DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Genesis 18:1-33; 19:1-38

**G**od does not overlook sin. He sees every evil that we do. At the right time, if there is no repentance from sin, God will judge and condemn. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were once in existence like any other city in the world today. These cities were filled with multitudes of people – men, women, boys and girls. The story in our text, shows how the cities were given to sin and all sorts of unrighteousness. The same story was told of the days before the flood when sin was the order of the day. The people were corrupt and practiced sinful acts freely: such as immoral acts, wickedness, cheating, lying, murder and all sort of evil (Genesis 6:5).

The time came when God decided to wipe away all sinful men, women, boys and girls from the world. Only Noah, his wife and their children (8 in number) were not destroyed in the world which was overthrown by the flood. Likewise, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed in the days of Lot because of the multitude of their sins which they were not ready to repent of and turn to God. They did a lot of bad things which made God to be unhappy with them.

Our world today is not different. It is full of sin and wickedness. There is no exemption: men, women, boys and girls who are not friends of Jesus are involved in all sort of evil. God will also judge all sinners and they will end up in hell fire if they do not repent (II Peter 3:10). If you are a sinner, repent now so that you will not be destroyed.



## **1. REVELATION ABOUT SODOM AND GOMORRAH'S DESTRUCTION:**

Genesis 18:16-33; Psalm 25:14; 2 Peter 3:9

God made His intention to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah known to Abraham. Therefore, Abraham prayed earnestly and pleaded that the cities should be spared. Eventually, God promised to spare the cities if ten righteous people could be found there. Unfortunately, there were no ten people in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah who were righteous and this made God to destroy them. Although Lot was not happy with the sinful deeds of the people of Sodom, he was still willing to tolerate the wickedness of Sodom because of its material advantages. Friends of Jesus must not be comfortable with the evil going on around them so that they will not be corrupted by their ways.

The destruction of unrepentant sinners is real, and God has made this known to all friends of Jesus. He is expecting us to pray passionately for the salvation of sinners and go out to preach to them so as to make them escape the judgment of God that will soon come upon the world (Ezekiel 3:17-21).

As the people of Sodom and Gomorrah did not know that judgment was coming, so also many children today are ignorant of the coming judgment upon this world. Therefore, we need to warn them before it is too late. Let us tell them in our schools, during break, in our houses, on the playing ground and wherever opportunity presents itself (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 8:4).

## **2. DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH:**

Genesis 19:1-29; 6:5-7; Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 1:28-32; Jude 7,13-15

The first appearance of the name Sodom in the Bible was associated with sin (Genesis 13:10-13). Two angels were sent to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to investigate and ascertain their level of sinfulness. Lot, the nephew of Abraham received and lodged them in his house. The men of Sodom attacked them wanting to commit sin with them. It was a city full of sin and all sort of unrighteousness. The sin of homosexuality (immoral relationship with persons of the same sex) started in Sodom. This is also known as sodomy today, as it has its origin in Sodom.

God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire, but the two angels brought Lot and his family out of Sodom. They were warned not to look back. Lot's wife looked back and she turned into a pillar of salt. Only Lot and his two daughters escaped alive out of Sodom, and they lived in a cave on the mountain of Zoar. One day, the two daughters planned that since there were no other men except their father on the mountain, that they would get him drunk so that they could have immoral relationship with him and get pregnant. They succeeded in their plan – got their father drunk and they had immoral relationship with him. What a great evil! They gave birth to male children. The eldest daughter named her child Moab (the father of the Moabites) and the younger named her child Benammi (the father of the Ammonites).

This was a very great evil in the sight of God. Lot learned too late, that the way of faith is to teach one's family to be separate and "love not the world" (1 John 2:15-17). Jesus confirmed the story of Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction and warned His friends to 'remember Lot's wife' (Luke 17:32). These sins that led to their destruction because they refuse to repent and many more such bad behaviours will still lead all unrepentant sinners into everlasting destruction (Romans 1:28-31). Sinners are called upon today to repent and make their way right with God before it is too late.

### **3. REPENTANCE, THE WAY OUT OF DESTRUCTION:**

Genesis 18:28-32; 19:29; Proverbs 28:13; 29:1; Jonah 3:3-10; Acts 3:19; 17:30,31; 2 Peter 3:9

As God rained fire and brimstone upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, so one day, all the "beautiful" things in this World shall be burnt up (2 Peter 3:9-13). For you to escape the judgment of God, you need to take these steps urgently:

- i. Accept that you are a sinner (Isaiah 59:12).
  - ii. Believe that Jesus died on the cross to save you from sin (Acts 4:12).
  - iii. Confess your sins to God, ask Him to forgive and cleanse you with the blood of Jesus. Turn away from your sins and surrender your life to Jesus and be born again (1 John 1:9).
  - iv. Determine to follow Jesus to the end by attending fellowship regularly, reading and thinking on God's word, obeying God, your parents and teachers and making Christ known to others by preaching to them.
- Make the right decision today.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Mention the two cities which God destroyed in our texts. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Lot's wife turned to a pillar of salt. Yes/No?
4. What were the names of the sons that Lot's daughters gave birth to? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the way out of destruction? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What must you do to remain in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven" (Genesis 19:24).

**LESSON:** Repentance and salvation from sin is the only way to escape God's judgment.

**THOUGHT:** I will remain with Jesus till the end so as to escape God's judgment.



**ACTIVITY:** Children should mention the number of the people in Lot's household that finally escaped the destruction that came upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: GHS 207 - THERE'S A GREAT DAY COMING**

**CHORUSES:** I will never, never, go back to the world (2) I have decided to follow Jesus (3) Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus.

**HOME WORK:** Pray that you will not look back from following the Lord.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	JUDE	5-7
TUESDAY	2 PETER	2:4-6
WEDNESDAY	2 PETER	2:7-11
THURSDAY	JONAH	3:3-5
FRIDAY	JONAH	3:6-10
SATURDAY	PROVERBS	28:13-15
SUNDAY	2 PETER	3:8-11

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meanings of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Earnestly 2. Brimstone 3. Destruction 4. Salvation 5. Judgment.

## LESSON 6

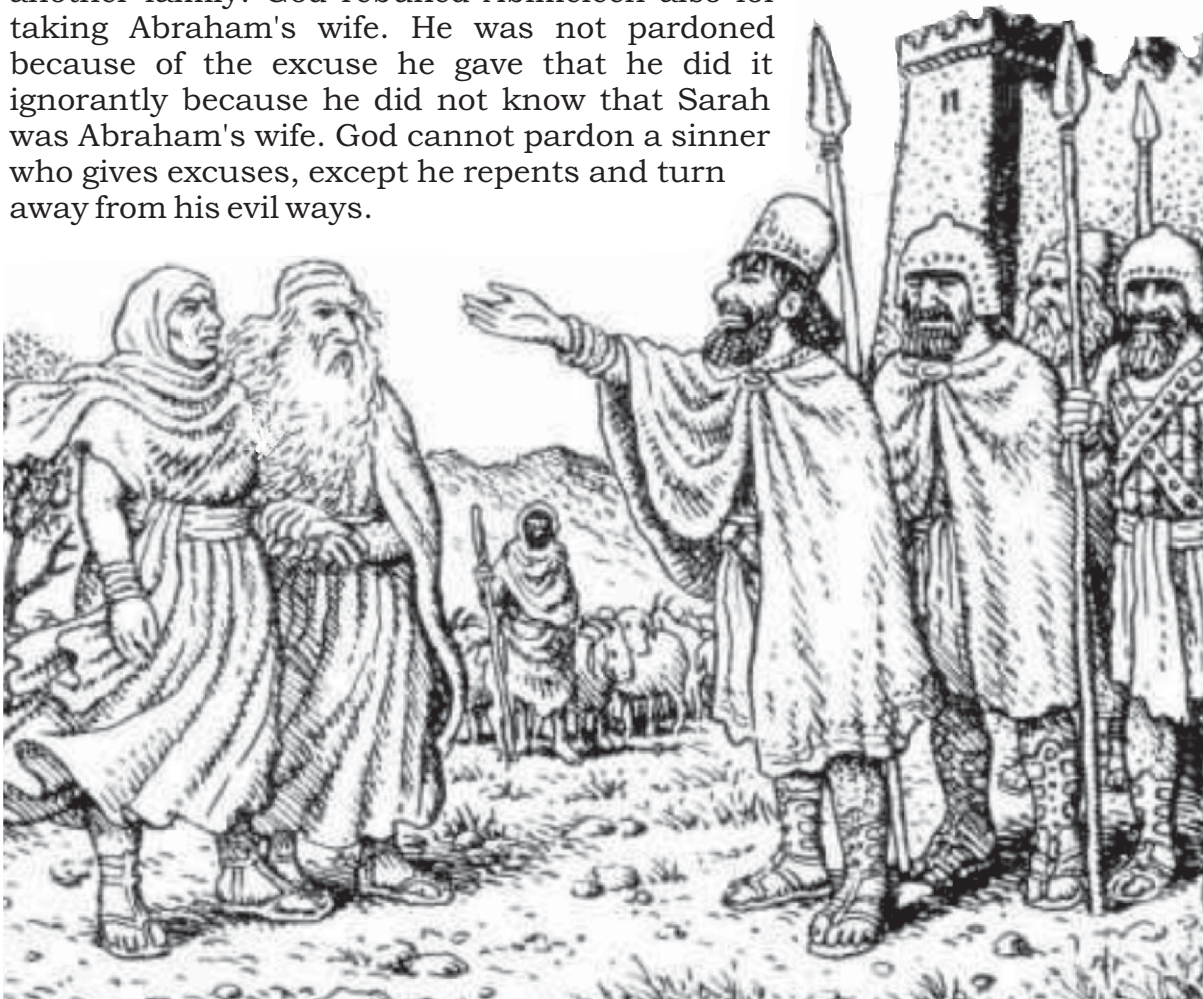
# ABIMELECH RESTORES ABRAHAM'S WIFE

Genesis 20:1-18

**A**s Abraham journeyed to the place where God was taking him to, he encountered a lot of problems on his way. One of them was the fear of the ungodly people. When he got to a place known as Gerar he told lie that Sarah was not his wife. This was because he was afraid that Abimelech the king of Gerar would take Sarah from him and kill him.

Abraham had done something like this before when he went to Egypt, as there was famine in the land where he lived. He told a lie to the king of Egypt that Sarah was not his wife and Pharaoh took Sarah into his own house. But God brought diseases upon Pharaoh and his household and he had to give Sarah back to Abraham. God called him to a holy walk with Him, he was not expected to tell lies. A liar or sinner cannot be a friend of God.

Abraham separated his family through his lies. He made Abimelech to sin by taking his wife. He also made Sarah unhappy when she was taken into another family. God rebuked Abimelech also for taking Abraham's wife. He was not pardoned because of the excuse he gave that he did it ignorantly because he did not know that Sarah was Abraham's wife. God cannot pardon a sinner who gives excuses, except he repents and turn away from his evil ways.



### **1. ABRAHAM' DECEIT:**

Genesis 20:1,2

It is not good to fear man and disobey God. It brings shame and a lot of problems on friends of Jesus who do such things. Abraham was afraid of being killed for his wife's sake. He told a lie that Sarah was not his wife. God does not want any of His children to tell lies. A liar cannot inherit the kingdom of God. As children of God, we should not allow the fear of man to make us to sin against God. Abraham was afraid that Abimelech would kill him and take his wife, so he told a lie that Sarah was his sister. The lie that Abraham told, caused a lot of problems for both Abraham, Abimelech and thier families. If we fail to speak the truth, it can cause problem for others. A lot of children often behave like Abraham, they are afraid of what their friends will do to them and so they tell lies and cover up for their friends.

At times, some parents who are not born-again will ask their children to tell lies and cover up for them. Because of fear of being beaten if they refuse, those children will go ahead and lie and make God unhappy. God is not happy with such children. If you have been behaving like that, you need to repent and make your ways right. Humbly and respectfully refuse to tell lies to cover up for anyone who ask you to tell lies on their behalf. Outrightly say "No" to your friend or anyone who ask you to lie and cover up for them. Remember, all liars shall end in hell fire (Revelation 21:8).

### **2. ABIMELECH TAKES ABRAHAM'S WIFE:**

Genesis 20:2-7

Abimelech did not know that Sarah was Abraham's wife because Abraham lied to him. Therefore, he took Sarah into his house to be his wife. But God appeared to him in a dream at night and rebuked him for taking Abraham's wife. Abimelech humbly told God that he did not know that Sarah was Abraham's wife and that he only acted according to what Abraham had told him (Genesis 20:5). God told him that He knew that Abimelech was innocent and that was why He had not permitted him to touch Sarah. God hates sin. He did not want Abraham's family to be corrupted or cheated. He, therefore, intervened in the situation. He rebuked Abimelech and told him to return Abraham's wife, else He would deal with him and his household.

God is merciful to His children, He will forgive all who genuinely repent and ask for forgiveness. If you have done any bad thing, do not hide it, confess it to God and repent of it, He will definitely forgive you.

### **3. ABIMELECH RESTORES ABRAHAM'S WIFE:**

Genesis 20:8-18

God warned Abimelech and commanded him to restore Abraham's wife or else He will deal with him and all his family. God will not punish a sinner without warning him. He will give him/her the opportunity to repent. But if the sinful boy or girl refuses to repent, he/she will be punished. Abimelech did not



waste time to restore Abraham's wife. He also added some gift items when he made his restitution to Abraham. God healed him and his household after he obeyed, and Abraham prayed for him.

After salvation, you need to make restitution to the people that you have offended. Restitution is the act of making your way right before God and with all men. If you have told someone a lie or stolen books, bikes, toys etc., you must make your way right by going to tell the truth and return the stolen items back to the rightful owners. But before you make your restitutions, you must seek counsel from your godly teachers so that they will guide you and pray with you. As you make your way right, God will forgive you and bless you abundantly.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did Abraham lie to Abimelech?
2. Is it good to fear man and disobey God?
3. God warned Abimelech to return Abraham's wife. Yes/No?
4. What is restitution?
5. As you make your way right, God will forgive and bless you. Yes/No?

**LESSON:** Restitution is God's command and must be done without delay.

**THOUGHT:** I will always obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and womenservants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife" (Genesis 20:14).

**ACTIVITY:** Children should read Genesis 20:14-16 and write out in their notebooks, the items that Abimelech gave to Abraham when he returned Sarah to him.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 47 JUST OBEY**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I am ready to obey Thy word (2) Jesus, the way, the truth and the life (3) Give me grace to follow.

**HOMEWORK:** Children should pray and then take definite steps to do their restitutions.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	12:11-13
TUESDAY	GENESIS	12:14-16
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	12:17-20
THURSDAY	GENESIS	26:6-9
FRIDAY	GENESIS	26:10-12
SATURDAY	LUKE	19:5-7
SUNDAY	LUKE	19:8-10

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Restore 2. Rebuke 3. Outright 4. Humbly 5. Ungodly.

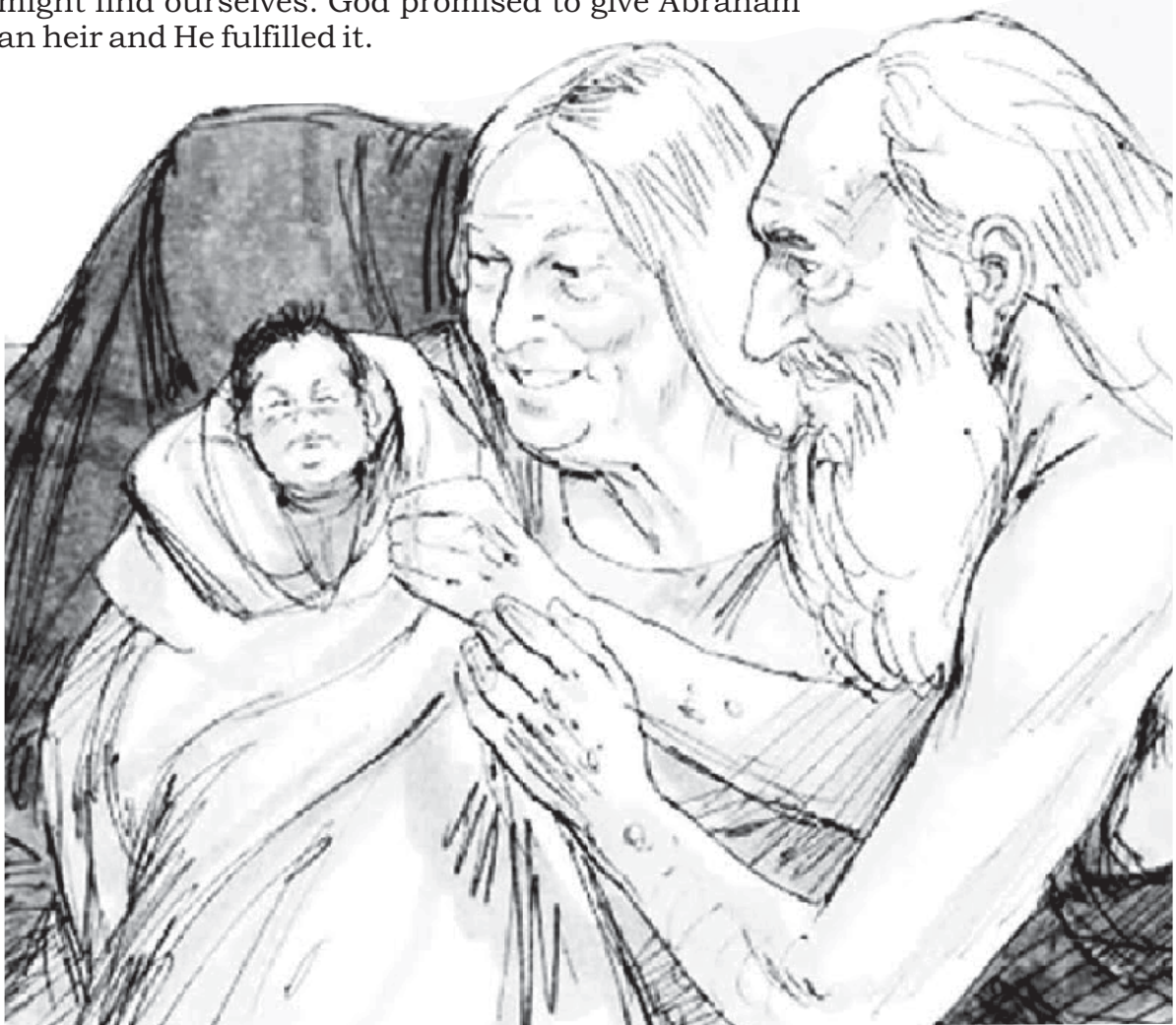
## LESSON 7

# BIRTH OF ISAAC, THE HEIR OF PROMISE

Genesis 21:1-34

**G**od appeared to Abraham and promised him a son that would be his heir (the child that would continue after his death). When God made this promise, Abraham and Sarah were old and yet, they believed God. **"For with God nothing shall be impossible"** (Luke 1:37). The birth of Isaac shows how powerful God is and can do the 'impossible'. It is a miracle that Sarah at 90 years was able to get pregnant and give birth to a son to Abraham at 100 years!

Abraham had his first son from Hagar (the bond woman) named Ishmael but God said it would be through Isaac that He would establish his covenant. The maid, Hagar and her son Ishmael were cast out when Ishmael mocked Sarah on the day that Isaac was weaned. As children of God, we should not mock or make jest of anybody in school, church, at home and anywhere we might find ourselves. God promised to give Abraham an heir and He fulfilled it.



## 1. BIRTH OF ISAAC, THE PROMISED CHILD:

Genesis 21:1-8; 18:9-10, 21:1,2;17:15,16

When God called Abraham, He promised to make him a great nation even though his wife Sarah was barren and well advanced in age **“Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?”** (Genesis 17:17). It seemed impossible, but with God all things are possible. Although the promise took time before it was fulfilled because they had to wait for 25 years. Nonetheless, God's promises are sure, steadfast, tested, true, unfailing and unchanging. God's promises cover every aspect of our lives. As a child, God's promise of success, good health, divine provision and protection will definitely be fulfilled in your life. **“And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken”** (Genesis 21:1).

Isaac the son of promise was finally born to Abraham and Sarah. Through Isaac, God would continue His covenant relationship with Abraham. The birth of Isaac brought great joy and gratitude from the parents towards God. Sarah's gratitude to God teaches friends of Jesus to always thank God for His blessings and to also share their testimonies to encourage others.

## 2. THE BONDWOMAN AND HER CHILD SENT AWAY:

Genesis 21: 9-21; Galatians 4:22-31

It was necessary that Hagar and Ishmael should be sent away so that the plan of God would be fulfilled. Ishmael the son of the bondwoman Hagar, made mockery of Isaac and this displeased Sarah the mother of Isaac. She told her husband to cast out the bondwoman and her child so that Isaac might become the heir of the family and the sole heir to his father's possessions. The act of jesting and making mockery of others is sinful and deadly. In 2 Kings 2: 23, 24, some children mocked Elisha the prophet and they were attacked immediately by two she-bears who tore forty two of them. As children of God, we are to respect our parents, elder brothers, sisters and the elderly people.

Hagar and Ishmael were cast out and they wandered and suffered in the wilderness. However, God had pity on Hagar when she wept and provided water for her and her son. This shows that God's love and care abound for the helpless and needy. Whatever you need or desire, trust in God and He will do it for you. The separation of Hagar and her son from Isaac the son of promise, indicates that children of God and children of Satan (the sinners) cannot be friends because they do not have anything in common. The Bible says **“wherefore, come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the lord”** (2 Corinthians 6:17). If we make friends with sinners, they will corrupt our godly lives. We can only preach to them but not to join them in their sinful acts.

### **3. GOOD TESTIMONY ABOUT ABRAHAM AND OUR COVENANT WITH GOD:**

Genesis 21:22-34; Matthew 5:13 -16; Hebrews 12:14

God was with Abraham while he sojourned in a strange land. The king of the land, Abimelech, saw the glory of God in his life and made a covenant of friendship with him. Our lives should shine so as to make unbelievers seek to serve our God. We are the light and salt of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). We should lead the world to Christ. Children of God under the New Testament are not to swear at all. Our yes should be yes, and our no be no. It is only God that we should make covenant with. Our covenant with God after we have given our lives to Him, is to serve Him till the end. We are also to live holy and righteously in order to inherit the kingdom which Christ has gone to prepare for us (John 14:1-3). If you are not a friend of Jesus, you cannot inherit the kingdom. You need to give your life to Jesus by repenting of your sins and accepting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour; after which you then pray to be holy. Thereafter, you can enter into a covenant relationship to serve Him to the end.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why was Isaac the heir of promise?
2. What is the danger of making mockery of people or jesting?
3. What can we learn from Abraham and Sarah having a child in their old age?
4. Should children of God make unbelievers their close friends?
5. How can Christians shine as the light of the world?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him” (Genesis 21:2).

**LESSON:** We remain heirs of the promise when we live a holy life.

**THOUGHT:** I will live a holy life so that the Lord’s promises will come to pass in my life.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should search the Holy Bible and write out 5 references where God promised to bless Abraham and Sarah with a son.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 181 - ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Covenant keeping God there is no one like you (2) The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (3) He is able, abundantly able.

**HOMEWORK:** Pray that God will make you to become heir of His kingdom.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	18:9-11
TUESDAY	GENESIS	18:12-14
WEDNESDAY	ROMANS	4:16-18
THURSDAY	ROMANS	4:19-21
FRIDAY	HEBREWS	11:11,12
SATURDAY	GALATIANS	4:3-7
SUNDAY	GALATIANS	4:28-31

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Heir 2. Bondwoman 3. Heritage 4. Mockery 5. Covenant.



## LESSON 8

# LINEAGE AND BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 1:1-25; 2:1-23; Luke 3:23-38

**T**he Gospels of Luke and Matthew tell us about the lineage and birth of Jesus. The two accounts agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the time of Herod the Great to a betrothed virgin whose name was Mary. In Christian doctrine, the lineage of Jesus marks Him as the Second Adam in fulfillment of the will of God for mankind. His birth, death and resurrection cancelled the damage caused by the fall of the first man, Adam.

This history of Christ's coming into the world to save sinners is Good News. Without doubt, it is the best news that ever came from heaven to earth. Old Testament prophets spoke about it and angels

also spoke about it. Why was Jesus born? He was born to save us from our sins. If you are still a sinner, run to Jesus now, pray for forgiveness and cleansing of your sins through His blood. Then ask Him to come into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour. This bold step to salvation will fulfill the purpose of Christ's coming in your life.



## 1. THE LINEAGE OF JESUS CHRIST: Matthew 1: 1-17; Luke 3:23-38

The dictionary describes 'lineage' as the descending line of offspring or ascending line of parentage. In our study, both Luke and Matthew trace the parentage of our Lord Jesus Christ to its very roots. Matthew started from Abraham through David to Jesus. Thereby showing the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham. The book of Matthew also mentions David repeatedly to prove the deity and kingship of Christ. Luke traces the lineage from the person of Christ progressively through to Abraham, Adam and to God. Thus, Luke proves that Jesus is God and is related to all families of the earth, not only the Jews. Also, that His salvation is for all men (Luke 3:6).

It is also important to note here that the fall came through a sinful woman – Eve, but God decided to fulfil His eternal plan through a holy and righteous woman – Mary. The two gospels' account of the lineage of Jesus, shows the fulfillment of God's promise to send the Saviour into the world. When a child repents and become a friend of Jesus, he is adopted into the spiritual family line of Jesus. He becomes a member of God's family and joint heirs with Christ. This should be the utmost desire of every one born into this world.

## 2. THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS:

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23; Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 7:14

About 700 years after prophet Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah, the virgin Mary conceived and gave birth to Jesus. Mary was betrothed (engaged) to be married to Joseph. One day, an angel appeared to her and told her that she would be pregnant through the power of the Holy Ghost. The power of the Holy Ghost came upon her and she became pregnant.

The time came for Mary to give birth to our Lord Jesus Christ. But as a result of the census decree, Bethlehem was so crowded that the only place Mary and Joseph could find to stay was the stable of an inn. The birth of the Saviour the greatest event in all history occurred in the most humble circumstances. Jesus is the King of kings, but He was neither born nor did He live like a king in this life. He was humble and simple. Mary gave birth to our Lord Jesus Christ and laid Him in a manger. An angel announced His birth to some shepherds.

It is important to note here that the first people that were told about the birth of Jesus were not religious leaders in Jerusalem but to simple-minded shepherds watching over their flocks. God can speak to you at anytime and anywhere, you must be attentive. The angel announced the “**good tidings of great joy**”. From the angelic pronouncement, we learn that Christ was born a Saviour. “**And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins**” (Matthew 1:21).

This angelic pronouncement was followed by a host of other angels all praising and glorifying God who has showed His good will towards men by sending the His only begotten Son to reconcile us to God. A special star was sent by God to lead wise men from the East to where Jesus was born. This good tiding of joy has spread from one generation to another. Many have been saved



through Christ. Yet there are still countless number of people in the world who are yet to hear. God is not going to send angels this time around to spread the good news (gospel). The work has been given to all friends of Jesus. If you are one of them, it is your duty to tell sinners that the Saviour is born. This is the best way to celebrate the birth of Christ.

### **3. PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH:**

Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31-33; Mark 9:37; Isaiah 9:6,7

Jesus came into the world to fulfil the will of God His Father. Therefore, His reasons for coming to the earth was to: (i) reveal God to sinful humanity, (ii) accomplish God's divine plan for the salvation of men. (iii) exercise dominion over heaven and earth. God became man and born a King (Matthew 2:2) to rule over us forever (Luke 1:33). All who believe in Him will be set free from sin and given power to conquer the devil and his agents. The coming of the Messiah liberates us from all sins.

Are you still a sinful child? Then you must repent now. Confess your sins to God, ask Him to pardon you, then pray for forgiveness and cleansing of your heart with the blood of Jesus. Ask the Saviour to come into your heart to be your Lord and Friend.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the meaning of 'lineage'?
2. Mention two great ancestors in the lineage of Jesus.
3. Jesus was born by a virgin called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Who were the first people that the angel told about the birth of Jesus?
5. The birth of Jesus brought great joy to the world. Yes/No?
6. Mention three reasons why Jesus was born.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name **JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins**” (Matthew 1:21).

**LESSON:** Jesus was born to be the only Saviour of the world.

**THOUGHT:** I accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord of my life.

**ACTIVITY:** Read the following Bible passages and mention the names of the people who were in the lineage of Christ. (i) Genesis 38:12-26; Matthew 1:3 (ii) Joshua 6:17-25; Matthew 1:5 (iii) Ruth 1:4,16; Matthew 1:5,6 (iv) 1 Kings 15:5; Matthew 1:6

### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 73 – JESUS ONLY IS OUR MESSAGE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Jesus is the sweetest Name I know. (2) He is Lord (2x) Amen. He has risen from the dead... (3) Messiah is the King of kings.

**HOMEWORK:** Read Luke 4:18,19 and write in your homework book the reasons why Jesus was born.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	ISAIAH	11:1-3
TUESDAY	ISAIAH	11:4-6
WEDNESDAY	ISAIAH	11:7-10
THURSDAY	JEREMIAH	23:4-6
FRIDAY	ACTS	4:10-12
SATURDAY	JOHN	1:9-12
SUNDAY	JOHN	1:13-15

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Lineage 2. Deity 3. Offspring 4. Betroth 5. Generation.

## LESSON 9

# MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:1-17; Luke 3:1-22

**J**ohn the Baptist was the God-appointed messenger who announced the arrival of Christ, the Messiah. His ministry was given to him by God to be fulfilled before the commencement of the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy in the book of Malachi 3:1. The birth of John the Baptist was miraculous, and his birth came when there was no hope that his parents could still have strength to conceive in their old age. God sent him to prepare the people of Israel for the coming Messiah and his ministry was successful. Although the life span of his ministry was short, but he fulfilled his ministry.

It is not how long we spend on earth that matters but how well we live to fulfill God's purpose for our lives. You are born to serve God and proclaim Christ to the world. You must strive to fulfill the sacred purpose of God for your life as John the Baptist did.



## 1. THE MAN, JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:1-4; Luke 1:5-25,57-66; John 3:30

John the Baptist was the son of Zecharias and his mother's name was Elizabeth. His father was the high priest in the land of Israel. An angel foretold his birth. His parents were very old by the time they gave birth to him. He was a messenger of God filled with the power of the Holy Ghost right from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15). He lived in the wilderness 'till the day of his manifestation before Israel' (Luke 1:80). He was called 'the Baptist' because he taught the people about repentance and baptized them in water as a sign of identifying with God's message of total cleansing from sin.

John the Baptist was a fearless, courageous preacher of righteousness and his message of repentance did not even spare the hypocritical Pharisees. He endured hardness, had an urgent zeal to make Christ known and was courageous in rebuking sin.

The appearance and lifestyle of John the Baptist matched his calling. His clothing and food was simple, free of luxury and worldliness. Though honoured by men, he chose a self-denying lifestyle humbling himself while all the time exalting Christ and honouring God. **“He must increase, but I must decrease”** (John 3:30). Friends of Jesus must learn a lesson from this, whenever you are preaching, you must exalt Christ and not yourself or your church.

Some qualities in the life of John were: courage, humility, commitment and compassion. The highest honour of John came as he was privileged to baptize Christ in the river Jordan. Though he did no miracle, his faithfulness and forcefulness in preaching the word of God made him a fruitful and fulfilled ministry.

## 2. THE MISSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:1-6; Malachi 3:1; 4:5,6

Before John the Baptist was born, it was prophesied that a messenger will come, who would prepare the way of the Lord. The man John the Baptist was a man of mission and vision. He had a purpose for coming before our Lord Jesus Christ. The mission of John the Baptist originated from God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God always sends His messengers, prophets and leaders to His people. John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for the Saviour as was foretold in the book of Malachi 3:1. As a friend of Jesus, you have a mission and purpose for living in this present evil world. God is counting on you to accomplish His purpose for you. The mission of God for your life is to know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and share His love with others by preaching to them (Matthew 28:18-20). Are you fulfilling the mission of God for your life? If no, start today.

## 3. THE MESSAGE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:7-17, Luke 3:7-22

The message of John the Baptist centres on repentance from sin. He spoke to all categories of people and profession. He was bold and courageous in

his messages. He was not afraid to confront anybody with the message of truth. He rebuked King Herod for taking his brother's wife and that eventually sent him to jail until he was beheaded (Luke 3:19). He preached about total repentance from sin and restitution (restoring back what was stolen or deceitfully collected from the rightful owner). Also, he preached to the publicans and to the soldiers that they should do no violence (Luke 3:12-14). He had messages for everyone – the publicans, the Pharisees, kings and the princes. Moreover, for the proud Pharisees who refuse to repent, he rebuked them saying “**O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**” (Matthew 3:7). Today, friends of Jesus must not behave like the Pharisees, having a form of godliness but living in sin.

God will also send you to friends and people around you if you give your life to Jesus by following these steps: (1) Repent and confess your sins to Jesus (2) Ask Him to forgive your sins (3) Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Surrender everything to Him now and you can be another John the Baptist of our time. The Lord has commissioned all friends of Jesus to preach the gospel fearlessly (Mark 16:15). Go ye forth and preach the gospel!

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was sent to prepare the way of the Lord.
2. Who were the parents of John the Baptist?
3. Mention 3 qualities in the life of John the Baptist.
4. Can a sinful child be a messenger of God?
5. How can a sinful child be useful to God?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “**For that is he that was spoken by the Prophet Esaias, saying; the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight**” (Matthew 3:3).

**LESSON:** God commands all friends of Jesus to preach the gospel and prepare the way for the coming of the Lord.

**THOUGHT:** I will be obedient to the great commission.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should mention some people whom God used in the Bible to rescue sinners from sin.

### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 54 – I AM READY FOR SERVICE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Go tell it on the Mountain (2) It is a great thing to serve the Lord (3) Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord

**HOME WORK:** Write down the Bible references that speak about the last days of John the Baptist and how he was killed.



### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MARK	1:2-4
TUESDAY	MARK	1:5-7
WEDNESDAY	MARK	1:8-10
THURSDAY	JOHN	1:15-17
FRIDAY	JOHN	1:19-23
SATURDAY	JOHN	1:29-34
SUNDAY	JOHN	1:35-37

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Ministry 2. Mission 3. Vision 4. Commission 5. Courageous.

## LESSON 10

# TEMPTATION AND BEGINNING JESUS' MINISTRY

Matthew 4:1-25; Luke 4:1-44

**J**esus came into the world to carry out some special assignments. He was the only one qualified to do such work. He came to pay the price for our salvation, redeem and reconcile us back to God, deliver the oppressed, set the captives free, heal the broken hearted and the sick, make provisions for all that we need in life and finally provide the way for saved souls to enter heaven at last.

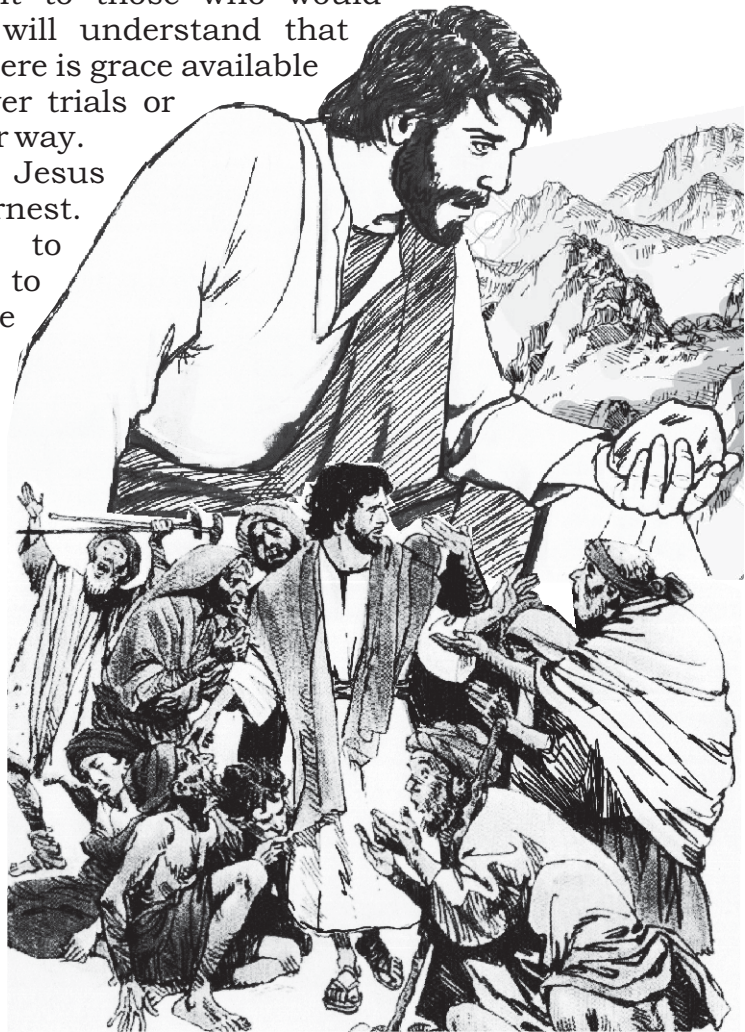
To begin His multiple-fold mission on earth, Jesus had to undergo some preparations. To this end, He: (i) Submitted Himself for water baptism in order to identify with the ministry of John the Baptist and the sinners whom He had come to save. (ii) Fasted for forty days and nights to receive divine strength and direction for the work ahead. (iii) Was tempted by the devil. This is to serve as example and encouragement to those who would become His friends. They will understand that temptation is real and that there is grace available to help us overcome whatever trials or temptation that may come our way.

After this preparation, Jesus started His ministry in earnest.

The first assignment was to preach and call sinners to repentance. He also taught the people the word of God, healed the sick, and declared publicly the purpose of His coming into the world as captured in Luke 4:18,19.

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath**

**..."** If you are a sinner, Jesus has come to save you. Repent, believe His word and become His friend. If you are saved already, remember that there is grace for you to overcome temptations and obstacles to the work He has called you to do. Trust in Jesus and He will help you to have total victory and make it to heaven at last.



## **1. JESUS' TEMPTATION AND VICTORY**

Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; 22:46; Mark 1:12,13

Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour experienced series of trials and temptations while on earth. After being baptized in water, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where He fasted for 40 days. It was here that Satan tempted Him. He was able to overcome him by the word and trust in the Almighty God. Every believer on earth will one time or the other pass through trials or temptations, we are not to be afraid or fear but rely on the Almighty God who will give us the power and grace to overcome (John 16:33). Temptation is not sin but yielding to it becomes sin. To overcome trials and temptation you must:

- (a) Be saved from sins.
- (b) Be prayerful and watchful.
- (c) Study the word of God regularly and meditate on it.
- (d) Trust and stand on the word of God.
- (e) Attend fellowship on regular basis.
- (f) Watch and run from objects of temptations.
- (g) Put your trust in God for victory.

As you do all these things, you will surely be victorious over every form of temptation.

## **2. THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY ON EARTH:**

Matthew 4:12-17,23-25; Luke 4:14-44; Isaiah 61:1-3

Jesus started His ministry as soon as the temptations ended. He did not waste time because He knew that the time is short, and sinners are dying and going to hell. The ministry of Jesus in the world is in four-fold:

- (i) To preach the gospel to the poor, the outcast, the afflicted, the humble, the poor in spirit, the broken hearted, the rich and those who would listen and tremble at His word.
- (ii) Healing and binding up the spiritually and physically sick and broken hearted.
- (iii) Breaking the bondage of evil and proclaiming freedom from sin and satanic dominion.
- (iv) Opening the spiritual eyes of the lost that they might see the light of the gospel and be saved.

This four-fold mission characterized the entire ministry of Jesus Christ. All children who are saved and filled with the Holy Spirit are called to share and continue with Jesus' ministry.

Friends of Jesus must fulfill their ministry in these present times. They must go out and preach the gospel everywhere – at home, in the school, in the neighbourhoods, buses, playgrounds, etc. They should pray for those who are sick and comfort the discouraged. Jesus fulfilled His ministry on earth and as His followers, you must walk in His footsteps.

### 3. CHRISTIAN'S MINISTRY IN THE WORLD

Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 10:1-17

**“As thou has sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world”** (John 17:18). This is the message from Christ that confirms the assignment He has given to His friends. Christians are special friends of Jesus. They are chosen by Christ to do His work on earth (Matthew 28:18–20). Jesus said, **“occupy till I come.”** Preaching, teaching and healing are the believers' ministry. Souls are perishing. **“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”** (Luke 19:10).

The reason why friends of Jesus are still alive is to bring others to Christ. God will bless you mightily as you obey the Father's will by spreading the good news. Such blessings include salvation, healing, promotion, protection, preservation, and success in all you do. A crown of righteousness and eternal life with Jesus are additional blessings. The mandate for you today as friends of Jesus is to go and preach the gospel to every soul. Therefore, preach the gospel, teach new converts, pray for the sick and the oppressed. God will help you to fulfil your ministry as Christ did.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. Christ came to the world to \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus overcame all His temptations. Yes/No?
3. Temptation is not sin. Yes/No?
4. Identify three things to do in order to overcome temptation.
5. Mention the four-fold ministry of Jesus on earth.
6. What must a sinner do to be able to preach the gospel?

**MEMORY VERSE: “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”** (Matthew 4:17).

**LESSON:** Jesus has shown us how to overcome temptation and to do His work.

**THOUGHT:** I will always say no to temptation to sin and be involved in preaching the gospel.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should mention the four-fold ministry of Christ. Then discuss various ways friends of Jesus can carry on the ministry.

#### CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 6 - YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

**CHORUSES:** (1) Satan will never, ever, conquer me (2) Go tell it on the mountain (3) I am not alone.

**HOMEWORK:** Children should spend quality time at home to seriously pray against temptations and also go out to preach the gospel in their neighbourhoods.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	JOHN	16:30-33
TUESDAY	MARK	1:12-15
WEDNESDAY	MARK	1:16-20
THURSDAY	MARK	1:21-25
FRIDAY	MARK	1:26-31
SATURDAY	MARK	1:32-36
SUNDAY	MARK	1:37-43

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Reconcile 2. Tremble 3. Ministry 4. Four-fold 5. Mandate.

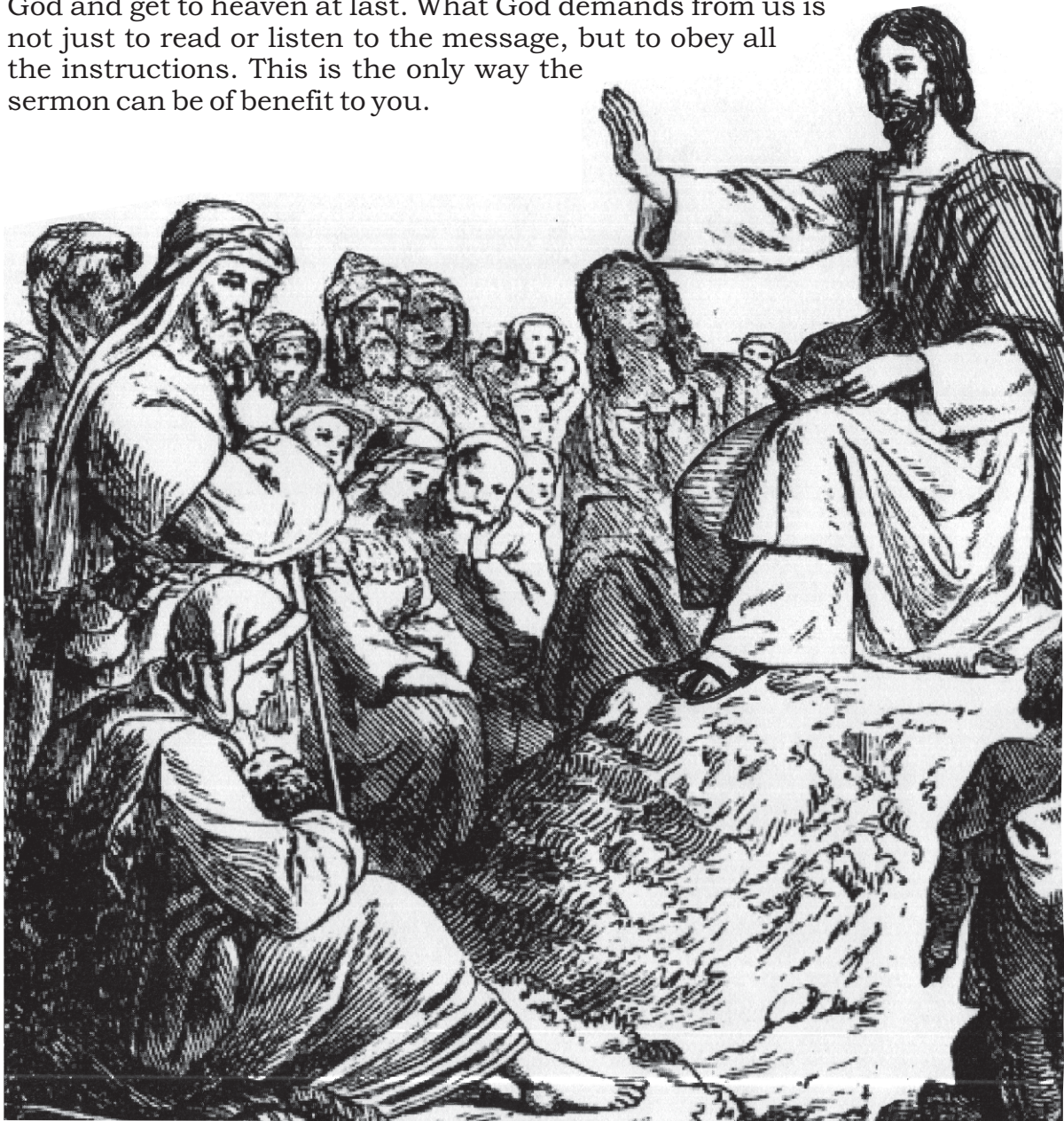


## LESSON 11

# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 5:1-48; 6:1-34; 7:1-29; Luke 6:17-49; 13:22-30

**T**he book of Matthew chapters five to seven is commonly referred to as 'sermon on the mount'. It contains a revelation of God's principles of righteousness by which friends of Jesus are to live through faith in the Son of God. The sermon contains everything that pertains to life and godliness. It is a timeless message and unique in presentation. It gives us detailed instructions on how to become a Christian, the way to live in order to please God and get to heaven at last. What God demands from us is not just to read or listen to the message, but to obey all the instructions. This is the only way the sermon can be of benefit to you.



### 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF KINGDOM CITIZENS:

Matthew 5:3-16; Luke 6:20-23

The first part of Christ's sermon on the mount is known as the Beatitudes. These spelt out what the attitude of Christians ought to be. These characteristics include:

(i) **Being poor in spirit** – A person that is 'poor in spirit' willingly admits his spiritual need, repent and receive Jesus as Lord and personal Saviour. To be poor in spirit is also the secret of Christian living as we are wholly dependent on God in all things.

(ii) **Mournfulness** – A sinful child is expected to mourn for his sins and be comforted. The saved child should also begin to mourn for the sins of others. This will make him to pray for sinners and preach to them.

(iii) **Meekness** – This means being mild, gentle, submissive, quiet and willing to do what God wants without complaining. Meekness will enable us to develop warm, satisfying relationship with others and free us to enjoy a special 'inheritance' from God, who owns all things.

(iv) **Hunger and thirst for righteousness** – This means to desire to be holy. The central theme of the sermon on the mount is **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”** (Matthew 5:48). This means completeness, wholeness, maturity – being all God wants us to be. Thirsting after righteousness will make you to experience holiness and perfection.

(v) **Merciful** – The merciful are those who forgive others and show them kindness they do not deserve. The merciful also unselfishly reach out to help others in need.

The kingdom citizens are also called to have an impact on the world around them. You are to be “salt” creating spiritual thirst and influencing others through your pure life. You are also to “shine as light” by doing works that will turn sinners to the Saviour.

### 2. CONDUCT AND DUTIES OF HEAVEN-BOUND SAINTS:

Matthew 5:17-48; 6:1-34; 7:1-12; Luke 6:24-49

As we daily demonstrate the characteristics of the children of the kingdom, we are to be busy preparing ourselves and others for heaven. When we do this we exhibit true righteousness in our relationship with others. You do not just hunger and thirst for it, your life must be pure, loving, blameless and godly. As friends of Jesus, you must seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, this include: acceptable giving, fasting, life free of offence(s) and worry and a life given to sincere prayers. When you do all these, all other things that will make you a blessed child will be added unto you.

### 3. CALL TO BE A MEMBER OF GOD'S KINGDOM:

Matthew 7:13-29; Luke 13:22-30

Having explained to us the principles of the kingdom life, Jesus concludes His sermon by calling the attention of everyone to how to enter into the kingdom. The sure way to God's kingdom is the “narrow way”. Jesus declares **“Enter ye in at the strait gate: ... Because strait is the gate, and narrow is**

**the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”** (Matthew 7:13-14).

Be a wise child and enter in to join the few on the narrow way. If you are a sinner, repent of all your sins – stealing, fighting, lying, cheating, witchcraft, stubbornness and many others. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing of your sins with the blood of Jesus. Turn away from all sins and ask Jesus to be your Saviour and Lord. Thirst and pray for the sanctification of your heart. Believe that God has answered your prayers. Live in newness of life and daily follow the kingdom life principles.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Jesus’ teaching on the mount is also referred to as \_\_\_\_\_
2. Explain the different characteristics of kingdom citizens.
3. Heaven bound saints are called to seek the kingdom of God and \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 6:33).
4. What are the duties of Christians as outlined in the sermon?
5. How can a sinful child answer the call to be a member of God’s kingdom?

**MEMORY VERSE: “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God”** (Matthew 5:8).

**LESSON:** Jesus taught us the principles of kingdom life to prepare us for heaven.

**THOUGHT:** I will abide by the principles of kingdom life so as to be blessed and qualified for heaven.

**ACTIVITY:** Memorise and recite all the BEATITUDES in the sermon on the mount - Matthew 5:3-12.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 49 - LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IN YOU**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I’m so glad I belong to Jesus (2) Give me that old time religion (3) I have chosen the way ... the way of holiness.

**HOMEWORK:** Draw Jesus sitting on the mountain and the people He taught. Show it to your teacher.



### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MATTHEW	11:1-3
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	11:4-6
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	11:12-15
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	11:25-27
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	11:28-30
SATURDAY	1 JOHN	1:1-4
SUNDAY	1 JOHN	1:5-10

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Kingdom 2. Citizens 3. Mournfulness 4. Maturity 5. Conduct

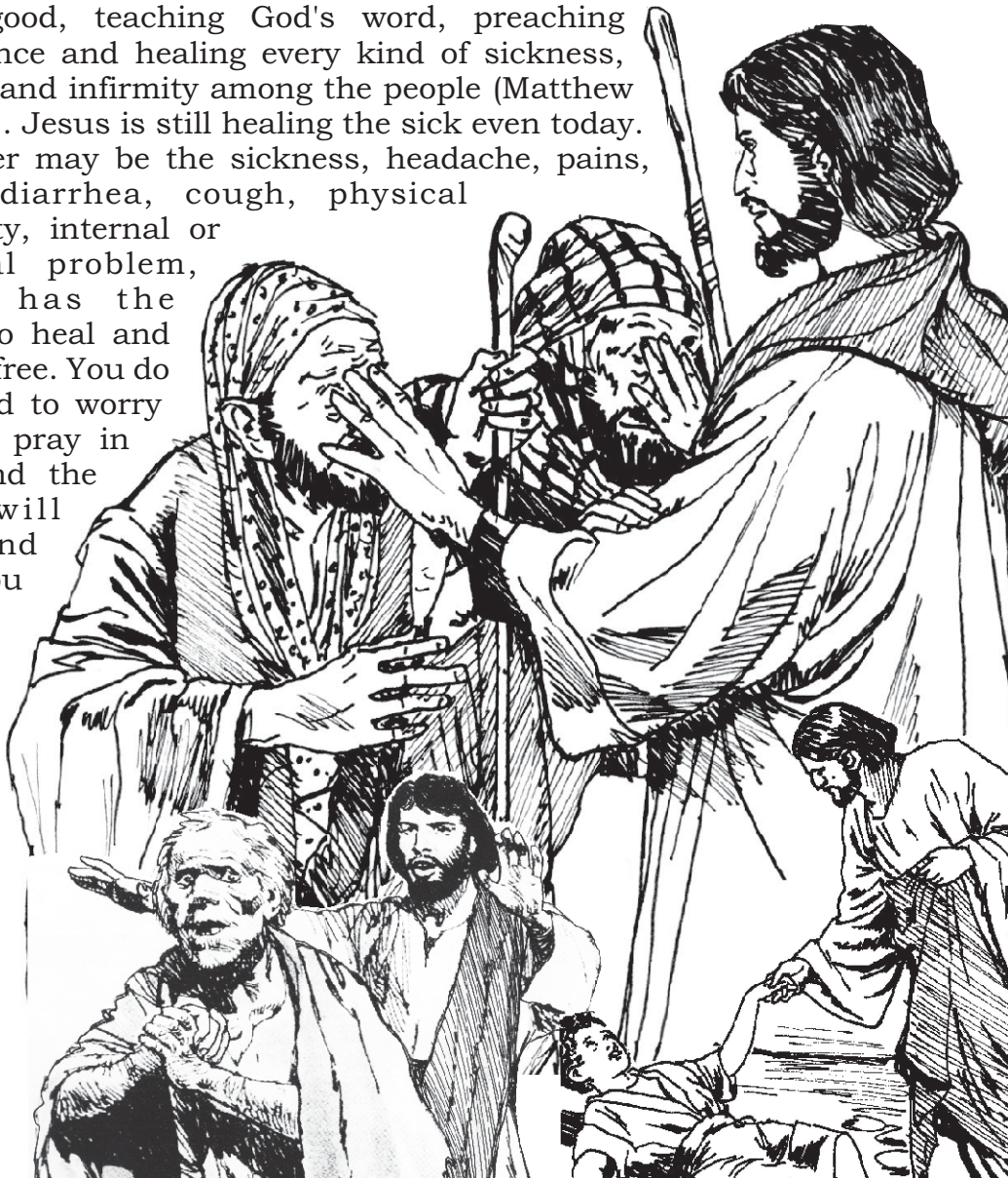
## LESSON 12

# JESUS, THE HEALER

Matthew 8:1-17,23-34; 9:1-38

**T**he problem of sickness and disease is related to the problem of sin and death. They are all consequences of the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. According to the Bible, the causes of sickness are: (a) sin and (b) Satan. The good news is that God has made provision to redeem us from sin and heal all our sicknesses through the sacrifice of His only begotten son Jesus Christ. God provides forgiveness for our sin when we repent and receive Jesus Christ. He also provides healing for all our sicknesses.

During Jesus' earthly work, He went about doing good, teaching God's word, preaching repentance and healing every kind of sickness, disease and infirmity among the people (Matthew 4:23,24). Jesus is still healing the sick even today. Whatever may be the sickness, headache, pains, fever, diarrhea, cough, physical deformity, internal or external problem, Jesus has the power to heal and set you free. You do not need to worry or fear, pray in faith and the Lord will heal and make you whole.





### **1. JESUS HEALS THE SICK:**

Matthew 8:1-17,23-34; 9:1-8,18-34; Mark 1:29-34; Acts 10:38; Isaiah 53:5

As Jesus carried out His earthly ministry, He came across many people who were sick. He revealed God's will by healing all that came in contact with Him. Jesus shows through His work that it is in God's nature and desire to heal all who are sick and oppressed by the devil. Our Bible passages reveal that Jesus healed individuals, groups of people and all who were sick and brought to Him. Healing was a normal part of Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God.

Even in these present days, the Lord is still doing great things in our lives. During our weekly fellowships, retreats, crusades and other programmes, the Lord is doing great things in our lives to which we can testify: The sick ones are healed, the blind see, the lame walk and the oppressed are delivered. Jesus is our great healer, nothing is too hard for Him to do. No matter how bad the case may be, if you come to Jesus, He will surely heal you. He has paid the price for our healing on the cross **“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed** (1 Peter 2:24).

### **2. CONDITIONS TO RECEIVE HEALING FROM JESUS:**

Matthew 8:8,13; 9:21,22,28-30, Hebrews 11:1,6

God is not happy when we are sick. He desires that we should be in good health and prosper. He died on the cross and paid the price so that we can have divine healing. But certain things hinder divine healing and health. These include: unconfessed sin, unbelief, prayerlessness, fear and anxiety, bad eating habit and disobedience to God's word (Matthew 8:26; 9:2).

Therefore, there are certain conditions that you must fulfil if you want to receive healing from Christ. (i) You must be born again. That is, you must realise your sinful ways, confess and repent of your sins, forsake them, ask Jesus to wash your heart clean in His blood, invite Him to be your Lord and personal Saviour. (ii) You must exercise faith in Christ the healer. Doubting the power of God for healing cannot bring any miracle down from Him. (iii) Obey God's word daily. (iv) Live a holy life through consistent and total separation from sinful children. It is however necessary to obey the rules of hygiene that is, washing your hands, brushing your teeth, taking your bath daily etc.

You must also watch the kind of food that you eat. You need to eat a balanced diet that will give the body the necessary nutrients needed to stay healthy and strong. You must do away with junk foods and too much sweets and biscuits. When you eat healthy, live in a clean environment and live a holy life, then your healing and good health is assured.

### **3. PROVISION FOR HEALING THROUGH JESUS, OUR HEALER:**

Matthew 9:35; 14:14; Mark 1:41

Today, our healing is based upon better promises through the finished work of Christ at Calvary. The healing is for “whosoever believeth” in Christ.

Salvation and healing are now yours freely because of the redemptive work of Christ. The price that Jesus paid at Calvary purchased full salvation for your body, soul and Spirit. You must not allow sickness in your body.

However, in order to remain healthy, you need to maintain your relationship with God by manifesting faith and total obedience to His word. A song writer wrote:

“Jesus only is our Healer  
All our sicknesses He bare;  
And His risen life and fulness,  
All His members still may share”

Are you sick or afflicted by the devil? Jesus the healer is here. Bring your sicknesses and cares to Him, He will save and heal you.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who is our healer?
2. Mention four out of the many of the miracles of healing Jesus performed in our Bible passages .
3. What are the conditions for receiving healing from Christ?
4. How can a Christian maintain constant health?
5. What must a sinner do to receive healing?
6. Jesus has made provision for our healing. Yes/No?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick” (Matthew 8:16).

**LESSON:** Jesus is the greatest healer.

**THOUGHT:** I trust in Jesus for total healing and health.

**ACTIVITY:** Read through our Bible passages and write out other miracles that Jesus did.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 103 - HE HEALED THEM ALL**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Jesus died on the cross, healing me on the cross (2) Anywhere He went, He was doing good. (3) Jesus the same yesterday.

**HOMEWORK:** “And with his stripes, we are healed”. Where can this be found in the old testament?

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MARK	1:40-44
TUESDAY	LUKE	7:6-10
WEDNESDAY	MARK	1:32-34
THURSDAY	LUKE	7:11-15
FRIDAY	ACTS	3:2-8
SATURDAY	3 JOHN	1:1-4
SUNDAY	1 PETER	2:22-25

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH:**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Health 2. Healing 3. Consistent 4. Compassion 5. Oppressed.

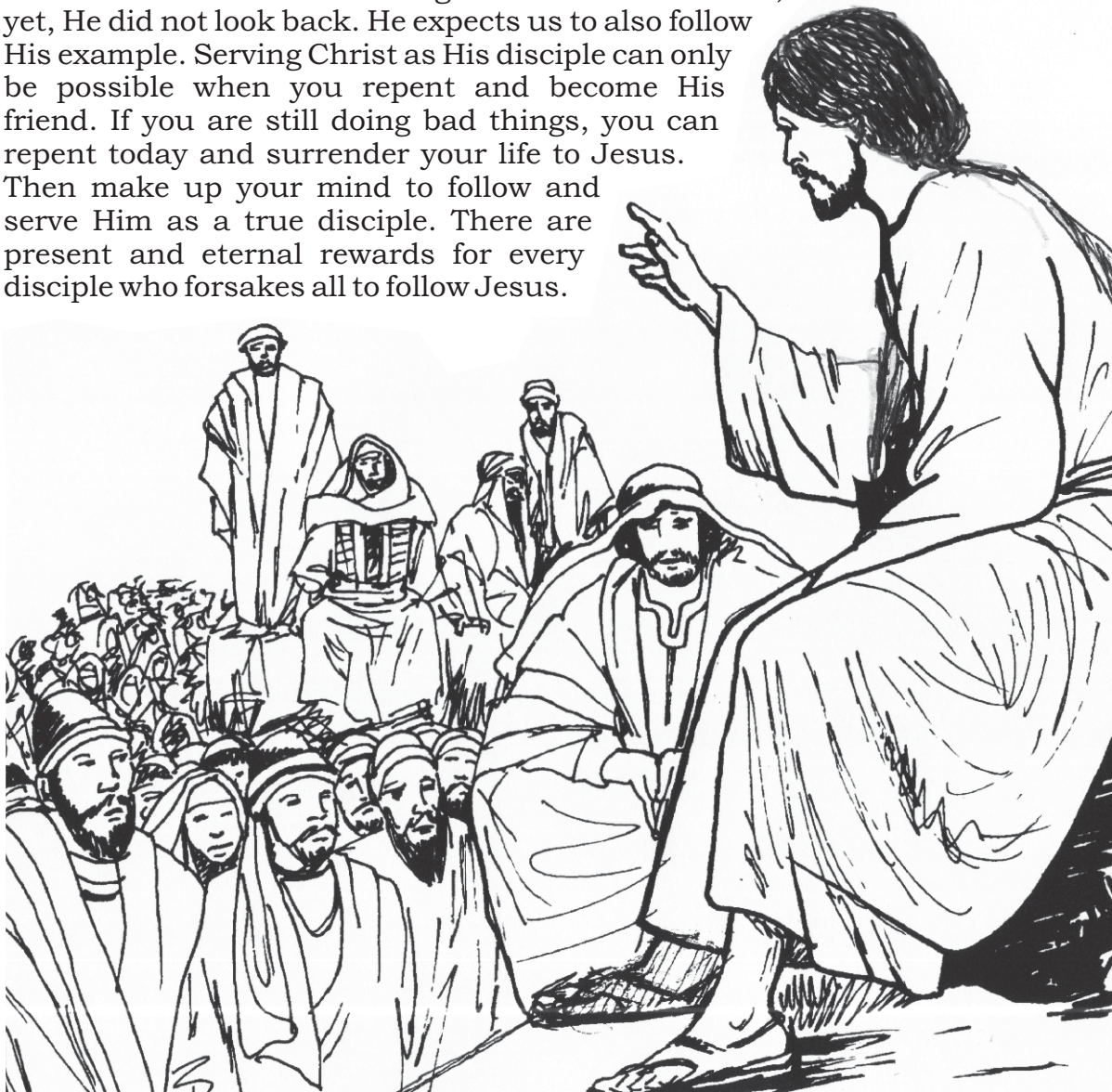
### LESSON 13

## THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 8:18-22; Mark 8:31-38; Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-35

**A**s Jesus went about doing His earthly work, He called some people to work with Him. Out of the multitudes, He chose a few who later became His disciples. He trained them throughout the period of His earthly ministry and then handed over the work to them. During the course of their training, the disciples learnt that the life of a disciple is not “a bed of roses”. They understood that there is a price to pay if they must fulfil their call. Jesus has laid the example, showing us that discipleship is a life of sacrifice. It demands self-denial and total commitment to the work of the Master.

Jesus suffered while doing the will of His Father, yet, He did not look back. He expects us to also follow His example. Serving Christ as His disciple can only be possible when you repent and become His friend. If you are still doing bad things, you can repent today and surrender your life to Jesus. Then make up your mind to follow and serve Him as a true disciple. There are present and eternal rewards for every disciple who forsakes all to follow Jesus.



## 1. **CONCEPT AND DESCRIPTION OF A TRUE DISCIPLE:**

Luke 14:25-27; 9:23-26; Matthew 4:17-22; Mark 9:33-41

The word disciple is used to describe a pupil who submits himself to be taught under a teacher. This is why the followers of some notable religious leaders in the New Testament were referred to as disciples. In a broad sense, Jesus used “disciple” to describe all His followers who have been taught by Him, responded to His invitation (Matthew 11:29) and are following His principles.

At first, Jesus called twelve men, who later became His disciples, **“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:”** (Matthew 10:1-5) They followed Him everywhere He went. Later, He chose seventy other people and sent them out two by two (Luke 10:1). During Christ' ministry, there were men, women and even children who came to Jesus. They followed Him and also learned at His feet. After some time, many of these disciples went away. They could not continue the self-denial that the life of a disciple entails. The encouraging aspect is that many followed Christ till the end. These are the true disciples. There are certain fundamental requirements that a true disciple must possess: (i) Desire to follow Jesus (ii) Self-denial (iii) Dedication (iv) Submission (v) Willingness to accept direction.

The basic requirements of a disciple is to “follow Jesus”. The true disciple lives not for himself or herself but for Christ the Master. He surrenders all to Jesus, and daily carries his cross and follow Him. If you want to be a true disciple of Jesus, you must take steps to follow Him now. You are not too young to be a disciple. If you follow Christ now, you will have many years of fruitful life of service unto God.

## 2. **THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP:**

Mark 8:34-38; Luke 14:25-35; Matthew 16:24-26; Luke 9:23-26

Accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour demands not only believing the truth of the gospel, but also committing oneself to sacrificially follow the Saviour to the end. The choice between denying ourselves or living for our own selfish desires must be made daily. That choice will determine our eternal destiny.

The cost of discipleship can be better understood from these important principles: (i) The principle of “first loyalty”. This means that our devotion to Christ as Lord must be first above all other things and people. Nothing else should compete with Christ's reign and rule over our lives.



(ii) Principle of cross-bearing. A disciple must be willing to suffer. This is complete commitment to Christ that sets aside all personal ambitions and gain. Apostle Paul counted all his earthly achievement like education, knowledge, position as nothing for Christ's sake. He was a true disciple (Philippians 3:4-9; 2 Timothy 2:10-12).

(iii) Counting the cost and willing to go all the way inspite of suffering. Timothy, a young pastor was encouraged to endure hardness as a good soldier of Christ. You are like Timothy, spend your youthful energy to serve Christ now. Even though you may suffer persecution, you must continue to follow Jesus because He is with you (2 Timothy 2:1-4).

(iv) Principle of sacrifice – A disciple must be willing to give up all temporal possessions in his service to Christ (Mark 10:28-31). The little lad was among the multitude who followed Jesus to hear His word. He willingly “sacrificed” his lunch of five small loaves and two fishes to feed the multitude. Your time, talent, treasure must be given as sacrifice for the gospel of Christ. Afterall there is nothing you have that was not given to you by God. Therefore, give Him back all that you have.

### **3. CALL TO BE A DISCIPLE:**

Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-62; Matthew 11:25-30; 4:17-22;

Mark 10:17-22

A sinful child is not a disciple of Christ. He can only become one if he answers the call of Christ to come unto Him. Come to Christ with all your load of sin. Repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing through His blood. Invite Jesus into your heart to be your Saviour and Friend. This is the first step to becoming a disciple of Jesus. He expects you to continue with Him as you forsake all and follow Him. Pray every day and be watchful. Read your Bible daily, meditate upon His word and obey it. Separate yourself from bad company. Be in fellowship with other friends of Jesus. Preach the love of Jesus to sinners. Live a holy life and daily expect the coming of Jesus. He will bless you here on earth and take you to heaven at last.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who is a disciple?
2. Mention 3 requirements for true discipleship.
3. What are the principles of true discipleship?
4. How can a sinful boy or girl become a disciple of Christ?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34).

**LESSON:** God's plan and desire is that every born-again boy and girl should be a disciple of Christ.

**THOUGHT:** I surrender my life completely to God.

**ACTIVITY:** The children are to stand up one after the other and mention one disciple of Christ each. Then explain the attributes that make such a person a true disciple of Christ.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 87—TAKE MY LIFE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I will follow, follow, (2) following Jesus every day by day (3) Give me grace to follow.

**HOMEWORK:** Children are to write in their homework book, five things they must do daily as true disciples of Christ.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MATTHEW	16:24-26
TUESDAY	MARK	9:33-37
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	4:17-20
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	10:17,18
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	10:19-21
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	10:22-26
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	10:27-33

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH:**

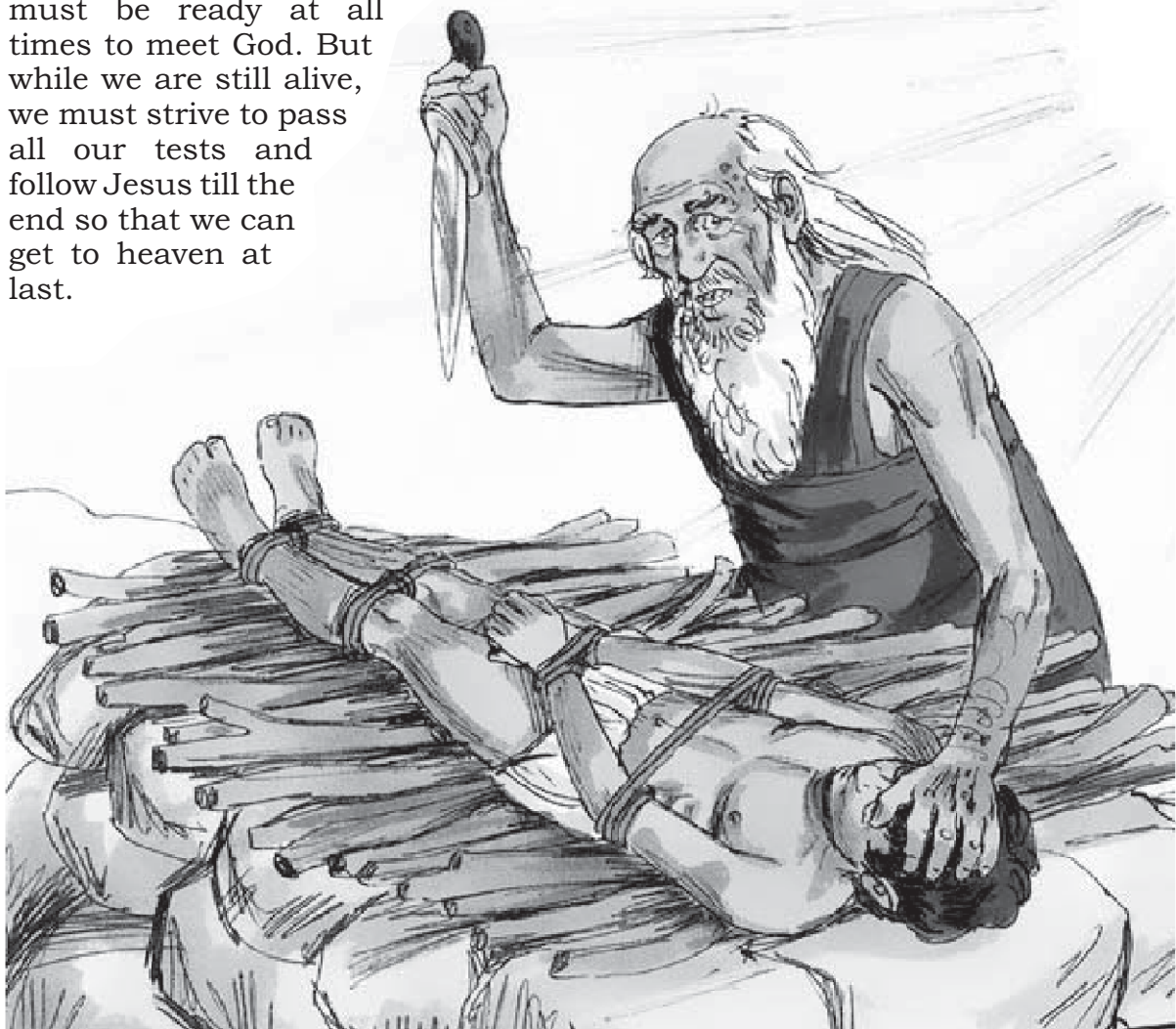
Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Devotion 2. Precedence 3. Disciple 4. Principle 5. Ambition.

**LESSON 14**  
**GOD TESTS ABRAHAM**  
Genesis 22:1-24, 23:1-20

**A**braham was a friend of God. God called him and he obeyed. Abraham waited for twenty-five (25) years before the birth of Isaac (laughter). In our text today, Abraham was tested. He was asked to sacrifice his only son Isaac. God tested Abraham, not to lure him into sin but to discover the strength and genuineness of his faith. Abraham obeyed God and he was prepared to sacrifice his only child. God was happy with Abraham's obedience and blessed him. Obedience brings blessing. Children are to be obedient to instructions from God, their parents, teachers and elders.

It is painful that Sarah the wife of Abraham eventually died. Abraham was not happy and he wept. He then bought a piece of land where she was buried. This land became Abraham's family burial ground. Everybody will die at one time or the other and so we must be ready at all times to meet God. But while we are still alive, we must strive to pass all our tests and follow Jesus till the end so that we can get to heaven at last.



### 1. GOD'S COMMAND TO ABRAHAM:

Genesis 22:1,2

God commanded Abraham to offer the most important possession he had which was his only son as sacrifice. No reason was given for this. Meanwhile, God had promised Abraham that in Isaac shall his seed be called. How then would this come to pass if he sacrifice his only son? This was a great test indeed. Sometimes, God allows us to face difficulties to confirm our love and commitment to Him so that He might lift us to greater heights. Abraham obeyed God. He journeyed for three days to the land of Moriah, the place of the sacrifice. He had enough time to think and change his mind, but he did not, his heart was fixed to obey God. What great love! Such obedience brings great blessings in our lives.

When God asks you to give Him something, for example your tithes and offering, time and talent, you must obey. Samuel was an obedient child so also was Paul the apostle. They obeyed without murmuring. Children should also obey their parents and godly teachers no matter how difficult the test is, when you obey God, He will bless you greatly.

### 2. OBEDIENCE OF ABRAHAM AND THE BLESSINGS:

Genesis 22:3-24

Abraham took Isaac and went to the place where God told him in Moriah. He obeyed promptly. Children should obey their parents promptly when they are sent on errands. On the way to Moriah, Isaac asked Abraham about the lamb to be used for the sacrifice and to this Abraham said, '**God will provide.**' Children should ask questions about what is not clear to them. Abraham's answer shows great faith in God. We are to believe God to provide for all our needs. The Bible says, "**my God shall supply all your need**" (Philippians 4:19).

Abraham got ready to sacrifice Isaac on the altar and God stopped him. God provided a lamb in place of Isaac for the sacrifice. God honoured Abraham's faith. As a result of Abraham's obedience, God promised him many blessings. God said because thou has done this thing and has not withheld thy son, thine only son ...". (i) I will bless you (ii) I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, (iii) I will multiply your seed as the sand which is upon the sea shore, (iv) Your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies and (v) In your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. God fulfilled all these promises because of Abraham's obedience (Genesis 22:16-18). God has many blessings for obedient children. This include provision, protection, success, healing and eternal life. The greatest blessing from God is salvation. Are you saved? This is the time to obey God's call to be saved from sin.

### 3. DEATH AND BURIAL OF SARAH:

Genesis 23: 1-20

Sarah died in Hebron at 127 years of age. The Bible says "**It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment**" (Hebrews 9:27).

Abraham was not happy about Sarah's death. He mourned and wept, it was a serious time of trial for Abraham but God's word comforted him. Abraham started to plan for his wife's burial. He had no land to bury Sarah so he bought a piece of land from the children of Heth where he buried Sarah. The place where Sarah was buried became the family burial ground where Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Leah and Joseph were also buried. When in sorrow, children should go to God in prayers and He will comfort them.

Abraham had a good relationship with his neighbours. Children are to be well-behaved. Bad behaviours like fighting, stealing, abusing and keeping of bad friends are not expected from godly children. We shall all die at God's appointed time. The important thing is that we should be born-again and continue to live a holy life so that when we leave this world, we will go and live in heaven with Jesus and not in hell fire with the devil. Are you born again? Give your life to Jesus today.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who tested Abraham?
2. What did God ask Abraham to do?
3. Mention two lessons that you have learnt from Isaac's reaction to the test.
4. Mention some of the promises that God passed to Isaac through Abraham's obedience.
5. How can children receive God's blessings today?

**MEMORY VERSE:** "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of" (Genesis 22:1,2).

**LESSON:** God expects obedience from children when tested.

**THOUGHT:** I will always obey God

**ACTIVITY:** Teachers should lead the children in prayer that God will give them the grace to overcome during trials.

### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 6 – YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION**

**CHORUSES:** I will never let the devil win the battle. (2) Father Abraham has many sons. (3) Abraham's blessings are mine.

**HOMEWORK:** Children should write out names of people, two from Old Testament and two from New Testament that were tested, where they were tested, type of test and how they overcame.



### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	12:1-4
TUESDAY	HEBREWS	11:17-19
WEDNESDAY	JAMES	2:20-23
THURSDAY	GENESIS	26:1-5
FRIDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	10:12-14
SATURDAY	JAMES	1:12-15
SUNDAY	1 PETER	1:6-8

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH:**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Sacrifice 2. Command 3. Commitment 4. Possess 5. Seashore.

## LESSON 15

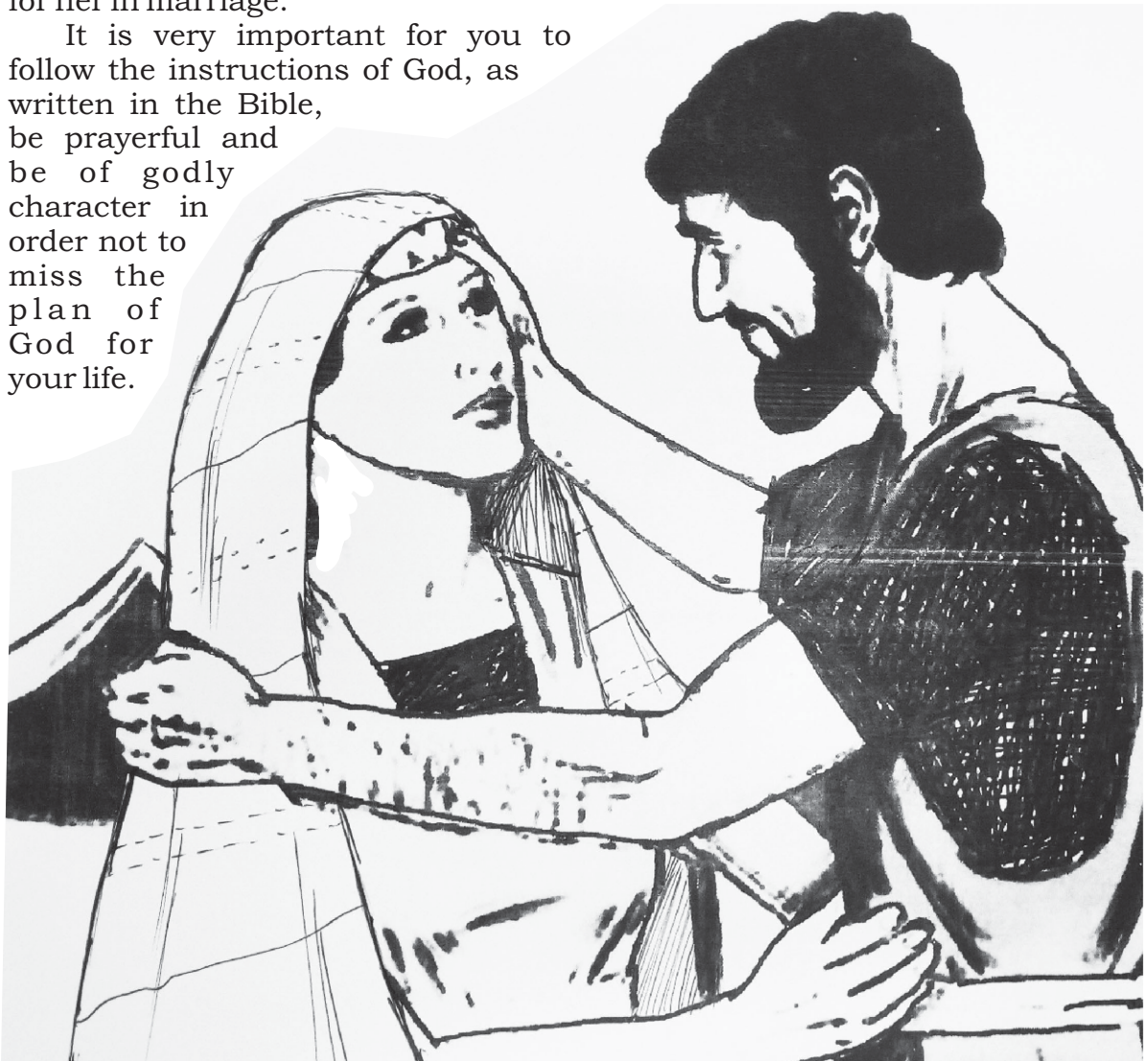
# ISAAC MARRIES REBEKAH

Genesis 24:1-67

**M**arriage is the union between a man and a woman that which makes them to become husband and wife. It was ordained by God (Genesis 2:24). It is therefore a holy union that must not be toiled with. It is for matured men and women only, not for boys and girls. We are learning this today, so as to prepare every boy and girl for the future.

Isaac was matured enough to get married. Abraham, his father was concerned and sent his eldest servant to his father's house in another city to get a wife for Isaac. The servant prayerfully followed all the instructions of his master and God directed him to Rebekah whom He has prepared for Isaac. Rebekah was of godly character and this kept her from missing the will of God for her in marriage.

It is very important for you to follow the instructions of God, as written in the Bible, be prayerful and be of godly character in order not to miss the plan of God for your life.



## 1. ABRAHAM'S CONCERN FOR ISAAC'S MARRIAGE:

Genesis 24:1-9; 28:1-3

Abraham was referred to as the friend of God in the Bible because of his life of faith and obedience to God's commands. He was a righteous man. When it was time for his son, Isaac to get married, he was concerned as a caring father. Thus, he turned his concern into action by entering into covenant with his eldest servant not to get a wife among the Canaanites but to go to Abraham's people to get a wife for Isaac.

The servant expressed the doubts that the woman might not want to follow him and asked Abraham if he could take Isaac to meet the wife in that country. Abraham however, insisted that his servant should follow his instructions. He prayerfully asked his servant to go as he had commanded him and that the angel of the Lord God would go before him.

It is a good thing for godly parents to be concerned about the welfare of their children even in the area of marriage. They should prayerfully guide them according to the word of God through the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is very important that the children accept the counsel and guidance of their godly parents and the leading of the Holy Spirit. However, it is essential to be born again for you to appreciate the godly counsel of your parents and the voice of the Holy Spirit. Surrender your heart to Jesus now and be saved. Then God will give you understanding in making right choices in matters pertaining to your life and future.

## 2. SCRIPTURAL PROCESS FOR CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE:

Genesis 24:10-61

Abraham's eldest servant made a covenant with his master. He took camels, materials for marriage proposal and began the journey towards Mesopotamia to get a wife for Isaac. The man strictly followed Abraham's instructions. He was prayerful, persistent and patient.

When he got to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor, where he was sent to, he and the men with him stopped and rested by a well outside the city with the camels. He prayed that God should let the chosen woman for Isaac be the one that would fetch water for him and his camels. God answered his prayers exactly as he requested even before he finished praying.

After discovering the right woman for Isaac, whose name was Rebekah, he followed her to her father's house and introduced himself as Abraham's servant. He told them the purpose of his journey to their city and narrated how God answered his prayer to get Rebekah as God's will in marriage for his master's son. The family of Rebekah in one accord said, **"The thing proceeded from the Lord: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good"** (Genesis 24:50). They released Rebekah for Abraham's servant after praying for her. You need to know the will of God for you in all aspects of your life such as in your choice of subjects and career, which school to attend, who you should take as a close friend and, in fact, in all the decisions you take in life.

The following points will help you to know the will of God in all aspects of

your life: (i) Make God your Father by being born again. (ii) Always ask God to lead and guide you in all your decision-making. (iii) Never insist on having your own way. (iv) Regularly read the Bible so that God can guide you through His word. (v) Do not forsake the counsel of your godly parents and teachers.

### **3. GRACIOUS CHARACTER: REQUIREMENT FOR SUCCESSFUL FUTURE:**

Genesis 24:15-33; 63-67; Hebrews 13:4

From our passage, we can see that Isaac and Rebekah had godly characters. Isaac did not give his father the impression that he was old enough to handle his marital affairs alone. He graciously accepted the guidance of his godly father. He was neither proud nor over confident.

Isaac was an obedient son to his father. He loved God and His word. He was outside meditating on God's word when he lifted up his eyes and saw Rebekah coming to him. When you read and meditate on God's word, your eyes will be opened to see the promise and the blessings of God coming into your life. Isaac also had high moral standards. He took Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent and she became his wife. Rebekah also had a combination of good characters. She was:

- (i) A very beautiful lady but not carried away by her beauty (Genesis 24:16; 1 Peter 3:3-5).
- (ii) Innocent and chaste because she was a virgin (Genesis 24:16).
- (iii) Hardworking, hospitable and humble (Genesis 24:18-20).
- (iv) Courteous and respectful (Genesis 24:18).
- (v) She loves to help others (Genesis 24:19,20).

The families of Isaac and Rebekah were godly family. This influenced the lives of these two people. What a blessing to have a godly family! Do you desire such lovely characters in your own life and family? It is very possible. This possibility can start with you today by taking the following steps to get born again: (a) Realize that you are a sinner. (b) Repent of all your sins. (c) Request for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. (d) Receive Jesus into your heart. (e) Rejoice that you are now saved.

And if you are already a friend of Jesus and you have these godly characters, hold on to it don't allow anything to take them away from you. Remember, Jesus Christ is the Bridegroom of the church. One day, Jesus will come to take His bride to His heavenly home. Therefore, you must be prepared so that He can find you as a ready virgin like Rebekah. Then He will take you to His home in heaven (John 14:1-3).

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is marriage? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Abraham's instruction to his servant about getting a wife for Isaac?
3. From our study, what are the things that can help children to know the will of God in different areas of their lives?

4. Mention two godly characters each in the lives of Isaac and Rebeckah.
5.
  - a. Can a sinner demonstrate these godly characters?
  - b. How can a sinner possess these godly characters?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death” (Genesis 24:67).

**LESSON:** The secret of joy in the family is obedience to God's word.

**THOUGHT:** I will obey the godly counsel of my parents.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should write in their Church notebook, the conditions to fulfil for God to guide them in making right choices.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 46 - O, GIVE US HOMES BUILT FIRM UPON THE SAVIOUR.**

**CHORUSES:** Holiness, holiness, the kingdom of God is holy (2) Keep me true, Lord Jesus, keep me true (3) With Jesus in the family, happy, happy home.

**HOMEWORK:** Children should search the Scriptures and write in their homework book, two godly families in the Bible.

#### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	2:18-22
TUESDAY	GENESIS	2:23-25
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	19:4-6
THURSDAY	EPHESIANS	5:30-33
FRIDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	6:13-15
SATURDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	6:16-18
SUNDAY	PROVERBS	19:12-14

#### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH:**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

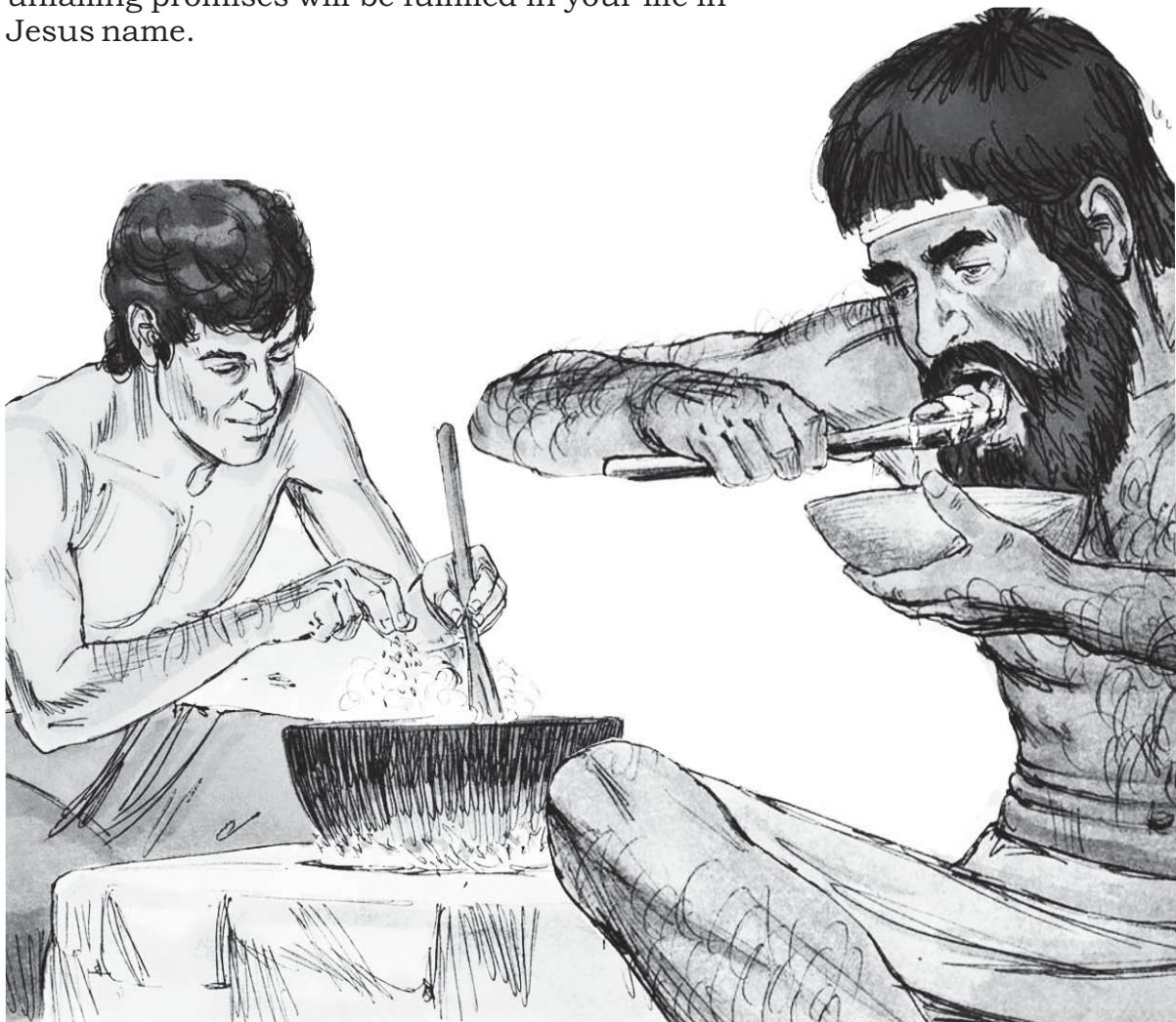
1. Marriage 2. Proposal 3. Courteous 4. Chaste 5. Impression.



**LESSON 16**  
**ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTHRIGHT**  
Genesis 25:1-34

**B**irthright is the privilege an individual has as a result of his position in the family. Every boy and girl who is born into any family has a birthright to everything in that family because he is born into that family. In the family of God too, all friends of Jesus are heirs and joint heirs with Christ. They have the right to come to God in prayer and receive answers. As a friend of Jesus you must not sell your birthright for any reason.

Isaac was Abraham's son of promise. He got married to Rebekah at the age of forty years and was childless for twenty years. He did not make the mistake of looking for an alternative to God's promise like Abraham his father when he was childless (Genesis 16:1-4). He waited for God, he later gave birth to Esau and Jacob. You must wait for God patiently and His promises will come to pass in your life. If you are not yet a friend of Jesus, give your life to Him and His unfailing promises will be fulfilled in your life in Jesus name.



### **1. ABRAHAM'S LATER YEARS:**

Genesis 25:1-11, 3 John 2

After the death of his wife Sarah and the marriage of his son Isaac, Abraham saw the need for a companion. He thereafter married Keturah who gave birth to six children. As the years passed, Abraham knew that he needed to put his house in order so that after he had gone, the sons of the new woman will not start fighting over his possession with Isaac who is was the sole heir of the promise. So, he gave the sons of the woman gifts and sent them away but Isaac who was the heir of promise, he gave all his possessions. God expects His children to be ready to take possession and mantle of leadership when our elders grow old and pass on to glory. So, we must abide by the principle of the word of God which we have learnt from the Bible.

All boys and girls are created by God and as creatures of God, there are common blessings that God gives to all His creatures. However, there are covenant blessings that only friends of Jesus can enjoy. If you want to enjoy covenant blessings, you must give your life to Christ and become a friend of Jesus. As you do this, great will be your blessings.

Abraham lived for 175 years and God prospered him spiritually and physically. As friends of Jesus, it is the will of God for us to live long and be prosperous spiritually and physically. God will do this for you in Jesus name.

### **2. THE BIRTH OF ESAU AND JACOB:**

Genesis 25: 19-28

Isaac and Rebekah had no child after 20 years of marriage. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife and God answered him. The promise of God is sure, when He promises you anything, if it doesn't come at the time you are expecting it, be patient, it must surely come. His wife became pregnant and gave birth to a set of twins. Whenever we face any challenge in life, we must look up to God in prayer, believe in Him and He will attend to all our request and answer our prayers.

Rebekah had some problems during the pregnancy of the twins and she sought the face of God. God gave her present and future revelations. Sometimes, we may have some discomforts, though in the will of God. As we look up to Him, He will see us through in Jesus name. Eventually, Rebekah gave birth to Esau and Jacob. Esau was hairy and also a hunter. His father loved him because he brought him meat from his hunting while Rebekah loved Jacob. As friends of Jesus, we are to love all men equally. When we do this, God will be happy with us.

### **3. ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTHRIGHT:**

Genesis 25: 29-34

One day, when Esau came back from hunting, he was very hungry and tired. He saw Jacob cooking pottage. Jacob was a good cook because he was always with his mother at home. He learnt how to cook from his mother. We must learn to assist our parents at home because by so doing we will learn how to do a lot of essential things well. Esau begged for food from his brother Jacob.

Let us avoid the habit of begging for food from friends and neighbours. This is a bad habit. ! You can be poisoned or attracted to evil association if you continue in that habit.

Esau felt he would die if he did not eat the food but that is not true. Even if he did not eat that whole day, he would not die. Jacob saw this as an opportunity to get what he had been struggling for when they were both in the womb. So, Jacob requested for his birthright as the first son. Esau never counted the cost. He just gave in and lost his birthright. As friends of Jesus, our birthright is the salvation, sanctification and Holy Ghost baptism we got through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. We should not allow anything, anyone or friends to make us forsake Christ and loose our salvation. Salvation from sin is the most precious thing you can have here on earth, because without it, you will not get to heaven.

Also, be careful what you do when you are under pressure from friends and neighbours. Do not let anyone to lure you to sin just because you are pressed. Do not yield to temptation. Yielding is sin and sin will land you in hell. As a sinner or backslider who have sold his birthright, you must give your life to Jesus by:

- (i) Realising you are a sinner
- (ii) Confess your sins and ask Jesus to forgive you.
- (iii) Make up your mind not to go into those sins anymore.
- (iv) Invite Christ into your life to be your Lord and Saviour.
- (v) Read your Bible and pray every day for grace to overcome every temptation. God's grace is sufficient for you.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you understand by the word 'birthright'?
2. Abraham lived for how many years before he died?
3. Who sold his birthright for just a plate of food?
4. As a friend of Jesus what is your birthright that you must not loose or sell out?
5. (a) How can a sinner become a friend of Jesus? (b) How can friends of Jesus Overcome temptation in times of distress?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob” (Genesis 25:32,33).

**LESSON:** God wants us to be saved and protect our salvation as an eternal birthright.

**THOUGHT:** I will not yield to temptation to sell my birthright.

**ACTIVITY:** Teachers should lead the children to pray for grace to overcome

temptations in times of distress.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 6 – YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I will never let the devil win the battle. (2) Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus. (3) The grace of God is sufficient unto me.

**HOME WORK:** Write in your homework book, what you will do to overcome, when bad children come to tempt you.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	27:30-32
TUESDAY	GENESIS	27:33,34
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	27:35-37
THURSDAY	GENESIS	27:38-40
FRIDAY	GENESIS	27:41,42
SATURDAY	GENESIS	28:5-9
SUNDAY	HEBREWS	12:15-17

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH:**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Birthright 2. Covenant 3. Achievement 4. Discomfort 5. Opportunity.



## LESSON 17

# GOD PROSPERS ISAAC

Genesis 26:1-35

**O**ur God is faithful. He made a covenant with Abraham to bless him and his seed, Isaac. Isaac was just like his father who obeyed God in all that he was asked to do. He experienced famine in the land of Canaan and decided to go to the land of Egypt, but God said NO. ! But that he should rather sojourn at Gerar. There God would visit and bless him. He obeyed the leading and guidance of God. When we obey God's command, He will bless and surprise us in all areas of life. His obedience to God brought prosperity to him. Friends of Jesus must learn to obey and keep to God's word if they want God to prosper them.

Isaac like his father Abraham obeyed God and he was also blessed. At Gerar, he sowed and harvested bountifully. He dug a well which the Philistines contended with, but he was not angry nor did he quarrel with them. At last, Isaac dug a well which the Philistines did not fill up. He called the place REHOBOTH, meaning **“For now the Lord has made room for us and we shall be fruitful”** (Genesis 26:22). Isaac experienced the favour of God everywhere he went because he was obedient. There are covenant blessings awaiting all obedient children. You must be counted among them.





### **1. GOD PROSPERS ISAAC:**

Genesis 26:1-14,24; 12:3,4

God promised Abraham that He will bless him and his seed, and this promise was fulfilled in the life of Isaac. Isaac was blessed because he was obedient to God and His word. God commanded him not to go to Egypt when there was famine in Canaan and he obeyed. For a sinful child to be blessed like Isaac, he must be ready to obey God by following these steps; (i) Know yourself as a sinner, (ii) Confess and turn away from your sinful ways (iii) Ask God for forgiveness and cleansing in Jesus' blood, (iv) Ask God for power to go and sin no more, (v) Invite Jesus into your heart as your Lord and Saviour (vi) Thank God for saving you.

God renewed the covenant He made with Abraham with Isaac. He confirmed it in the life of Isaac just because he also obeyed God. All friends of Jesus are descendants of Abraham and are also entitled to Abraham's blessings which includes salvation, sanctification, Holy Ghost baptism, long life, prosperity, protection, success and eternal life. Arise and claim your prosperity through obedience, prayer and faith in God.

### **2. SECRETS OF ISAAC'S PROSPERITY:**

Genesis 26:12,15-25; Romans 12:17-21

Isaac prospered not just because he was Abraham's son, but because He knew the Lord and obeyed Him. Likewise, any boy or girl that wants to be blessed by God must be a friend of Jesus by surrendering his or her life to Christ.

Apart from knowing the Lord, Isaac was very hardworking, diligent and innovative (Genesis 26:12), unlike some children who will always depend on the riches of their parents and will not be serious with their studies. Isaac was industrious and enterprising. Laziness, idleness, slothfulness, and procrastination had no place in his life and household. God only blesses those who use their hands to work. Prosperity does not come by chance; it comes through hard work, faithfulness and obedience to the word of God.

Another secret of Isaac's prosperity was that of an enduring spirit. He manifested this when he was being frustrated over the wells he dug and were filled up by enemies. Yet he did not give up. Every child of God must learn not to retaliate and to forgive his enemy for the sake of God's kingdom. The prosperity that God gave to Isaac did not diminish throughout his lifetime. His prosperity was so great that his enemies called him blessed. They looked for him and made peace with him. God has promises of prosperity for you too. As you obey and work hard, you will enjoy God's blessings in all areas of your life.

### **3. LESSONS LEARNT FROM ISAAC'S PROSPERITY:**

Genesis 26: 25-33

There are many lessons we can learn from the prosperity of Isaac. Some of them are: (i) Anywhere you get go to as children of God you must not hide your identity. Let people know that you are a friend of Jesus. Isaac built an altar for God in a foreign land. (ii) Abimelech and one of his friends visited Isaac. It is in

fulfilment of what the Bible says in Proverbs 16:7 **“When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him”**. In all you do, let your ways please the Lord. (iii) Isaac was hard working. He sowed in the land and was blessed. As friends of Jesus, we must not be lazy. We should be ready to work with our hands (Romans 12:11). (iv) He despite all that his persecutors did to him, he forgave them and made peace with them.

He entertained Abimelech and his friend. He was generous in giving. You must learn to forgive others. Be kind and assist people the best way you can. He did not give up easily when his enemies continually filled up the wells he dug. He continued digging new wells until he was left alone. When tried we should not give up. Whatever you have learnt from Isaac's obedience should serve as examples for you to follow. Be a doer of the word and God will bless you.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Abraham's blessings reflected in the life of Isaac his son. Yes/No?
2. Mention at least three common things found in the life of Abraham and Isaac.
3. Mention four secrets to Isaac's prosperity.
4. Explain at least two lessons learnt from Isaac's prosperity.
5. What must a sinful child do to benefit from the blessing of God?

**MEMORY VERSE:** **“Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him”** (Genesis 26:12).

**LESSON:** Abraham's blessing is for all friends of Jesus.

**THOUGHT:** I will obey the Lord in order to be blessed.

**ACTIVITY:** children should pray for God's prosperity upon their nation, homes and their own lives.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 209 - I WILL NOT FORGET THEE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (2) Abraham's blessings are mine. (3) Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.

**HOMEWORK:** Search the Scriptures and find out 5 (five) people that were blessed.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MATTHEW	6:26-28
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	6:29-33
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	1:1-3
THURSDAY	2 THESSALONIANS	3:7-10
FRIDAY	PHILIPPIANS	4:16-19
SATURDAY	JOHN	10:9-11
SUNDAY	3 JOHN	1:2-5

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Famine 2. Procrastination 3. Tolerant 4. Innovate 5. Diligent.

## LESSON 18

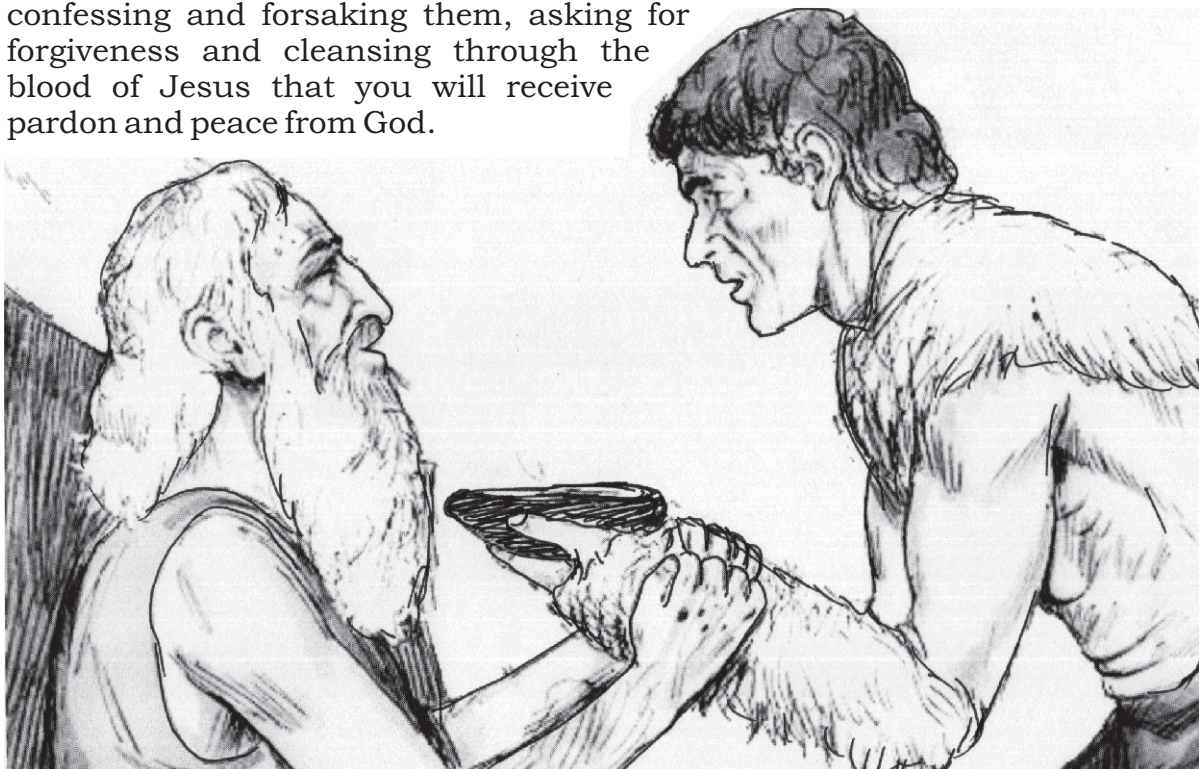
# THE BETRAYAL AND FLIGHT OF JACOB

Genesis 27:1-46; 28:1-22

**E**sau and Jacob were the twin sons of Isaac. As the first son, Esau was entitled to certain special blessings. However, Jacob in our text, deceived his father to receive his twin brother's blessing. This sin destroyed the relationship and fellowship which existed between both of them (Genesis 27:41). As a result of Jacob's deception, his brother was angry with him and he had to flee to Padan-aram. Proverbs 28:1, says, **"The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion"**.

The sin committed here was not only against Esau but also against God and his father Isaac. He betrayed the trust that his father had in him and that of his brother too as well. Are you also like Jacob? Can your parents, teachers, friends and other siblings in the family trust you? Sin is dangerous: (a) Sin of disobedience made Adam and Eve to lose the garden of Eden, God's presence and fellowship (Genesis 3:8-10) (b) Saul, the first King of Israel lost the throne and eventually his life because of sin. (1Samuel 15:10, 11, 23, 28). (c) The sin of covetousness led Judas Iscariot to betray the Lord Jesus which led him to commit suicide (Matthew 27:5).

The Lord hates sin. Betrayal of trust made Jacob to flee from home because he was afraid of his brother. He thought his brother will forget with time. As children, we should not behave like Jacob. You must repent of any sin committed now because length of time cannot cover sin, but only by confessing and forsaking them, asking for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus that you will receive pardon and peace from God.





## 1. JACOB BETRAYS ESAU:

Genesis 27:1-41; Leviticus 19:3; Psalm 101:7; Proverbs 21:6

Betrayal means something that is done to mislead others. It is an act of deception usually for personal gain. We should note that this is not the first time Jacob would take something by deception from Esau his brother (Genesis 25:31-34). However, this time, their mother, Rebekah, influenced him to take his brother's blessing. **"And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them"** (Genesis 27:13). Although, Jacob was afraid of the consequence of what he was about to do, his mother persuaded him. Isaac perceived the plot but due to the dimness of his sight, Jacob was able to deceive him. We must be careful not to take advantage of others especially the children with special needs among us, Instead, we should help them.

Jacob obtained his brother's blessing through deceit. He lied against God, thereby treating the sacred name of God with no respect or fear. In The book of Exodus 20:7 states that, **"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain"**. A friend of Jesus must know the limit of his obedience to others like parents, teachers, and leaders or friends. You must not let anybody make you to sin against God. Jacob sinned against God by lying. Also, in Ephesians 6:1 says, **"Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right"**. Our obedience should not lead us to offend God like telling lies to cover-up some secrets or to steal. We must take our stand not to partake in other people's sin nor be involved in being a false witness. A friend of Jesus must flee from such things as lies or mentioning the name of the Lord Jesus anyhow like others do. In addition, children of God must be wise and bold like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to stand for the truth (Daniel 3:13-27).

## 2. JACOB'S FLIGHT FROM CANAAN TO HARAN:

Genesis 27: 42-46; 28:1-22; 42:6;9-10,13; Matthew 11:28;  
Numbers 23:19

Jacob's agreement with the plan of his mother landed him in trouble, even though the plot succeeded. He was to leave Canaan for the safety of his life. When Esau returned with meat to give to Isaac, his father, he was taken by surprise to learn that another person had taken his blessing and Isaac affirmed that **"...yea, and he (Jacob) shall be blessed"**. Although, Esau pleaded and wept, the blessing could not be reversed. This led to Jacob's flight to Haran.

Rebekah's action was motivated by what the Lord had told her while the babies were in her womb, she was worried and when she enquired from the Lord about the matter, the Lord gave her a clear promise that the elder son shall serve the younger son, **"the elder shall serve the younger"** (Genesis 25:23). Rebekah would have waited for the Lord to fulfill His promise rather than helping God to bring it to pass.



The promises of God never fails except where a child of God goes back to sin. It is sin that can make God to withdraw His earlier promises; for Joseph, his brothers hated him for his dreams, he suffered wrongly at Potiphar's house and was cast into prison. They all happened to fulfill the God-given dream. If Rebekah had not plotted the deception for Jacob, the Lord would still do what He had said concerning him (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

As a friend of Jesus, “... **blessed is she that that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord**” (Luke 1:45). Therefore, do not try to help yourself, God is faithful to His promises. Just believe Him. He will surely bring to pass all He has promised. If you are still a sinner, there is hope for you “**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**” (Romans 10:13). Today, come believing, He will sanctify and make you holy (Deuteronomy 30:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:3). There is power for service for those who are willing (Acts 1:8). Also, healing, deliverance and preservation and lots more are promises available for friends of Jesus (2 Timothy 4:18).

### **3. CONSEQUENCES OF JACOB'S BETRAYAL:**

Genesis 28:1-22

The action of Jacob in taking the blessing of his brother through deceit had unpleasant consequence to all the people involved. (i) Isaac - lost the sweet fellowship he ought to enjoy with his wife and two children. (ii) Esau – he rebelled against the will and word of God that his father had taught him. He despised his birthright and was cut off from God's covenant blessings. In anger, he went to marry wives from among idol-worshippers to make his father unhappy. (iii) Rebekah – she suffered greatly for her deceitful scheme, for Jacob had to flee, and she never saw her son again. She had died before Jacob came back. (iv) Jacob – he got what he wanted, yet it cost him dearly. He had to flee for his life and give up his possessions and the comforts of home. He reaped deceitful treatment himself suffered greatly and lived many years in exile.

Throughout his life, he encountered one misfortune after another. At a point, Jacob realized that he had done wrong. He was sober and sought the Lord. He was forgiven and then God changed his name and character from a deceiver to a prince. He was named Israel. And God also confirmed the covenant He made with Isaac in Jacob's life. God wants to give you a new name. If you are a sinner who has done so much evil against God and others (cheating, stealing, lying, false witnessing, fornication, deceit and many others), you must repent now.

Today is the day of salvation, God is ready to give you a new life and heart as you come to Him, taking the following steps: (i) Realise that you are a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (1 John 1:8). (ii) Confess and forsake your sins. (iii) Ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 1:7). (iv) Invite Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour forever (Revelation 3:20). (v) Promise Him that you will never to turn away from following Him (Matthew 24:13). (vi) Thank Him for saving you.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the sin of Jacob?
2. Sin will hinder the promise of God to be fulfilled in your life. Yes/No?
3. The other name for Esau is \_\_\_\_\_
4. What were the consequences of Jacob's deceitful action on members of his family?
5. What should a sinner do to be saved today?

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**“And Jacob went near Isaac his father; and felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice but the hands are the hands of Esau”. (Genesis 27:22)**

**LESSON:** Sin destroys relationship and fellowship

**THOUGHT:** I will not cheat others, I will be what God says I will be.

**ACTIVITY:** Read Genesis 29:14-30; 31:36-42 and write out the consequences of Jacob's action in deceiving his own brother.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 47 - JUST OBEY**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Obedience is the very best way (2) I will love, I will love (3) I will be what the Lord says I will be.

**HOME WORK:** Write in your homework book at least five (5) people in the Bible who waited patiently to receive God's promised blessings.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	PROVERBS	28:1-5
TUESDAY	PROVERBS	10:22-24
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	51:1-4
THURSDAY	PSALM	51:5-7
FRIDAY	PSALM	51:8-10
SATURDAY	PSALM	51:11-13
SUNDAY	PSALM	51:14-17

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Betrayal 2. Deception 3. Motivate 4. Unpleasant 5. Flight.

## LESSON 19

# JACOB'S STAY IN LABAN'S HOUSE

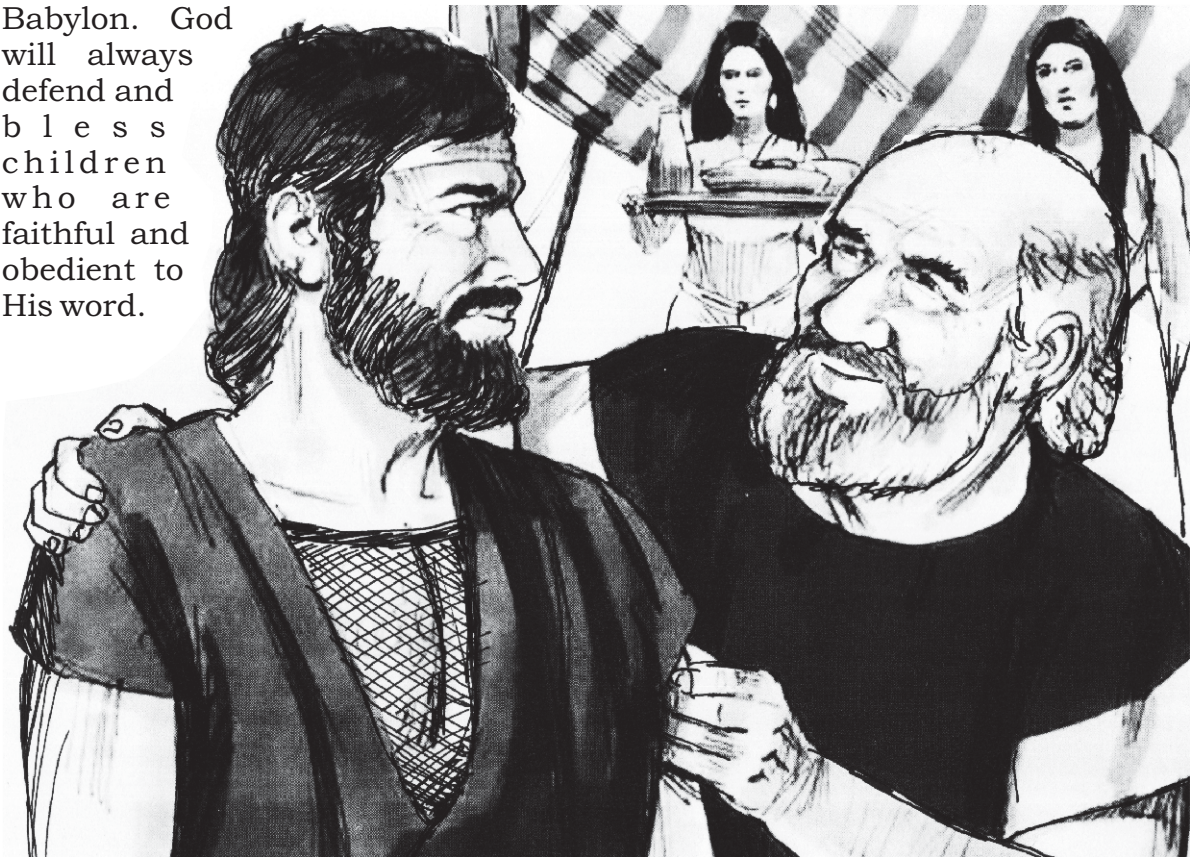
Genesis 29:1-35; 30:1-43; 31:1-55

**J**acob deceived Isaac his father through bad counsel from Rebekah his mother. He betrayed Esau, his twin brother and deceitfully took his blessings. Because of this, Esau was angry and planned to kill his brother. Jacob then fled from home and went to his uncle in another country. It was meant to be a short stay to allow his brother to be pacified. However, he had to spend twenty years there, labouring for his uncle.

God in His mercy did not forget His covenant with Abraham and Isaac. He showed mercy and unmerited favour to Jacob. Though he suffered, yet he was greatly blessed by God. After twenty years, God told him to leave Laban's house and go back to Bethel.

Remember that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceaseth, they are new every morning, for great is His faithfulness. Wherever you are, whether at home or in a faraway country, God is always with you. Only be sure you are doing His will. He will even because of you bless those around you because of your presence. And if you are living with people that are not your direct parents, be obedient and faithful to God's word. Do not cheat or do wrong to them, Also, do not compromise your faith. Stand for the truth as Daniel and His friends did in

Babylon. God will always defend and bless children who are faithful and obedient to His word.





### **1. JACOB IN LABAN'S HOUSE:**

Genesis 29:1-35; Hosea 12:1-14

Jacob ran away from home to the house of Laban, his uncle. He did this for many reasons: (i) He was running away from his brother whom he had cheated. (ii) He had deceived his father. (iii) He did not want to marry from among the heathens around them. (iv) It was a divine arrangement from God to fulfil His plan for his life.

Some children are like Jacob. They do bad things at home and then run away to another place. God is not happy with such children. His plan for you is that you live to glorify Him and make your younger brother happy. You must not cheat your younger brothers and sisters neither should you deceive your parents or cause quarrel between them. Jacob cheated his brother and deceived his father. In the same way, his uncle deceived and cheated him.

God who is loving and gracious worked through the weakness, struggles and failures in Jacob's family to accomplish His own purpose. Jacob was not lazy, neither did he take advantage of his uncle's daughters. He served faithfully as it was required of him. Whatever you find yourself doing presently, do not be lazy, work hard like Jacob. Also, live a transparent and holy life. Then God will be gracious to you and bless you.

### **2. GOD BLESSES JACOB IN LABAN'S HOUSE:**

Genesis 30:1-43

Jacob was a hard-working young man. He was dedicated and faithful to his work in his uncle's house. He did not steal but cared for Laban's animals as if they were his own. In return, God blessed Jacob in all areas. (i) God began to fulfil the promise of multiplication to Abraham through Jacob. He married and had eleven sons and one daughter (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph and Dinah). (ii) Jacob had many animals and great riches. (iii) Laban's family was blessed because of Jacob's presence.

It is the will of God that His children should have and enjoy good things (school fees, good education, shoes, dresses, food, houses, books and others). God has promised that when you obey, you will enjoy His blessings (Deuteronomy 28:1-13). If you are a friend of Jesus, God will bless and make you a blessing to your family, school, nation and the church.

### **3. JACOB'S FLIGHT FROM LABAN'S HOUSE:**

Genesis 31:1-55

God had greatly blessed Jacob in Laban's house. The sons of Laban then became jealous and accused him of stealing all that their father had. God then told Jacob to return to Canaan because Laban was no more happy with him. Jacob rose up and took all that he had, his sons, wives, animals and ran away. When Laban knew that Jacob had run away, he followed after him. His plan was to harm Jacob, but God warned him in the dream not to harm, Jacob. When Laban met with Jacob, they made peace with one another.

Friends of Jesus have nothing to fear if they are in the will of God. He has promised to make your enemy to be at peace with you (Proverbs 16:7). If you are not yet a friend of Jesus, you can choose to be His friend today. Repent of all the bad things you have done, forsake those bad things and accept Jesus as your Saviour and Lord. The presence of God will be with you always, He will bless and give you the grace to live in peace with other people (Romans 12:18).

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did Jacob run away from his father's house?
2. How many years did Jacob spend in Laban's house?
3. God \_\_\_\_\_ Laban because of Jacob.
4. How many children did Jacob have while in Laban's house?  
Mention their names.
5. Why did Jacob run from Laban's house?
6. What should (a) a sinner (b) saints do to enjoy God's blessings?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee” (Genesis 31:3).

**LESSON:** The presence of God is always with all friends of Jesus.

**THOUGHT:** I will live for Jesus both day and night so as to enjoy His blessings.

**ACTIVITY:** Write out in your notebook, the names of the children Jacob had in Laban's house. Write them in the order of seniority.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 165 - GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I wandered far away lost in the wilderness (2) He loves me, I cannot say why (3) Come to J.E.S.U.S, J.O.Y will follow.

**HOME WORK:** Pray that God will guide you in every decision that you will take concerning your future.



### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	HOSEA	12:1,2
TUESDAY	HOSEA	12:3,4
WEDNESDAY	HOSEA	12:5,6
THURSDAY	HOSEA	12:7,8
FRIDAY	HOSEA	12:9,10
SATURDAY	HOSEA	12:11,12
SUNDAY	HOSEA	12:13,14

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meanings of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Covenant 2. Divine 3. Deceive 4. Faithfully 5. Accomplish.

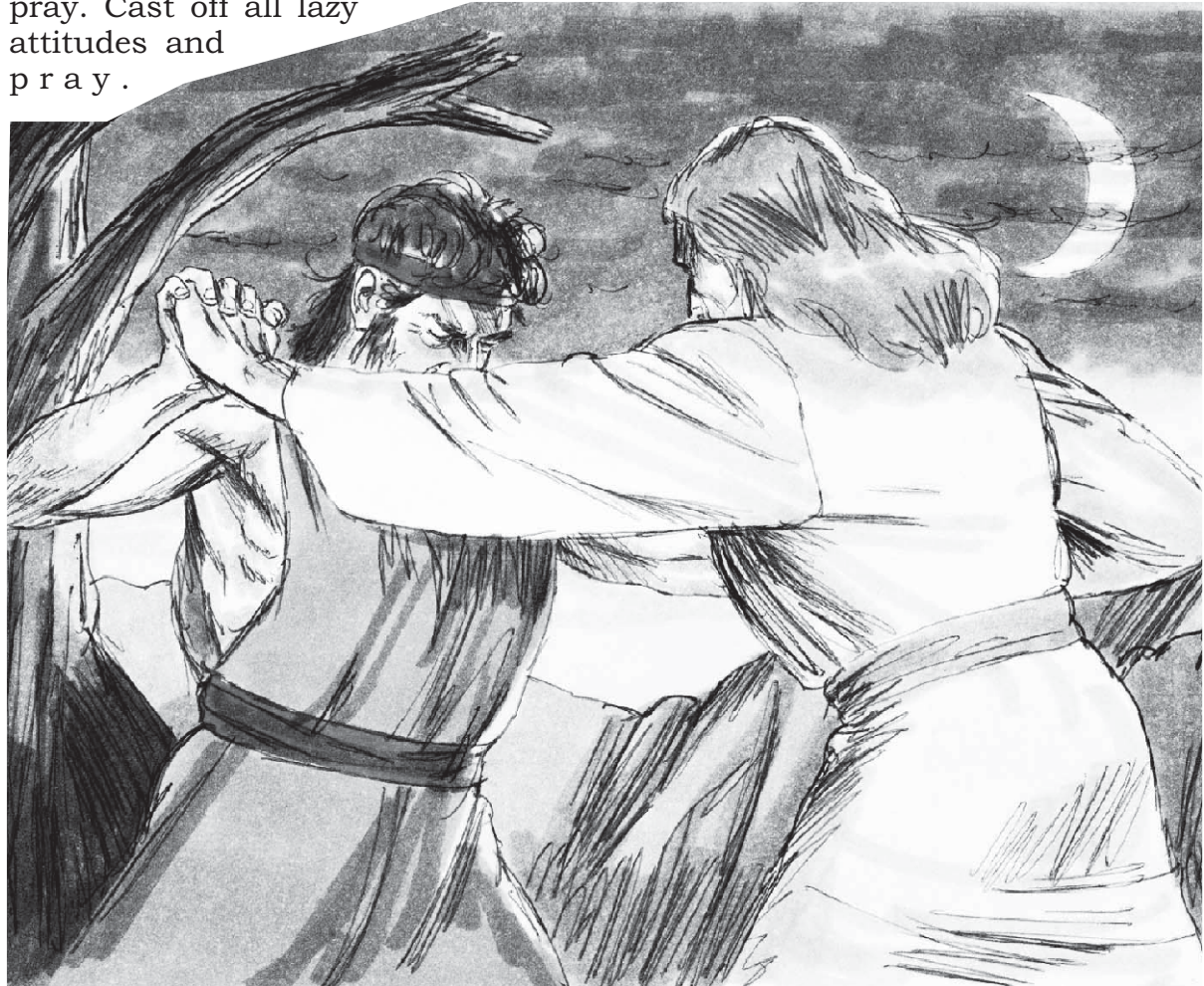
## LESSON 20

# JACOB PREVAILS AT JABBOK

Genesis 32:1-32; 33:1-20

**T**here is an interesting story which confirms the power of prayer. A man of God who loved to pray went alone to a quiet place in the desert to pray. As he was praying, he forgot about everything around him. He laid himself flat on the ground crying to God. Suddenly, he felt that something was climbing and crawling through his back. He decided to ignore the distraction and continued to pray still with his eyes closed. After many hours of prayer, he opened his eyes to behold a very big snake not far from where he laid. It was the snake that crawled through his back while he was praying. What this man of God saw, made him to know that God was with him while he was praying. The snake was not only dead, it had dried up like a snake burnt by fire. For daring to climb through the back of the praying man, the snake was consumed by God's fire.

There is wonder working power in prayers of faith. What was Jacob doing at Jabbok? He was there to pray. The result of his prayers at Jabbok changed not only his own destiny but also that of his descendants. He became a man that had power with God and prevailed. You too can prevail if only you will pray. Cast off all lazy attitudes and



Then you will prevail over every negative circumstance in your life. Prayer is the key.

### **1. PREPARATIONS FOR JABBOK:**

Genesis 32:1-23; Matthew 5:21-24

Jacob had obeyed God's instructions and left Laban to return to the land of Canaan (Genesis 31:13). This is the region where his brother Esau lived. Jacob was fearful and distressed when he approached Esau's place. He was confused and afraid of what his brother would do to him and his family. Therefore, Jacob prayed to God for help. He was not yet at Jabbok, yet he knew that he needed God's help and guidance.

When you find yourself in a difficult situation, follow Jacob's example by praying earnestly to God. Before Jacob got to Jabbok, he prepared himself to wrestle in prayer (i) He set his house in order. He organized his family into different sections. (ii) He prepared presents for his brother Esau. (iii) He prayed to God, reminding Him of His promised blessings. (iv) He sent members of his family over the brook. (v) He stayed back alone.

Prayer that prevails is a serious business. It is not a haphazard or unserious task. If you want to get result, you must prepare your heart and be ready to really seek the Lord in prayer. If there is any stain of sin in your heart, you must ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Be sanctified and ask God to give you power to pray.

### **2. PREVAILING PRAYER AT JABBOK:**

Genesis 32:24-32; Luke 18:1-8; 11:1-13; 6:12; Mark 1:35

Apart from making a personal arrangement to make peace with Esau, Jacob also decided to go and pray to God for help. Having sent his family members over in order to avoid distraction, Jacob was left alone. No one can prevail in prayer when there are distractions here and there. Prayer is communing with God and demands that the person praying should be alone with God. This is the reason, we close our eyes and go to a quiet place to pray.

Jacob wrestled with God in prayers throughout the night. Even when the hollow of his thigh was out of joint, he continued to pray. **“And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me”** (Genesis 32:26). Many children do not know what they are missing by not being serious with the business of praying. Jacob received definite answer to his prayers. You too can pray like Jacob. To prevail, your prayer must be: (i) Free from all distraction (noise, sleep, wandering thoughts and unbelief). (ii) Persevering, you must **Pray Until Something Happens**. (iii) Direct and straight to the point. (iv) With humility of heart and repentance. (v) Done with absolute faith in God's power to answer your prayers. You can only learn to pray by praying.

### **3. PRONOUNCEMENT OF UNCOMMON BLESSINGS ON JACOB:**

Genesis 32:27-30; 33:1-20

Jacob's prayer at Jabbok made him to have a face to face encounter with

God. No one can have such an encounter and remain the same. Jacob received an uncommon blessings for his present and future generations. (i) His name was changed from Jacob (a crafty deceiver) to Israel (a prince or one who strives with God). (ii) Abraham's and Isaac's covenant blessing was passed to him and his descendants. (iii) He found favour with Esau his twin brother. God had dealt with Esau and placed within his heart the desire for reconciliation with his brother. Esau's friendly attitude was God's answer to Jacob's prayer.

Through his prayers, Jacob showed that his life and well-being was dependent not on his own crafty ways, but on God's help, guidance and blessings. Children of God who desire His continual blessings must seek Him earnestly and persistently in prayer. Confess all inadequacies and ask for forgiveness, hunger and thirst for righteousness and pursue a life of true faith in God. If you want to have success, provision of all good things of life, change from negative situations, good health and other blessings, you must pray, pray and pray.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who was Jacob?
2. Where was he coming from and where was he going?
3. What did Jacob do at Jabbok?
4. What was the result of Jacob's encounter with God at Jabbok?
5. How can a (i) sinner (ii) friend of Jesus prevail in prayer?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed” (Genesis 32:28).

**LESSON:** God will always deliver His children who call upon Him.

**THOUGHT:** I will call upon God at all times.

**ACTIVITY:** Read the Bible passage in column A. Write out the names of the people who prayed in column B and the result of their prayer in column C.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Daniel 9:1-7,21-23		
Esther 4:15-17; 7:10		
Acts 12:1-11		
Acts 16:24-35		

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 169 -WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I'm not alone (2x) in all my journey, Jesus is with me, I am not alone (2) Prayer is the key (3) Abraham's blessings are mine.

**HOMEWORK:** Make a prayer time table for a week. Pray on the prayer points daily.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	LUKE	18:1-3
TUESDAY	LUKE	18:4,5
WEDNESDAY	LUKE	18:6-8
THURSDAY	ZECHARIAH	4:5-7
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	7:7-9
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	7:10,11
SUNDAY	LUKE	7:5-10

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meanings of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Prevail 2. Distressed 3. Daring 4. Crafty 5. Persistent.



## LESSON 21

# JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE

Matthew 10:1-42; Luke 9:1-10; 12:1-12

**O**ur lesson today has to do with the major reason why Jesus Christ came into the world “... **to seek and to save that which was lost**” (Luke 19:10). Remember that “...**Jesus went about all the cities and villages teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom...**” (Matthew 9:35). Because of the extent of the work, Jesus then said “...**the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few**” (Matthew 9:37). With this awareness, Jesus wants the work of preaching to sinners to spread fast. He then called the twelve disciples and sent them to preach the gospel to sinners so as to reach as many as possible. In Matthew 10:1 He “...**called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power ... to heal all manner of disease**”. Jesus trained them after they were converted and sent them out and gave them authority to preach, save, heal and deliver the oppressed. He commanded them and gave them the message to preach “...**saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand**” (Matthew 10:7).

As a friend of Jesus, Jesus is calling you too, to preach the gospel to your friends in the school, to your brothers and sisters at home and boys and girls in your neighbourhood; “**go ye therefore, and teach all nations ... whatsoever I have commanded you ...**” (Matthew 28:19-20). The message to preach to sinner is the message of repentance from all sins and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.



### 1. THE DISCIPLES' CALL AND COMMISSION:

Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13,14; Luke 9:1,2

**“And when He had called unto him his twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal all manner of sickness”** (Matthew 10:1). The names of the twelve are Simon who is called Peter, Andrew, James the son of Zebedee, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, and Mathew, James the son of Alphaeus and Lebbaeus, Simon and Judas Iscariot (Matthew 10:2-4).

Jesus Christ loves everyone including boys and girls. He came to sacrifice His life for the sin of the whole world (John 3:16). When Jesus began His ministry, He went from place to place preaching the word of God to sinners. Since it was not possible for Jesus to be everywhere at the same time, He then called His twelve disciples, trained them and sent them to preach the gospel so that sinners will be saved.

Today, Jesus is still calling children who are doing bad things. He wants them to confess and turn away from their evil ways and become His friends. Friends of Jesus are called and commissioned to spread the gospel of Jesus to sinners everywhere. Jesus has gone, and He has committed the work of soul winning into the hands of His friends. However, for you to be able to preach the gospel of Jesus to sinners effectively, you must be born again.

### 2. THE DISCIPLES' OBEDIENCE TO THE GREAT COMMISSION:

Matthew 10:5-15; Luke 9:1, 2, 6

Jesus Christ commanded the twelve disciples to preach repentance to sinners everywhere. He also gave them the power to heal the sick and deliver those that are troubled by evil spirits. The disciples obeyed promptly and preached the gospel everywhere.

Today, Jesus is looking for obedient, faithful friends who will carry out the work of preaching the gospel to the whole world. **“...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”** (Mark 16:15). This work demands urgency for the following reasons: (a) the time is short and the world will soon end (1 Corinthians 7:29-31); (b) the heart of sinful boys and girls are becoming hardened (Hebrew 3:12,13); (c) you may never come across your friends or classmates again or even have the opportunity of preaching to them (d) the blood of the sinners will be required from you (Ezekiel 3:18). Children who are friends of Jesus must obey and carry out the commission of preaching the gospel to sinners everywhere.

### 3. CERTAINTY OF PERSECUTION OF CONSECRATED DISCIPLES:

Matthew 10:16-42; Luke 9:6, 10, 23-26; 12:1-12

Friends of Jesus must be consecrated and live holy lives to be able to obey Chris's command to preach the gospel everywhere. In our text, the disciples without delay went out to preach the gospel and heal the sick. The disciples of Jesus could not be stopped for any reason - persecution, troubles, bad words, beating or slap on their faces while preaching the gospel did not discourage

them.

In spite of persecution, as a true friend of Jesus, you must preach the gospel to sinners everywhere: in the schools, market places, churches, parks or on the streets. You can preach the gospel of Christ by giving tracts, Christian magazines, cassettes, by words of your mouth or by your good behaviour. You can also send messages to them through phones, e-mail and other social media platforms. Preach the word not only when it is convenient but at all times (2 Timothy 4:2-5).

The Lord Jesus Christ promises to reward you if you obey His command to preach the gospel. He promised rewards, such as protection and provision to His faithful disciples. Other rewards that awaits boys and girls who obey the command to preach are: (a) Joy of a soulwinner -The joy as a result of boys and girls that are saved from sin; (b) answer to prayers (c) protection (d) provision (e) success (f) reigning with Christ in heaven. If you are still doing bad things, you need to confess and forsake your sins, then tell Jesus to forgive your bad behaviours. Accept Him into your heart to be your friend; believe that He has answered you and thank Him for accepting you to be His friend. Then, as friends of Jesus, pray for grace to obey Him and preach the gospel to sinners daily.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. (a) How many disciples did Jesus send out to preach the gospel?  
(b) Mention five (5) of them.
2. Who are those that can preach the gospel to lost souls?
3. How should we respond to persecutions while preaching the gospel?
4. Mention some of the rewards available for consecrated soul-winners.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “**And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease**” (Matthew 10:1).

**LESSON:** Preaching the gospel is the most important work that Christians are called to do.

**THOUGHT:** I must use every opportunity I have to win souls for Christ.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should be paired in two to go out on evangelism. Give them tracts.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 111- RESCUE THE PERISHING**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Go and tell them (2) There were twelve disciples Jesus sent to help Him. (3) Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus.

**HOMEWORK:** Children should find out the number of disciples sent out in Luke 10.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MATTHEW	28:18-20
TUESDAY	MARK	16:15-18
WEDNESDAY	MARK	16:19,20
THURSDAY	LUKE	24:46-48
FRIDAY	EZEKIEL	33:7-9
SATURDAY	EZEKIEL	33:10-12
SUNDAY	EZEKIEL	33:13-16

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Evangelism 2. Harvest 3. Commission 4. Creature 5. Persecution.



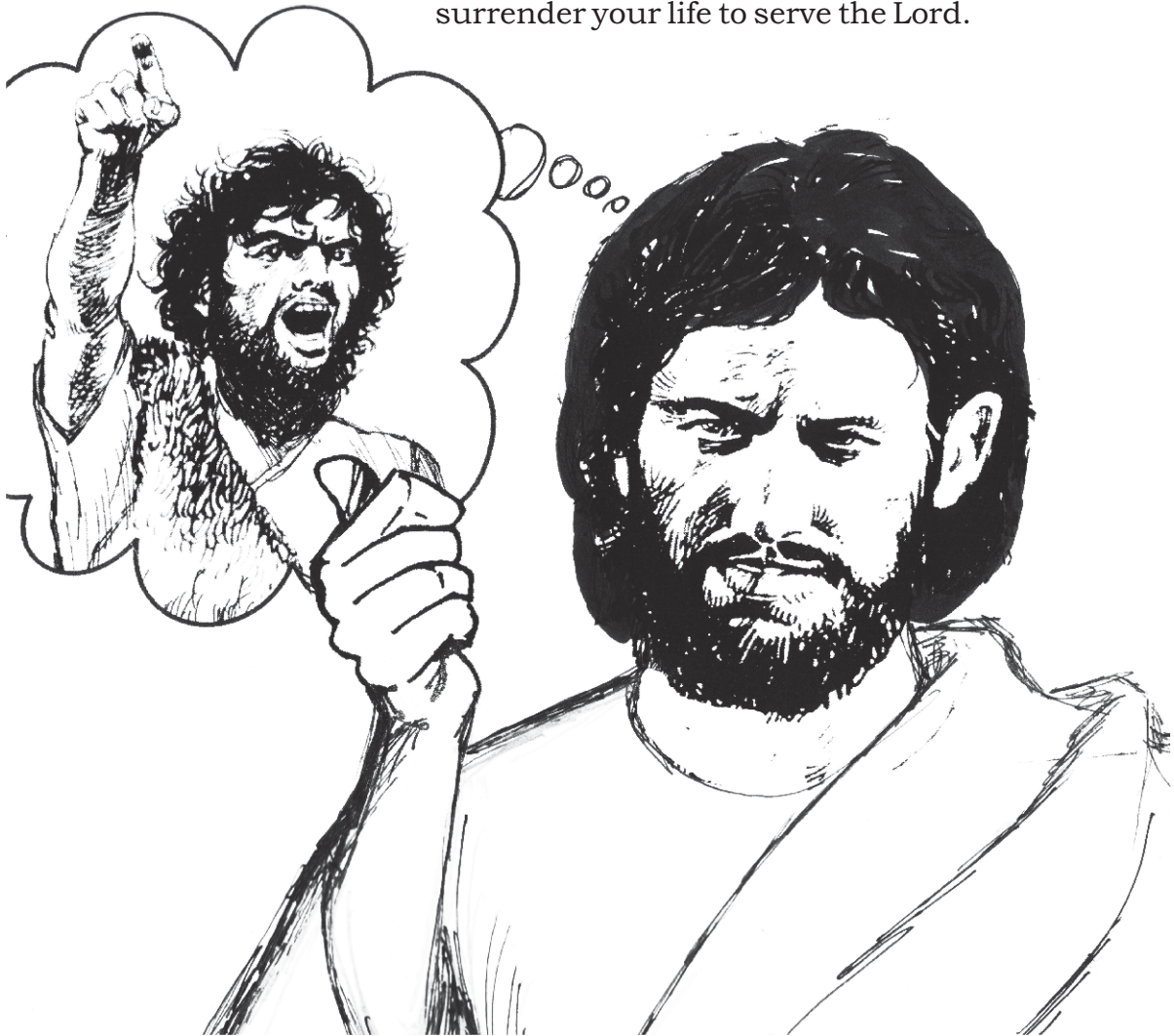
## LESSON 22

# CHRIST'S TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 11:1-24; Luke 7:18-35

**T**estimony is the declaration of some deeds by someone. Our message centers on the declaration of Jesus about the life and work of John the Baptist, a man of God and a faithful minister of God. Three things stand out in the life of John the Baptist as declared by Jesus Christ (i) He fulfilled the work God sent him to do (ii) He was simple, enduring and not worldly in his lifestyle and (iii) He was greater than all the Old Testament prophets because he physically saw the messiah he prophesied about.

The eyes of the Lord run to and from throughout the whole earth (2 Chronicles 16:9), and He sees the life, and the work of all men. He sees and knows you. Will Christ testify well about you like He did of John the Baptist so that others and future generations can learn from your life? This is an important question for you to answer as you surrender your life to serve the Lord.





## **1. LIFE AND WORK OF JOHN THE BAPTIST:**

Matthew 11:1-19; 3:1,2,7-10; 14:3,4; Luke 7:18-29; Mark 1:2,3;  
John 1:19-34

There are many great prophets in the Bible whom God used to achieve His purpose for mankind. They served as intermediary between God and man. The last of these prophets was John the Baptist. He was born some few months before Christ. His birth and work were foretold by prophets Isaiah and Malachi. His birth was special. He was born to prepare the heart of the people to receive the Saviour of the whole world.

John the Baptist did his work faithfully without fear or favour from the rulers at that time. There are many lessons we can learn from the life of John the Baptist. (i) He did not waste time in carrying out the assignment which God has brought him to the world to do. (ii) He was bold to proclaim Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world. (iii) He led many sinners to repentance and baptized them. (iv) He was humble and holy.

As friends of Jesus, we are called and commissioned to make Christ known to the world. We are to be prompt in carrying out the assignment. We should be bold in declaring the truth no matter the opposition. Our message should centre on Christ and the work He has done on the cross of Calvary. We must also be holy and live as an example that will attract sinners to Christ.

## **2. CHRIST'S TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST:**

Matthew 11:1-19; Luke 7:18-29

During his ministry, John, without fear rebuked king Herod for doing what was wrong. The king became angry and put John in prison. Also at this time, Jesus started His earthly ministry of preaching, teaching, healing and deliverinyg the oppressed. When John the Baptist heard what Jesus was doing, he became confused. He then sent his disciples to Jesus to seek answers to some questions on certain things that bothered him. There are always times in the life of a believer, when he will come to a cross roads. May be doubts have come to his heart due to certain challenges. At such a time, he needs to seek help from God through prayers and searching of the scriptures. Jesus has promised to be with us till the end. You do not need to be confused or discouraged. He is by your side to give you the right answers to your questions.

In response to John's questions, Jesus confirmed that He is the Messiah, and Saviour of the world. From Christ's testimony, we learnt that John the Baptist was a great and righteous man. He refused to compromise his beliefs. He preached and rebuked sinners without fear. He was separated from the moral corruption of the religious rulers and the king. He stood against sin like a rock showing absolute commitment to God and to His word. John obeyed God and remained loyal to the truth though it cost him his life.

The world is still filled with corruption today just as it was in the days of John the Baptist. The Bible says, that the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force (Matthew 11:12). This means, that believers must strive against sin, self and Satan in order to gain the kingdom of God. Be a John the Baptist, stand for the truth and be a burning and a shining

light that will drive out darkness from your own generation. Do not compromise or join sinners to do evil. Love God and live a righteous and holy life. At the end, you will live with Jesus in heaven forever.

### **3. THE CALL OF THE SAVIOUR:**

Matthew 11:20-30; Luke 7:30-35; John 3:16-21; 14:6-12

After testifying of John the Baptist, Jesus turned His attention to the people. He rebuked them for their wickedness and unbelief despite what John the Baptist had done among them. Jesus continued to preach the message of repentance and did many miracles. Yet the hearts of the people were hardened.

As a loving Saviour, Jesus concluded His message by calling sinners to come unto Him. He invites ALL to come: (i) Sinful boys and girls - to repent, ask for forgiveness and cleansing of their sins, forsake all sins and accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord. (ii) Backsliders – to return and receive rest. (iii) Believers – to come and rest from all troubles, be meek and lowly in heart, take His yoke which is easy, preach the gospel of love to sinners, put on the whole armour of God and follow Jesus till the very end. There are lots of benefits to be enjoyed as you respond to the Saviour's call.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the meaning of testimony?
2. What was John the Baptist born to do?
3. Mention 3 things you learnt from the life and work of John the Baptist.
4. The testimony of Christ about John the Baptist reveals \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
5. How should a (i) sinful child (ii) backslider (iii) saved child respond to Jesus' call?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he” (Matthew 11:11).

**LESSON:** God desire every child to fulfil His purpose for his life.

**THOUGHT:** I will fulfil the plan of God for my life.

**ACTIVITY:** The following words and names are related to the life and work of John the Baptist. Unscramble and discover them.

**DEZITPAB, DEDAEHEB, HTEBAZILE, DOREH, SAIDOREH, YENOH, NADROJ, REVIR, STSUCOL, GNIHCAERP, NOSIRP, TEHPORP,**

**ECNATNEPER, SSENREDLIW, SSENTIW, SAIRAHCAZ.**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 87 - TAKE MY LIFE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) A sunbeam, a sunbeam. (2) Follow, follow I will follow Jesus  
(3) I will go, I will go, I will go and tell them Jesus is the Lord.

**HOME WORK:** Share the love of Jesus with sinners in your neighbourhood.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	LUKE	1:5-9
TUESDAY	LUKE	1:10-14
WEDNESDAY	LUKE	1:15-17
THURSDAY	MALACHI	4:4-6
FRIDAY	ISAIAH	40:1-5
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	3:1-4
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	3:5-10

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

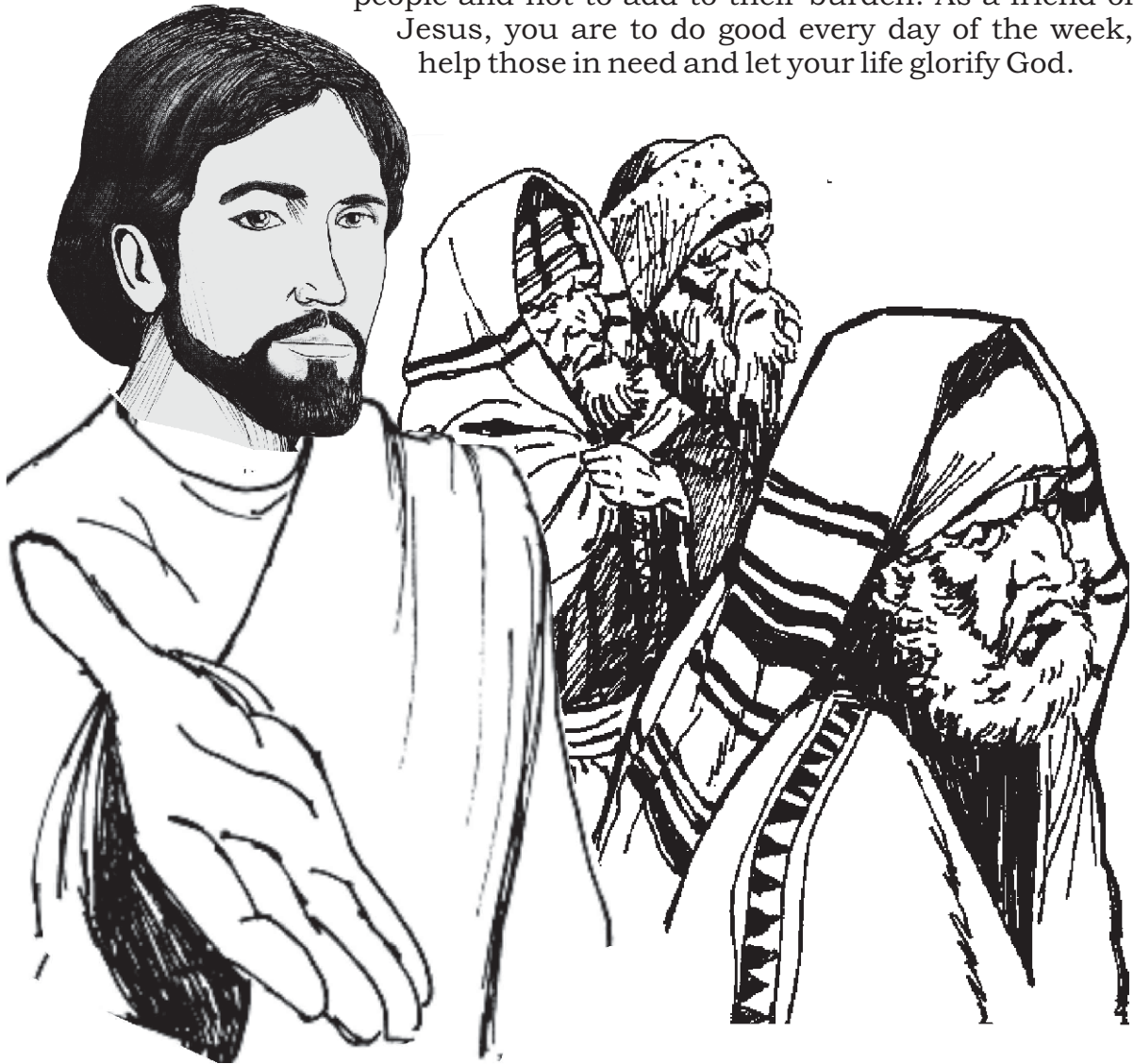
Find the meanings of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Testimony 2. Proclaim 3. Crossroads 4. Compromise 5. Confirmed.

**LESSON 23**  
**CHRIST'S TEACHING ON SABBATH**

Matthew 12:1-21; Luke 6:1-16; 13:10-17

**J**esus Christ loves His friends and always defends them whenever they encounter problems. He is different from the Pharisees who held strictly to the Old Testament laws and practices of the Sabbath day. They would not cook, do any kind of work or even show kindness to anyone in need on the Sabbath day. Because of this, the Pharisees believed that when the disciples of Jesus plucked some corn on the Sabbath day was a kind of work, they saw it as an offence. Whoever plucks fruits or grains as the disciples of Jesus did were persecuted. People were not allowed to do any work or even help the needy on Sabbath day. As a friend of Jesus, we must do good every day of the week and help those who are in need. The sabbath was created to make life easy for the people and not to add to their burden. As a friend of Jesus, you are to do good every day of the week, help those in need and let your life glorify God.



## 1. THE HISTORY OF THE SABBATH.:

Matthew 12:1-8; Genesis 2 1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; 16:21-30; Isaiah 1:13; Hosea 2:11

The observance of the Sabbath dates back to the time of creation when God rested on the seventh day having created the heaven and the earth in six days. The Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, which was the day of rest for the children of Israel. God later made it the fourth commandment and handed it down to the children of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:8-11).

During their forty years in the wilderness, God Himself miraculously provided a daily portion of manna so that the Israelites would not need to gather food on the Sabbath but devote themselves to the worship of God (Exodus 16:21-30). Keeping the Sabbath holy was one of the unique identification marks of the Jewish nation and it was a glad reminder of their perpetual covenant with God.

Meanwhile, the children of Israel in the process of time made it a religious practice and held rigidly to the letter of the law without concern for the true meaning which was to be in the best interest of man and for the glory of God. Friends of Jesus are to give attention to obedience to the word of God rather than engaging in religious activity without the fear of God.

## 2. PHARISEES MISCONCEPTION OF THE SABBATH:

Matthew 12:1-18, Luke 6:1-11; 13:10-16

**“At that time Jesus went on the Sabbath day through the corn: and his disciples were an hungered, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it they said unto Him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the Sabbath day”** (Matthew 12:1, 2). The Pharisees were not happy about the action of the disciple and therefore condemned them because it was the Sabbath day (Matthew 23:23).

The disciples, however, were not accused of stealing as there was freedom for any one passing through the field to pluck out of these corn and eat when hungry, but should not be taken home or taken away for sale. The Pharisees also condemned Jesus for healing the man with withered hands and the woman with eighteen years infirmity. The Pharisees were the set of religious people who do not love Jesus. They always criticize Him and find faults with any good thing He did. They were more concerned about outward observance of the law. They forgot that the law was made to make relationships and life easy. The law was made for man and not man for the law (Mark 2:27).

Any law that does not promote the welfare of man is not from God. The sabbath was made to help man refresh and renew his relationship with God. Children should be careful not to be fault finders. Rather, everyone must look into his life to see what areas to correct and seek to please God in all things and show Christlike love to others. The whole law of God is summed up in this **“love God with all your heart and your neighbour as yourself”**. Love for God and



people around you will help you to fulfil the law. Jesus explained these principles to the religious rulers so that they will know that He has come to fulfil and perfect the law (Mark 12:29-31).

### **3. JESUS IS LORD OF THE SABBATH:**

Matthew 12:6-21; Luke 6:3-11; 13:10-17

Jesus in His teaching made His hearers to understand how they had misused the sabbath day. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. He is in control of all the days, weeks, months and years of our lives. As the Sabbath was given as a blessing to the people, so also Christ has come as a blessing to the whole world. This is the reason the ceremonial observance of the Sabbath could not limit Him from fulfilling His purpose of coming into the world. He went about every day doing good, saving sinners, healing the sick, setting the captives free and delivering the oppressed.

To all friends of Jesus, the first day of the week which is Sunday is the Lord's day. This day provides an opportunity to: (i) Consecrate our lives to God and not to self or worldly pleasures. (ii) Fellowship with God and other believers, help those in need both physically and spiritually. (iii) Renew our commitment to Christ and oneness with other believers. (iv) Rest and renew our strength to preach the gospel and win sinners to Christ.

As the Sabbath was a covenant sign that the children of Israel were the people of God, so also, Sunday can be seen as a sign to the world that we belong to Christ and that He is our Lord. Furthermore, as the sabbath was set aside as a holy day, so friends of Jesus are to set apart Sunday as a holy day of Worship.

A person who strictly observes Sunday as the Lord's day but is not born again cannot be accepted by God. Religious service cannot save us from sin. Sinners need to acknowledge their sinful state. Repent from all sin, ask for forgiveness and cleansing of their sins with the blood of Jesus. Receive Jesus into your hearts as Saviour and Lord. This is the only way you can render acceptable service unto the Lord.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What does the Sabbath mean to the Children of Israel?
2. Mention the reason why the Pharisees were not happy with Christ's disciples.
3. Is it right to do good on the Sabbath day? Yes or No
4. Who is the Lord of the sabbath?
5. (a) Which day of the week is the Lord's day?  
(b) What should friends of Jesus do on the Lord's day?
6. How can a sinful child make Jesus the Lord of his life?

**MEMORY VERSE: "For the son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day"**  
(Matthew 12: 8)

**LESSON:** God wants us to honour Him and care for others everyday.

**THOUGHT:** I will honour God every day of my life.

**ACTIVITY:** Read Matthew 23: 23 and write out things that a believer should do to show that he/she is a true Christian.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 245 - IS YOUR LIFE A CHANNEL OF BLESSING?**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, (2) The B-I-B-L-E is good enough for me (3) All power belong to Jesus.

**HOME WORK:** Children should find out from their Bible five passages where Jesus healed on the Sabbath.

#### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	2:1-3
TUESDAY	EXODUS	20:8-11
WEDNESDAY	ISAIAH	58:12-14
THURSDAY	MARK	2:23,24
FRIDAY	MARK	2:25-28
SATURDAY	MARK	3:1-3
SUNDAY	MARK	3:4-6

#### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meanings of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Consecrate 2. Sabbath 3. Wilderness 4. Ceremonial 5. Infirmary

## LESSON 24

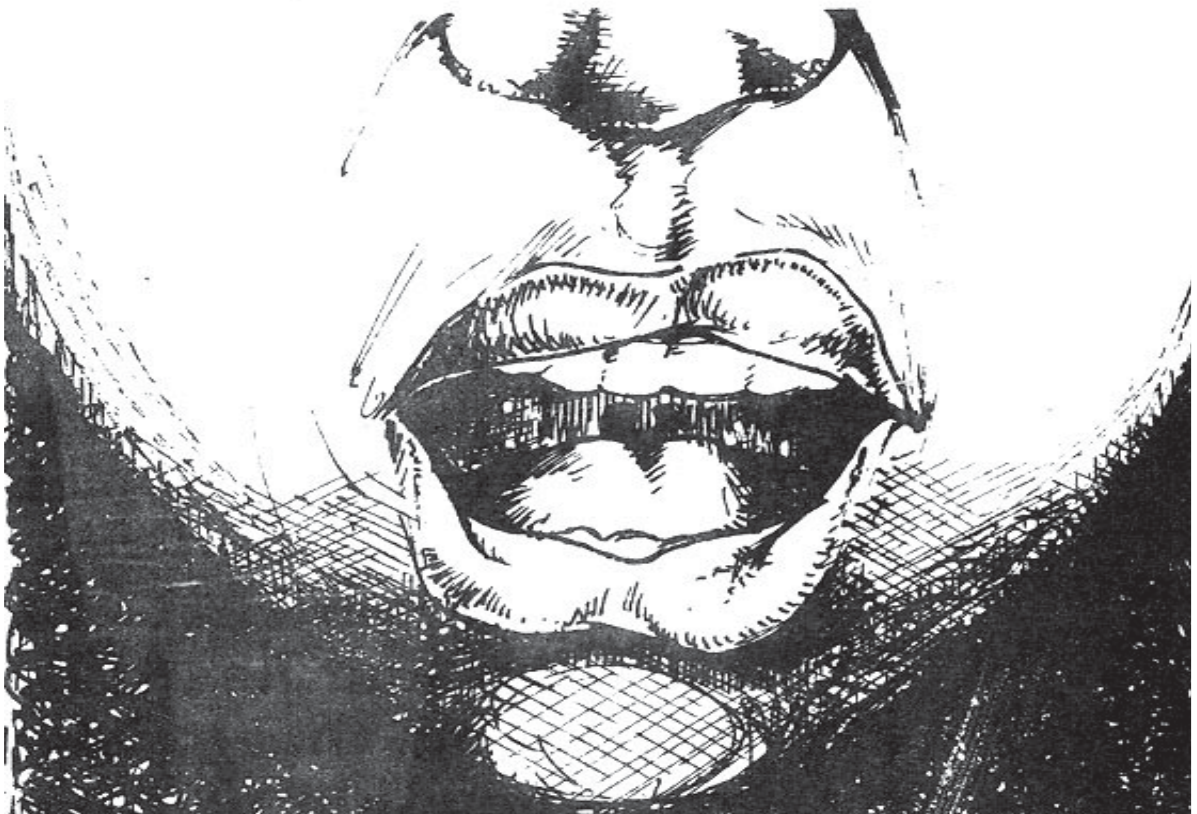
# WARNING AGAINST EVIL SPEAKING

Matthew 12:22-50; Luke 11:14-36

**T**he tongue in our mouth serves important purposes in our lives. With the tongue, we chew and swallow our food. With it we speak freely with one another. However, as useful as the tongue is, it can become a source of sorrow and condemnation depending on how we use it.

The Pharisees were a set of religious leaders who pretend to serve God. They were in charge of religious worship at the time of Jesus Christ' ministry on earth. They claimed to keep the laws of God, yet they were breaking these laws by their actions and word. They do not want to believe in Christ and they also hinder others from believing. They always find a way to speak bad about Christ and His work.

Many children are like these Pharisees. They attend fellowship regularly but their way of life drive away others from fellowship. Such children talk too much and disturb others when the word of God is being taught. Some even say bad things about their teachers, pastors, leaders in the church, neighbours and even family members. It is very dangerous to use our tongue in a negative way. Jesus warns that there is judgment for everyone who speak evil of others. Repent now and ask God to wash your heart from evil thoughts and all forms of wicked acts.



### **1. CAUSES OF EVIL SPEAKING:**

Matthew 12:22-30; Luke 11:14-19; Numbers 12:1,2; James 4:11

Jesus had healed a blind and dumb person. When the Pharisees saw the miracle, they said Jesus was using the power of Satan to heal. They are spiritually blind, that is why they could not rejoice when they saw good things happening. People speak evil against others because of: (i) Envy and jealousy (ii) Ignorance of God's word (iii) Hatred or bitterness of heart.

When you hate another child because he/she is intelligent or from a rich home, you are like the Pharisees. It was jealousy, envy and hatred that made them speak against Christ. Are you jealous or feel bad when you see someone doing something better than you? Do you speak evil of others? If yes, you must repent, because it is a sin. The Bible commands in James 4:11 that we should speak no evil one of another. You must repent today and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Confess to Him and turn from your bad ways before it is too late.

### **2. CONSEQUENCES OF EVIL SPEAKING:**

Matthew 12:31-45; Luke 11:20-26,29-36; Numbers 12:1-10;  
2 Kings 2:23,24

There are great consequences for those who are careless with the use of their tongues. For example, Miriam became leprous and was cast out of the camp because she spoke evil about Moses. Also, the 42 children who mocked prophet Elisha were torn into pieces by two she-bears. The Pharisees were cut off from the kingdom of God because they spoke evil of Christ, the Holy Ghost and God the Father. There is present and eternal punishment awaiting children who engage in evil speaking.

The consequences of speaking evil include: (i) Sickness as it happened to Miriam (ii) Academic failure and poverty (iii) Division and disaffection among brethren and family members (iv) Separation between good friends (v) Lack of spiritual progress and loss of fellowship with God. (vi) Eternal suffering in hell fire. If you do not want to follow the way of the Pharisees, you must repent now. Control your tongue and avoid speaking evil.

### **3. CAUTION AGAINST EVIL SPEAKING:** Matthew 12:28-37,46-50;

Luke 11:20-28

Jesus is our perfect example; He did not speak evil of anyone. Rather, He spoke against sin in the life of the people, He warns us of the consequences and admonished us to make our ways right. If you have been engaged in speaking evil with your tongue, now is the time to retrace your steps. Misuse of your tongue can bring problems not only to your life but that of your family. Be warned now. Surrender your tongue to Jesus. Tell Him you are sorry for all the wrong things you have said like slander, abusive words, jesting and dirty jokes, backbiting, rude or insulting words and other negative utterances.

Ask Jesus to have mercy on you and cleanse your heart and tongue with His blood. Promise Him you will not speak evil again. Make restitutions where

necessary. Ask Him to set a watch over your mouth. Caution yourself with the word of God when tempted to speak bad things. Be prayerful, read your Bible and preach the love of Jesus to sinners.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ always find ways to speak evil about Christ and His work.
2. Mention three causes of evil speaking.
3. What are the consequences of speaking evil against others?
4. What step should a sinful child take to be free from evil speaking?

**LESSON:** Evil speaking has grave consequences.

**THOUGHT:** I will not speak evil of anyone.

**ACTIVITY:** Prayer session – Children should be led in prayers to receive cleansing of their hearts and grace to live righteously. There should be altar call and counselling for those who want to make restitution.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 70 - HAVE YOU ANY ROOM FOR JESUS?**

**CHORUSES:** (1) My mouth is blessed with the blessing of the Lord (2) He's got His eyes on you (3) Holiness holiness (2x), the kingdom of God is holy...

**HOMEWORK:** Search the Bible and find out the couple who told lie and the judgment that came on them.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	PROVERBS	10:11-13
TUESDAY	PROVERBS	10:14-17
WEDNESDAY	PROVERBS	10:18,19
THURSDAY	PROVERBS	10:20-23
FRIDAY	PROVERBS	10:30-32
SATURDAY	EPHESIANS	4:25-29
SUNDAY	EPHESIANS	4:30-32

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meanings of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Ministry 2. Communication 3. Utterance 4. Consequences 5. Caution.



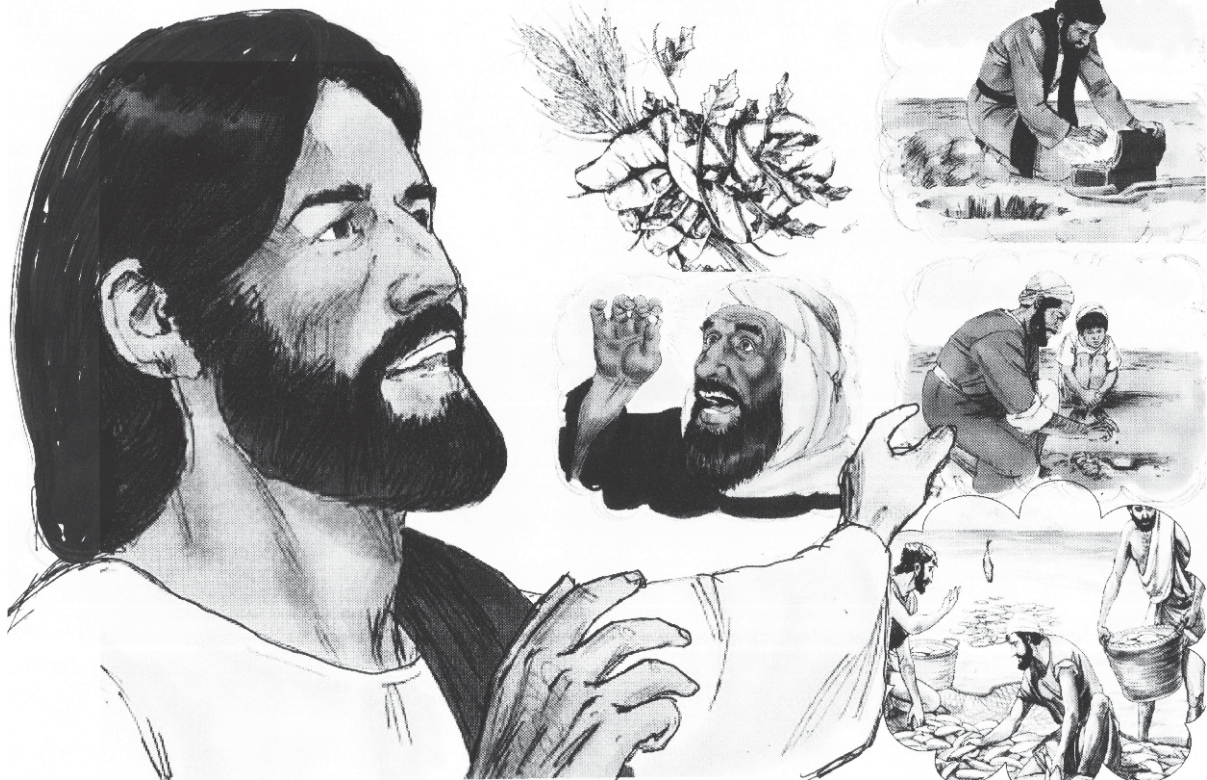
## LESSON 25

# SUNDRY PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Matthew 13:1-58; Luke 8:1-18; 13:18-21

**A** Bible dictionary defines parable as a comparison drawn from nature or daily life and designed to illuminate (explain) some spiritual truth. During His earthly ministry, Jesus used parable a lot to drive home His message to His hearers. He employed parables that are relevant to the status of the people.

Jesus is the greatest teacher, who came from heaven and knows everything about heaven and earth. He taught His disciples about the kingdom of heaven, because Jesus knew His disciples had never been to heaven and they could not understand anything about the kingdom. He used what they could see in everyday life to teach them things they do not understand about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus explains the kingdom of heaven using different parables as we shall consider in this study.



## **1. THE PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM:**

Matthew 13:1-8,18-33,36-50,52; Mark 4:1-34; Luke 8:4-18; 13:18-21

### **A. The sower, the seed, and the soil:** (Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23).

Jesus told the parable of the sower to teach us about the different kinds of heart men have as they receive the word of God. The sower is a farmer that sows seed in the field or farm. He scatters seeds all around on the field. As he was sowing the seed, some fell by the way side, (some) on the rock or stony places, while still some fell among thorns and on the good ground. Jesus then explained their meanings. The sower is the preacher; the seed is the word of God; while the soil is the different type of heart that the seed fell on (Mark 4:14, Luke 8:11).

#### **(i) SEED ON THE WAYSIDE:**

The sower is the preacher or teacher of the word. Seeds that fell by the way side, refers to the heart that is not prepared for the word of God. When a child hears the word but does not understand, the devil takes away that which is sown in his heart.

#### **(ii) SEEDS ON THE ROCK OR STONY PLACES:**

This refers to partially prepared hearts. A child receives the word with joy but cannot grow and be fully developed. When trouble and persecution come, because of the word and because he is a friend of Jesus, by and by he will go back to his bad ways.

#### **(iii) SEEDS AMONG THE THORNS:**

This is he who hears the word and the cares of the world, the games, plays and pleasures of the world take the word away and he becomes unfruitful.

#### **(iv) SEEDS ON THE GOOD GROUND:**

They are the children that hear the word and understand it and bear good fruits. (Galatians 5:22, 23).

How is your own heart? The word of God is true. If your heart is like the wayside, stony places or thorny ground, you have to change today. You should not allow Satan to take away God's word from your heart. . Do not allow bad children of the world who are into worldly amusements, dancing, worldly dressings, pleasures and riches take away the word of God from your heart. Take the word of God seriously. Do not harden your heart.

### **B. The wheat and the tares:** (Matthew 13:24-30,36-43)

Tares (unbelievers) and Wheat (believers) must live side by side in this world. God allows unbelievers to remain for a while just as a farmer allows tares to remain in his field, so the surrounding wheat isn't uprooted with them. At the harvest, however, the weeds will be uprooted and thrown away. God's harvest (judgment) of all sinners is coming. We are to make ourselves ready by making sure we are saved and unspotted by the pollutions of the world.

### **C. The mustard seed and the leaven:** (Matthew 13:31-35; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-21; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

The two parables illustrate the ways the church will grow among people. The mustard seed is very small, but when planted;, it soon becomes a very big tree.

It shows the word of God sown in the hearts of people who have become a big church in many nations of the world. Are you part of this church? Yeast is a substance that when added to flour, it makes it to rise as it spreads in the flour. When the word of God is planted in the midst of the people, it spreads, and many will come to know Jesus. You must not allow sin to spread but rather preach the gospel so that sinners will be saved.

**D. The treasure and the pearl:** (Matthew 13:44-46)

The kingdom of God is more valuable than anything else we can have or possess,. Therefore, true friends of Jesus must be willing to give up everything to obtain it.

**E. The net and the fish:** (13:47-50). Having drawn out the net filled with many sea creatures, the fisherman sorts out the good ones from the bad. So also, at the end of the world, the angels will separate the righteous from the wicked.

Jesus concluded His parables by showing us that it is not enough to hear only but much more profitable to be doers of the word. Do not be like the people who are ever learning but would not come to the knowledge of the truth. Hear the word, meditate on it and live by it.

**2. REASONS FOR HIS PARABLES:** Matthew 13:9-17, 34, 35, 51;  
Mark 4:10-12

Jesus often taught in parables. A parable is a simple story from everyday life that reveals truth about the kingdom of God. The truth is revealed to those whose hearts are prepared and hidden to those whose hearts are unprepared. These parables describe both the result of preaching the gospel and the spiritual condition that will be visible within the church until the end of the age.

Jesus speaks these parables in order to: (i) Prepare His true friends on what to expect before His second coming. (ii) Teach us how to overcome the influence and opposition of Satan and his agents. (iii) Fulfill prophecies concerning Christ's work on earth. Jesus has revealed the truth to us, He is the Truth personified. Therefore, there is no excuse to remain in unbelief. You must read and believe the truth of His word, listen to it, obey it and share it with others.

**3. REACTION TO JESUS' PARABLES:**  
Matthew 13:53-58

The people in Jesus' hometown of Nazareth reacted to His teachings in two ways. First, some were amazed (Matthew 13:53-56) second, some others became angry. Truth and light cannot be hidden. To be part of the kingdom, you must hear and believe the word of God, tell Jesus about your bad life; ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus, then accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, live a life that is pleasing to God by separating yourself from bad friends.

Read God's word always, meditate on it and obey it (James 2: 14-23).



Always Attend fellowship regularly with other saved boys and girls. Do your quiet time always and be very prayerful. Live a holy life and daily expect the coming of the Lord. This is the only way to profit from the word of God.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What is a parable?
2. Who spoke the parables in our study?
3. Mention four types of heart mentioned in the parable of the sower.
4. Explain the parable of the mustard seed?
5. State two reasons for the parables.
6. What should a sinful child do to be part of the kingdom of God?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them” (Matthew 13:34).

**LESSON:** Only the boys and girls who allow the word of God to bear fruits in their hearts will enter the kingdom of heaven.

**THOUGHT:** I will hide the word of God in my heart and obey it.

**ACTIVITY:** A child should read this passage - Luke 19: 11-27 and narrate the story to others.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 83 - THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MY HEART**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Open my eyes o Lord (2) The B.I.B.L.E is good enough for me (3) I am ready to obey thy word.

**HOMEWORK:** Write five things in your homework book that a child must do to be part of the kingdom of heaven. Show it to your teacher next Sunday.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	PSALM	78:1-3
TUESDAY	PSALM	78:4-7
WEDNESDAY	ROMANS	16:25,26
THURSDAY	MARK	4:1-3
FRIDAY	MARK	4:26-29
SATURDAY	MARK	4:30-32
SUNDAY	MARK	4:33,34

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use dictionary:

1. Parables 2. Reveal 3. Amaze 4. Meditate 5. Opposition.

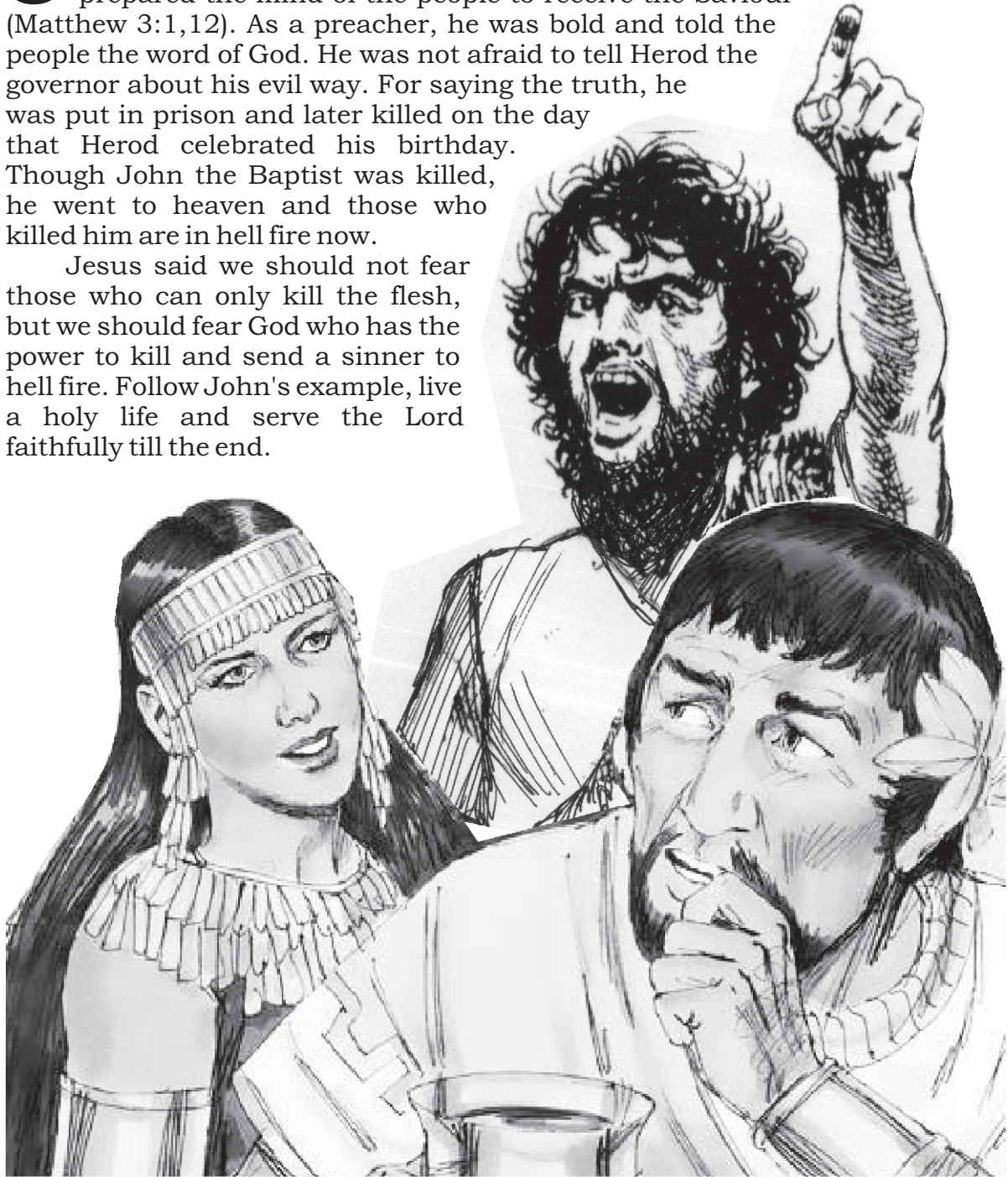
## LESSON 26

# THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 14:1-13

**J**ohn the Baptist was a man sent from God. His parents were Zacharias and Elizabeth. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus, who prepared the mind of the people to receive the Saviour (Matthew 3:1,12). As a preacher, he was bold and told the people the word of God. He was not afraid to tell Herod the governor about his evil way. For saying the truth, he was put in prison and later killed on the day that Herod celebrated his birthday. Though John the Baptist was killed, he went to heaven and those who killed him are in hell fire now.

Jesus said we should not fear those who can only kill the flesh, but we should fear God who has the power to kill and send a sinner to hell fire. Follow John's example, live a holy life and serve the Lord faithfully till the end.





### **1. THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST:**

Matthew 14:1-4; 3:1-12; Luke 3:18-20; Mark 6:17-20

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching about the kingdom of God. People came to listen to John because he preached the truth. The people loved to hear him; He told the people to repent of their sins so that they can get to heaven at last. He also made Jesus known to the people as the Saviour. He fulfilled his call. When Herod took his brother's wife, John told him it was wrong. This made Herod and Herodias to have a grudge against John, they arrested him and put him in prison which later led to his execution.

As a friend of Jesus, it is not everyone that will like you. But you should continue to work for Jesus and preach the gospel. If they make jest of you, do not stop preaching the gospel.

### **2. THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST:**

Matthew 14:3-12

It was Herod's birthday and people came to celebrate with him. Herodias' daughter danced so well and pleased king Herod. She is not Herod's daughter. But her dance pleased him, so he promised to give her anything she requested, she went to her mother who advised her to ask for the head of John the Baptist. Herod was sorry but because he had vowed to her, John was beheaded. There are many evils associated with worldly celebrations such as immorality, defilement, stealing and even death. The plot of Herodias to kill John the Baptist is contrary to the word of God. The Bible says we should pray and forgive our enemies and not to pray for their death.

Friends of Jesus should not be afraid of persecution or even death. Everyone will die at one time or the other. Herod, Herodias and her daughter eventually died. The difference is that John the Baptist went to heaven while his persecutors are in hell fire. You must continue to serve God, live holy and stand for God's righteous standard in this present evil world. God will defend and help you in time of trouble.

### **3. CERTAINTY OF PERSECUTION FOR BELIEVERS:**

Matthew 14:10-12; Act 7:57-59; 16:23-26

The death of John clearly shows us that preaching the gospel and following Christ can lead to persecution and even death. In the Old Testament, the three Hebrew young men Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into fiery burning furnace and Daniel was thrown into the lion's den for standing for the truth.

Other examples in the New Testament are Stephen who was stoned to death, Paul and Silas who were thrown into prison. Amidst all these, the Apostle still kept on preaching the gospel, so friends of Jesus must continue to preach the gospel at all cost. Remember, Jesus is with you always (Matthew 28:20).

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Who was John the Baptist?
2. What led to the death of John the Baptist?
3. What are the evils attached to worldly ceremonies?
4. Mention two people in the Bible who were persecuted for preaching the gospel.
5. Who can stand in time of Persecution?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison” (Matthew 14:10).

**LESSON:** God expects every friend of Jesus to stand for Him even in troublous times.

**THOUGHT:** I will preach the gospel every time.

**ACTIVITY:** Prayer session: Prayer for Christians that are under persecution in the world today.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 87 – TAKE MY LIFE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) This little light of mine, I will let it shine. (2) Go and tell them. (3) I want everybody to know, that Jesus loves every soul.

**HOMEWORK:** Pray for grace to stand for Jesus till the end.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	NUMBERS	23:10-12
TUESDAY	PSALM	116:15-18
WEDNESDAY	MARK	6:14-16
THURSDAY	MARK	6:17-19
FRIDAY	MARK	6:20-24
SATURDAY	MARK	6:25-29
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	11:7-12

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use dictionary:

1. Kingdom 2. Repentance 3. Troublous 4. Jestng 5. Defilement.

## LESSON 27

# DINAH'S DEFILEMENT AVENGED

Genesis 34:1-31

**J**acob also known as Israel, settled near the pagan city of Shechem rather than the home of his father Isaac, where God had commanded him to go (Genesis 31:13). By choosing to live in close association with evil and immoral people, the children of Jacob were exposed to temptation by making friends with the ungodly people around them. Dinah, who was the only daughter among eleven brothers fell into this temptation. She made friends with the ungodly

“daughters of the land”. The end result was tragedy, hurt and shame for Dinah, her parents and the entire family.

Children should beware of Dinah's mistake. There are temptations all around you. You have to stay where y o u r parents ask you to stay. Do not long for or desire evil associations. Run away from every form of i m m o r a l behaviour.



## 1. SINFUL ADVENTURE OF DINAH:

Genesis 34:1-5; 1Corinthians 15:33

Dinah carelessly wandered to see “**the daughters of the land**” without carefully considering what would be the result of her action. These daughters of the land were Canaanites and they represent sinful children. Shechem lusted after her and eventually defiled her. Not only was she defiled, but a crime had been committed against the nation of Israel.

The choice you make can make or mar your life, you must be prayerful and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in every minor and major decisions of your life. Friends of Jesus must avoid careless visitations. Do not make friendship with ungodly children and obey your parents in the Lord. These will safeguard you from immoral and wicked men who are lurking around in our society in these last days. They entice with money and other things to take undue advantage of innocent children. “**My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not**” (Proverbs 1:10).

Flee from every enticement to do evil. Report any act that suggest evil doing to your parents. Do not allow anyone, adult, peer, neighbour or even family member to fondle with your body. Refuse to run errand for strangers and neighbours who want to lure you into evil. Do not engage in dangerous adventures. Let your parents be aware of your whereabouts and the friends you keep.

## 2. SLAUGHTER OF THE SHECHEMITES:

Genesis 34:6-29; Ephesians 4:31

After Dinah was defiled by Shechem, a Canaanite prince, unpleasant things happened: (i) Hamor, the father of Shechem, met with Jacob, and wanted to have close relationship between both families, beginning with marriage between Dinah and Shechem. (ii) Pretending to agree with this suggestion, but inwardly bitter and angry, the brothers of Dinah insisted that Hamor and his men be circumcised. (iii) On the third day, when the men of the town were helpless because of their wounds from circumcision, Simeon and Levi went boldly into their camp and slaughtered all the men. What a tragedy! There is judgment for sin. Shechem had told Hamor, his father to get Dinah for him as a wife. There was no sorrow or regret expressed by Shechem and Hamor. They did not render any apology for their sinful action. Sinful children should be quick to acknowledge their sin, confess and repent. The Psalmist said, “**For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin**” (Psalms 38:18).

Simeon and Levi were very cruel; they killed all the men in Shechem because of their sister Dinah. We cannot correct a wrong action with instruments of cruelty. We must beware of bitterness and anger. The Bible warns all friends of Jesus “**let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice**” (Ephesians 4:31). You can overcome anger through genuine confession of sins and repentance because it is one of the marks of unregenerate life. Do not pay evil with evil, God is always ready to fight for you if you trust Him.

### **3. SEVERE CONSEQUENCES OF REVENGE:**

Genesis 34:30, 31; Genesis 49:5-7; Romans 12:19; 1Thessalonians 4:6

Jacob was not happy with Simeon and Levi because of their wicked act. He rebuked them for causing his name to “**stink**” among the Canaanites in the land, fearing that some might seek revenge. He later cursed them instead of blessing them before he died. He said they were violent men given to anger and cruelty, so their descendants would be scattered throughout Israel. The future of sinners who refuse to repent is not secure. Gods' blessings are not for them.

Revenge is a wrong way to get justice. We should not avenge ourselves because vengeance belongs to God who will judge all sinners if they fail to repent of their sins. Thousands of people died and went to hell because of the revengeful acts of Simeon and Levi. Sinful boys and girls who are fond of taking revenge when somebody offends them, must repent from all their sins, ask God to forgive and cleanse them with the blood of Jesus. Then be obedient to God's word at all times.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who was the mother of Dinah?
2. Who defiled Dinah?
3. What is the name of the father of Shechem?
4. What are the consequences of sinful adventure?
5. What did the brothers of Dinah do to the Shechemites?
6. How can we overcome anger?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “**The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister**” (Genesis 34:27).

**LESSON:** Friends of Jesus should not avenge themselves.

**THOUGHT:** I will not follow bad friends neither will I pay back evil for evil.

**ACTIVITY:** The teachers should lead the children to pray for protection from wicked ones.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 6 - YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I will never let the devil win the battle (2) Make me holy, make me holy O Lord (3) My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

**HOMEWORK:** Search the Scriptures and write down the names of all the twelve sons of Jacob and his daughter.



### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MATTHEW	5:38-40
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	5:41,42
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	5:43-45
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	5:46-48
FRIDAY	PROVERBS	22:24,25
SATURDAY	ROMANS	12:17,18
SUNDAY	ROMANS	12:19-21

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Defilement 2. Assault 3. Injustice 4. Companionship 5. Revenge.

## LESSON 28

# JACOB RETURNS TO BETHEL

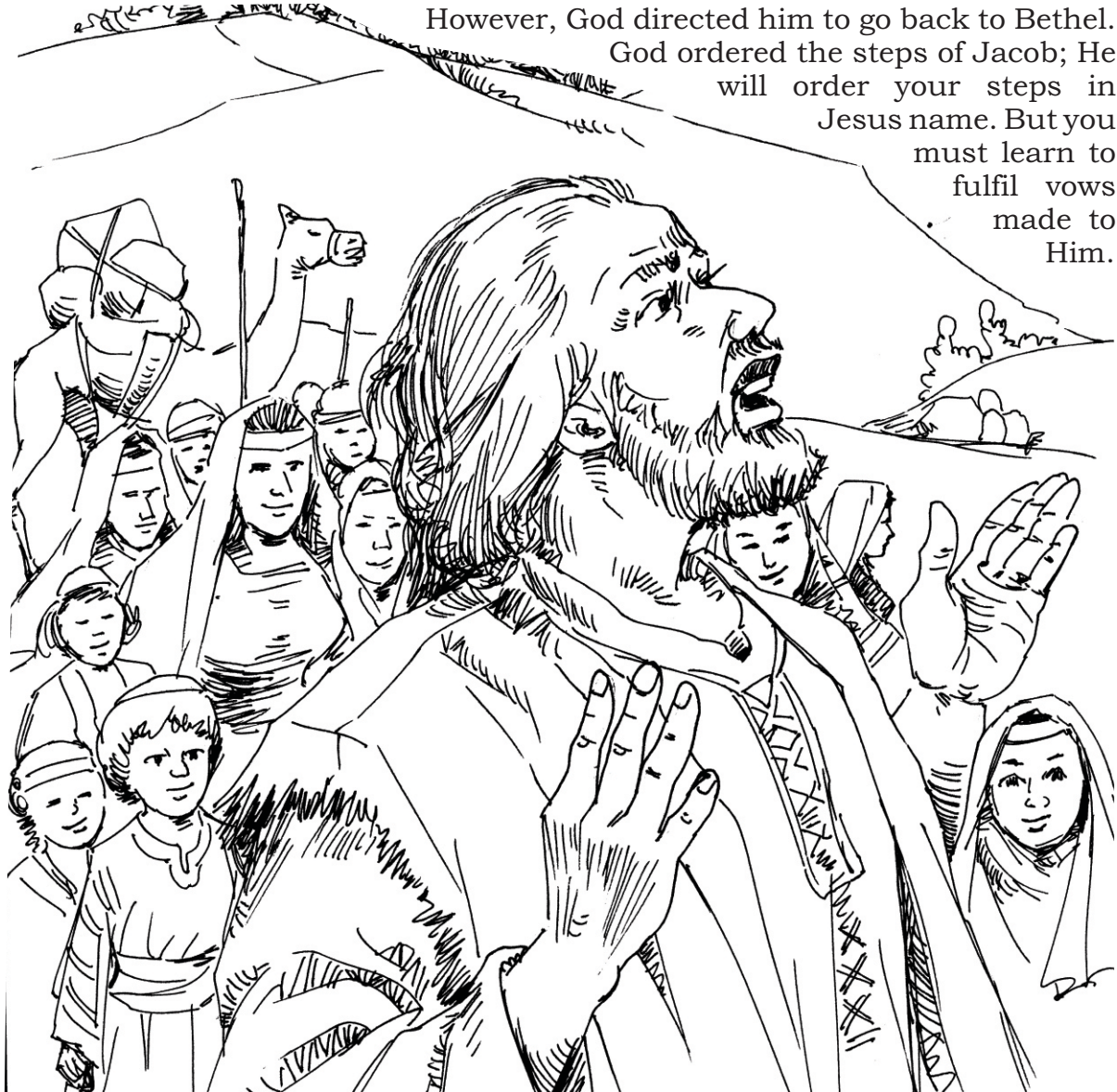
Genesis 35:1-29; 36:1-43

**J**acob fled from Esau after he had been blessed by Isaac his father. He ran away to avoid the anger of his brother Esau as soon as he received his brother's blessings in a deceitful way. On his way to Padanaran, to take a wife from his mother's kinsman as instructed by his father, he rested at a place called Luz which is now Bethel. God appeared to him and promised to bless him and give him the land which He had promised to give Abraham and Isaac.

Then, Jacob made a vow unto the Lord. He left for Laban, his uncle's place. There he served for some years, got married and eventually left. When he left, he did not return to Bethel but settled in Shechem.

However, God directed him to go back to Bethel.

God ordered the steps of Jacob; He will order your steps in Jesus name. But you must learn to fulfil vows made to Him.



### **1. GOD'S COMMAND TO JACOB AND HIS OBEDIENCE:**

Genesis 35:1-15

God told Jacob to arise and go up to Bethel, dwell there and make an altar unto Him. Jacob obeyed God's call and arose together with his household to go to Bethel (Genesis 35:3). He instructed his household to put away the strange gods that were among them and be clean. He charged them to change their garments as well. After the terrible events which involved Dinah's defilement and the revenge by his brothers, God directed Jacob's family to go to Bethel in order to bring them into a closer walk with Him. Jacob also setting his house right commanded all the members of his household to put away the strange gods that was among them. This is a spiritual renewal which made the family to: (i) Remove from their home, everything that was against God's word. (ii) Commit themselves to personal holiness (iii) Renew their vows to God in devotion and worship. (iv) Enter into fellowship with God. Jacob and his family's renewal brought them into favour with God. They experienced God's protection, presence, revelation and blessings.

In like manner, God is calling every sinner today. They are to confess and put away their sins, change their garments of sin to that of righteousness and turn away from all their iniquities so that they can be qualified for heaven. In obedience to God, you must put away all strange behaviours such as lying, cheating, fighting, jealousy e.t.c., and answer God's call to be saved. Your obedience will attract God's innumerable blessings into your life.

### **2. JACOB'S SORROW AND MEETING WITH ISAAC:**

Genesis 35:16-29

Jacob left Bethel to go to Isaac his father. On his way, some things happened which caused great sorrow to him. Firstly, Rachel his wife, fell into labour and delivered a baby boy named Benjamin. She died after delivery. She was buried at a place called Bethlehem. Jesus was also born in Bethlehem. Secondly, Reuben committed adultery with Bilhah his father's concubine. What a sorrow to Jacob's heart. Children should not cause sorrow to their parents; we should be their joy. Thirdly, Jacob later met Isaac his father. He was happy to see his father after many years. Children should have affection for their parents. You must love and care for your parents especially when they are old. Jacob made peace with his brother Esau. Isaac later died at an old age of 180 years. He was buried by his two sons Esau and Jacob. Children are to note that Esau and Jacob reconciled. They had stopped fighting and were now at peace with each other. Children are to forgive and forget past offences. Offences must come as in the case of Esau and Jacob, but you must learn to forgive one another. God will also forgive you.

### **3. ESAU'S FAMILY:**

Genesis 36:1-43

Esau also called Edom, married many wives and had many children (12 children). God prospered him; Esau went to his own land called Mount Seir. The name of Esau's children are recorded in the Bible. God knows his children

and has record of their names in the Bible. Is your name in God's Book of Life? His children later became rulers and kings in the land of Edom. Children are to have good desires and be leaders among their peers and in their chosen career. Laziness is not good. Work hard to fulfill God's plan for your life.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. God told \_\_\_\_\_ to arise and go to Bethel
2. Children are to put away \_\_\_\_\_
3. Mention three things that caused Jacob to be sorrowful.
4. What can children learn from the unity of Jacob and Esau?
5. How can one have his/her name in God's Book of Life?
6. God's call is for children to be saved. Yes/No?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother” (Genesis 35:1).

**LESSON:** Obedience to God's call brings blessing.

**THOUGHT:** I will answer God's call.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should be led to pray that God will give them the spirit of obedience.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 43 – TRUST AND OBEY**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Obedience is the very best way. (2) God must be honoured, must be honoured. (3) God has promised, He will never fail.

**HOME WORK:** Write in your homework book, five areas where you will obey God's Commandments.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	28:1-3
TUESDAY	GENESIS	28:4-7
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	28:10-12
THURSDAY	GENESIS	28:13-15
FRIDAY	GENESIS	28:16-19
SATURDAY	GENESIS	28:20-22
SUNDAY	GENESIS	31:3-6

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Renewal 2. Deceptive 3. Deteriorate 4. Defilement 5. Offences.

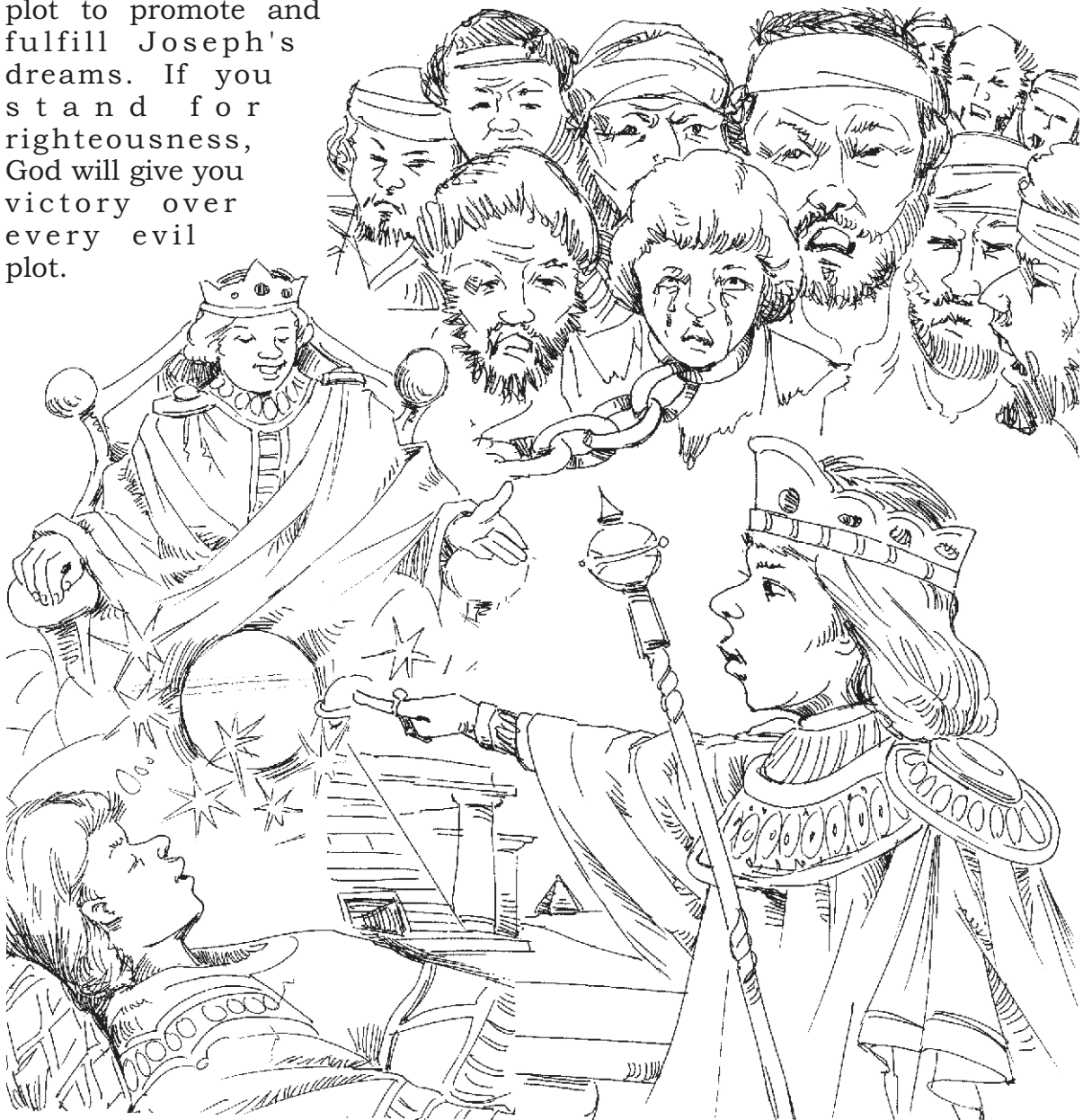


## LESSON 29

# THE PLOT AGAINST JOSEPH

Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-23

**T**he story of the life Joseph was a confirmation to the word of God that says: **There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.** (Proverbs 19:21). At different times of Joseph's journey to the top, the enemies of his destiny plotted to stop the plan of God for his life. Secret plan to do something illegal and evil against another person is what is called a 'plot'. Though the brothers of Joseph and later Potiphar's wife plotted Joseph's downfall, God worked through their evil plot to promote and fulfill Joseph's dreams. If you stand for righteousness, God will give you victory over every evil plot.





## 1. JOSEPH'S DREAMS:

Genesis 37:1-11

Joseph was one of the children of Jacob and was more loved than his brothers because he was born to him in his old age. To show how much he loved Joseph, he made him a beautiful coat that had many colours. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him because he was their father's favorite.

Children of God are to love everybody, their biological and spiritual parents, brothers, sisters and their friends. Joseph, a faithful boy from his childhood, demonstrated this by reporting the bad deeds of his brothers to his daddy so as to correct them.

Joseph had two dreams. In his first dream, Joseph and his brothers were binding sheaves in the field, his brothers' sheaves bowed to his. He told his brothers his dream, they were very angry **“And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words”** (Genesis 37:8). In his second dream, Joseph saw the sun, the moon and eleven stars bow to him. This meant that Jacob his father, Rachael his mother and his eleven brothers would one day bow to him. It was these dreams that made his brothers to plot evil against Joseph.

God has good plans for every child. You need to be wise, do not be a talkative. Whatever success comes your way, be grateful to God and pray that He will fulfill all His promises and perfect all that concerns you. Do not go about showing what God has promised you in a careless manner. Put your trust in God because no one can kill your dream or change God's plan for your life.

## 2. THE PLOT AGAINST JOSEPH:

Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1-23

The evil plot against Joseph was from his brothers and Potiphar's wife. They all conspired at separate time to stop his dreams from being realized. They did not know that those dreams were revelations from God. The plot is in two parts:

(i) Joseph's brothers' conspiracy (Genesis 37:1-36) – Joseph's older brothers were envious of him. Despite this, Joseph still showed love to them and cared for them by taking food to them where they were pasturing their father's flock. Unknown to Joseph, the brothers had conspired to do away with Him. At last, they succeeded in selling him off to strangers for twenty (20) shekels of silver. This is great wickedness on the part of his brothers. You must show godly love to your younger ones, even when they are doing better than you. Do not allow envy, jealousy or hatred in your heart, it is the mark of Satan's agents. They caused sorrow, pain and dejection to the father. Never be a source of pain to your parents but rather, do things that will make them happy.

(ii) Potiphar's wife's evil plot (Genesis 39:1-23) – eventually, the Ishmeelites who bought Joseph also sold him to Potiphar, an officer of king Pharaoh in Egypt. He became a slave in the house of this officer, working hard and living a holy life. This made his master to love him and put all that he had under

Joseph's supervision.

Unknown to Joseph, his master's wife was an adulterous woman. She did all she could to lure Joseph into committing immorality with her. Her plot failed because Joseph ran as fast as he could to escape from the object of temptation. It was a test of his personal holiness, loyalty to God and his master.

Temptation comes to friends of Jesus from time to time. It is your reaction to that temptation that will show whether you can stand for God's righteous standard or not. There are temptations to steal, tell lies, fight, cheat, engage in immoral relationship or do other bad things. As Joseph refused to commit sin, you too must refuse and say no to evil.

### **3. JOSEPH'S TRIUMPH OVER EVIL PLOTS:**

Genesis 39:7-12; Romans 8:28-37

The plan of Satan by working through Joseph's brothers and Potiphar's wife, was to overthrow the plan of God for Joseph. It was also to stop the future fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants.

God would always work through whatever circumstances that arise in the life of his faithful servants to accomplish His purpose.

Joseph triumphed because he: (i) refused to nurse any grudge against his wicked brothers (ii) trusted in God and His promises (iii) feared God, knowing that there were invisible eyes watching him (Proverbs 8:13). (iv) determined to obey the Lord.

Joseph was very sure that God had a good plan for him. He also knew that nobody or circumstance can change the plan of God for his life. He did not fight or show anger in all his problems. He remained humble, holy, patient and focused, expecting the fulfillment of God's promise for his life.

This is what God expects of you. God's plan and thoughts for your life is to give you a glorious future (Jeremiah 29:11). You are to be patient and faithful to God, so that you do not stop His plan for your life.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the meaning of 'plot'?
2. Joseph was loved by his father because he was a child of his old age and for his obedience. Yes/No?
3. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?
4. What was the plot against Joseph?
5. Why did Joseph triumph over the evil plots against him?
6. What should a (i) sinner (ii) friend of Jesus do to triumph over evil plots?

**MEMORY VERSE:** "And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him" (Genesis 37:18)

**LESSON:** Eternal destruction awaits evil doers.

**THOUGHT:** I will not join the multitudes to do evil.

**ACTIVITY:** Read the following passages and mention the people that experienced conspiracy from evil men. Numbers 16:1-3; Daniel 6:4-9; Matthew 27:1,2

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 76 – IN TIMES LIKE THESE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Thy word have I hid in my heart. (2) I will never let the devil win the battle. (3) Peace, purity, power are mine in the Lord.

**HOME WORK:** Write down in your homework book, a short story about Joseph titled “From prison to palace”.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	ACTS	7:1-5
TUESDAY	ACTS	7:6-8
WEDNESDAY	ACTS	7:9-10
THURSDAY	ACTS	7:11-13
FRIDAY	ACTS	7:14-18
SATURDAY	ROMANS	8:28-30
SUNDAY	ROMANS	8:31-33

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Conspiracy 2. Revelations 3. Loyalty 4. Plot 5. Flock

## LESSON 30

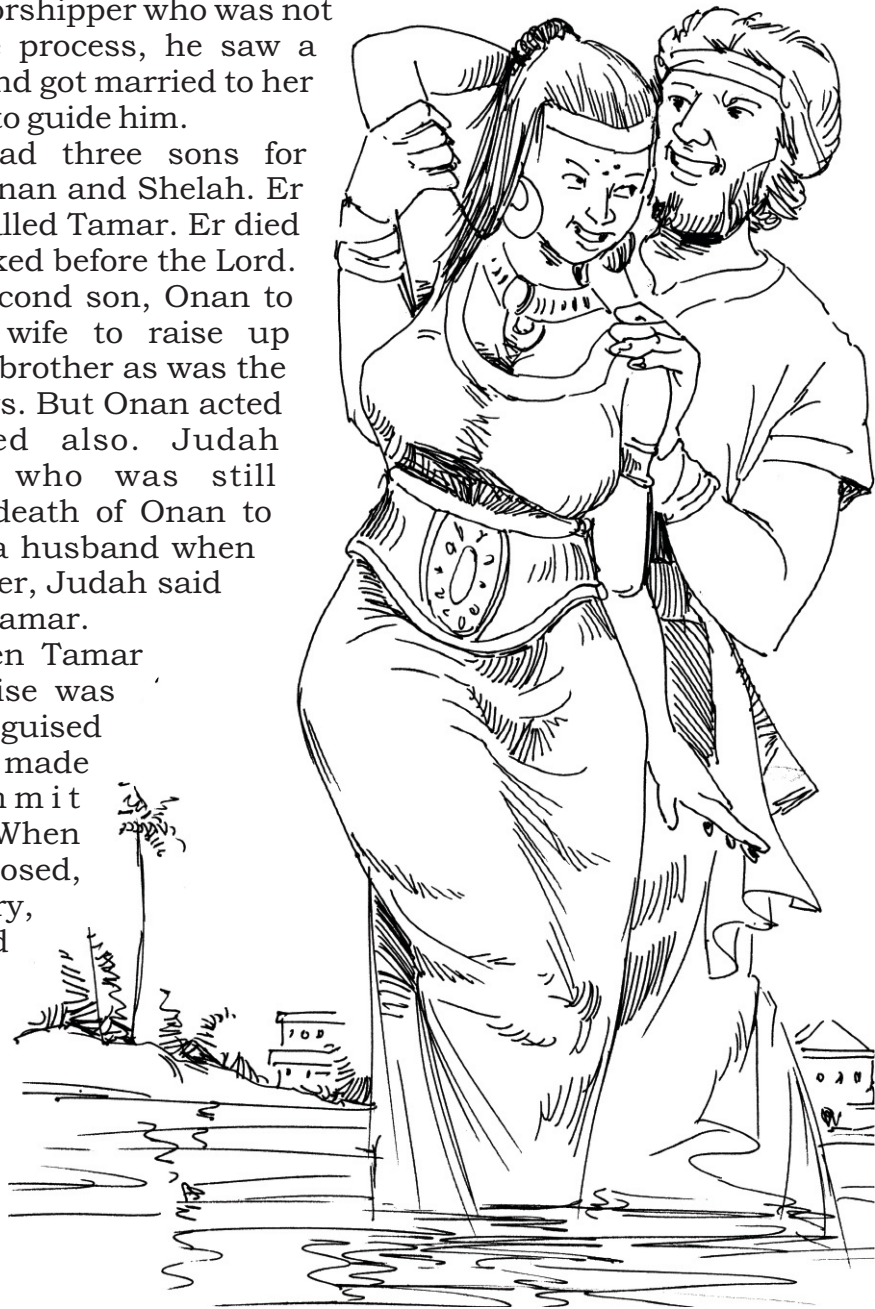
# JUDAH'S IMMORAL LIFESTYLE

Genesis 38:1-30

**J**udah was the fourth son of Jacob and his mother's name was Leah. Our Bible passage narrates the immoral lifestyle of Judah, the consequences of his ungodly actions and how he finally obtained the mercy and grace of God. From the passage, we learnt that Judah left his brethren and went down to see a friend whose name was Hirah. This friend was an idol worshipper who was not God fearing. In the process, he saw a Canaanite woman and got married to her without asking God to guide him.

The woman had three sons for Judah named Er, Onan and Shelah. Er married a woman called Tamar. Er died because he was wicked before the Lord. Judah asked his second son, Onan to take Tamar as a wife to raise up children for his late brother as was the custom in those days. But Onan acted wickedly and died also. Judah promised Tamar who was still childless after the death of Onan to give her Shelah as a husband when he grows up. However, Judah said this only to deceive Tamar.

Eventually when Tamar saw that the promise was not fulfilled, she disguised as a harlot and made Judah to commit adultery with her. When this sin was exposed, Judah became sorry, he repented, and God had mercy on him. It is important for you not to fall into sin and if you have fallen into sin or departed from the Lord, God is ready to forgive and accept you back if you repent now.



## 1. **UNGODLY MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE OF JUDAH:**

Genesis 38:1-10; 24:2-4; Judges 14:1-3; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Judah's carelessness in falling into immoral behavior was encouraged by his friendship with his worldly friend named Hirah, an Adullamite. He left the fellowship of his brethren and made friend with a Canaanite. The Bible has a lot of warnings for God's people on the danger of being unequally yoked together with unbelievers. A believer should distinctively separate from friendship with ungodly people and their practices **“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”** (James 4:4). The believer who wants to be a holy vessel unto the Lord should stay away from close interaction with sinful boys and girls in their schools and neighbourhood.

The first step that led to Judah's slip into sin was his unequal yoke in marriage with a worldly woman (Canaanite). He did not follow the instructions of his grandfather Abraham who rightly guided Isaac in marriage but rather married a worldly woman. Judah never prayed to know the will of God in marriage. He chose by merely looking at the outward appearance and reaped sorrows in his marital life. Esau and Samson also married among idol-worshippers. They all suffered the consequences of their actions.

Judah's wife gave birth to three sons, two of them were wicked and received God's divine judgment. This is because Judah's children lacked godly parental training. Their mother, being a worldly woman, had no knowledge and faith required for child training (Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15). The father could not help them spiritually because he too was a sinner.

You must not be like the first two sons of Judah who were wicked before the Lord. They died in their sins, but their father eventually repented of his own sins and received God's mercy. Do not follow the bad examples you see in some children and adult who are sinful and wicked. Jesus is your perfect standard. Look unto Him at all times. He is the author and the finisher of our faith (Hebrew 12:2).

## 2. **JUDAH'S FLESHLY LUST:**

Genesis 38:11-23; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; 10:8;

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Hebrews 13:4

A lot of regret and sorrow befell Judah and his family because of the ungodly foundation of his marriage and family life. The death of Judah's first two sons, one after the other, must have frightened him so much that he was no more interested in giving his third son (Shelah) in marriage to the widowed daughter-in-law as promised.

At last, Shelah grew up but Judah neither fulfilled his promise nor allowed Tamar to re-marry. This was an act of selfishness, insincerity and carelessness to the needs of others. Children should not make promises which they cannot keep. Once promises are made, we should make sure that we keep it otherwise, we will be behaving like Judah. Those who deceive others commit



sin. Satan is the father of deception. Stop deceiving other children so that you will not be a child of Satan.

When Tamar realized Judah's insincerity to her, she planned to make him to sin through disguise. She lured him into committing immorality with her. Certainly, she knew Judah's moral weakness and she made use of it **"When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face"** (Genesis 38:15). The question here is, in the first place what was Judah doing with a harlot? Even if Tamar did not pretend to be a harlot, was he expected according to the law of God to commit immorality? Of course, not! The sin which Judah committed with Tamar is referred to as incest which is immorality between two close relatives. It is an abomination before God.

Judah fell into this trap because he was ungodly, prayerless and not watchful. His flesh pushed him to sin and brought him shame. God hates sin and will surely punish sinners who refuse to repent. To avoid God's judgment, you must separate from anyone and anything that will lead you to immorality. Do not engage in sinful boyfriend/girlfriend relationship. Avoid being found in a lonely place with the opposite sex, flee from fornication and anything that can defile your body and make you sin against God.

### **3. JUDAH'S REPENTANCE AND GOD'S MERCY:**

Genesis 38:26-30; Isaiah 55:6-7; Acts 3:19

Genuine repentance always attracts God's mercy, forgiveness and favour. Judah confessed his guilt **"And Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more"** (Genesis 38:26). This is an evidence of true repentance. The manifestation of God's mercy and grace on Judah were many: (i) he was forgiven and restored. He was transformed from shame to praise. (ii) he became the leader of a kingly tribe in Israel (Genesis 49:8-10). (iii) the Lord Jesus Christ was born through the lineage of Judah. He descended through the line of Pharez, one of the twins born by Tamar (Hebrews 7:14; Matthew 1:3).

In this story of Judah's moral weakness, we see the glorious triumph of God's grace over man's sins. No matter how bad your past life has been, God's grace will turn everything around for good. However, you must be ready to receive the grace and mercy of God.

This you can do by taking the following steps: (i) Realize that you are a sinner (ii) Repent of all your sins (iii) Request for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus Christ. (iv) Receive Jesus into your heart and Rejoice that you are now born again.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What led Judah to marry a sinful woman?
2. Mention the names of Judah's sons who died because of their wickedness.
3. Did Judah receive forgiveness from God?
4. What are the steps a sinner must take to be saved?
5. What should a believer do to avoid falling into sin?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more” (Genesis 38:26).

**LESSON:** God's judgment is awaiting every sinner who refuses to repent of his or her sin.

**THOUGHT:** I will repent of all my sins now to avoid God's judgment.

**ACTIVITY:** Prayer – teachers should make altar call and lead sinners to the saving knowledge of the Saviour.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 40 - WASH ME, O LAMB OF GOD**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I wandered far away, lost in the wilderness. (2) One day be one day, the sinner child go find himself for hell fire. (3) Following Jesus every day by day.

**HOMEWORK:** Write out the names of godly men or women in the Bible whose names begin with each of the letters in the word '**R-E-P-E-N-T**'.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	JUDGES	14:1-3
TUESDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	6:14-16
WEDNESDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	6: 17-18
THURSDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	6:13-15
FRIDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	6:16-18
SATURDAY	GALATIANS	5:19-21
SUNDAY	EPHESIANS	5:3-6

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Adultery. 2. Abomination. 3. Grace. 4. Repentance. 5. Frightened.

## LESSON 31

# JOSEPH'S INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS AND HIS PROMOTION

Genesis 40:1-23; 41:1-57

**T**he wife of Joseph's master (Potiphar) lied against him and Potiphar sent him to prison for the offence he did not commit. Before Joseph was sent to prison, he had been hard working, faithful and loyal to his master. He did all things in the fear of God so much that his master put him in charge of everything in his house. It was the fear of God in him that made him refuse to sleep with his master's wife. This made the woman to lie against him to her husband. Joseph was sent to prison, he still continued to love and fear God.

These are the qualities the prison keeper saw in him and made him to be head over other prisoners. He was loving and caring, always ready to give a helping hand to everyone. It was this good character in him that made God to promote him in a miraculous way. In the prison, Joseph interpreted the dreams of the chief butler and chief baker. He later interpreted Pharaoh's dream which led to his promotion.

Your own promotion and fulfilment of God's plan for your life will be accomplished if you follow Joseph's example and continue living a righteous life even in difficult situations.



## **1. JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS:**

Genesis 40:1-22; 41: 1-36

It came to pass that two servants of Pharaoh offended him. They were the chief butler (the senior servant who gives Pharaoh drink) and the chief baker (the senior servant who prepares Pharaoh's food). They were sent to the same prison with Joseph. Joseph was placed in charge of them, and he loved them and took good care of them.

One morning, he noticed that they were sorrowful. He asked what the problem was, and they told him they dreamt in the night and there was no one to interpret their dreams. He asked them to tell him their dreams, he interpreted the dreams and it happened exactly as he interpreted them. The chief butler was restored, and the chief baker was hanged. Pharaoh's servants felt free to tell Joseph their dreams because he had been good to them and he was the one that noticed their unhappy appearance.

You need to be concerned about the well-being of others (Brothers, sisters, friends, neighbours). Before the butler was restored, Joseph made a request that he would remember him when he gets back to the palace. The butler did not remember Joseph. This tells us that we should not put our trust in man, but in God (Proverbs 3:5,6).

Two years after the butler had been restored to the palace, Pharaoh had two dreams. He called all his magicians and wise men to interpret it, but they could not. It was at this point that the butler remembered Joseph. He told the king about Joseph and he quickly sent for him. Joseph was brought to the palace, he listened to the dreams and said it is God who interprets dreams. This shows his humility, he did not boast before the king. He gave God all the glory and honour for his ability, which was a gift from God. Whatever gift God gives you, always give God glory for it. Don't think of yourself as the wisest person "Pride goes before destruction" (Proverbs 16:18). Now, Joseph was on his way to the top.

## **2. JOSEPH'S PROMOTION:**

Genesis 41:37-57; Job 14:14

Joseph gave the interpretation of the dreams and also gave the solution to the puzzles created by the dreams. When Pharaoh heard it, his heart was at peace. He turned to his people and said he could not find any man who will be able to execute the project except Joseph. In the same moment, Pharaoh declared Joseph to be the second in command to him. He put on him his royal garment and gave him authority over the whole land to carry out the divine assignment.

God used Joseph to solve the problem of famine as revealed through Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:17-24). He used the authority Pharaoh gave him very well. He went all over the nation, stored food during the years of plenty. The gift of God in him was used to bring solution to the need of the people both his friends and enemies. Use the gift the Lord has given you to help others. Promotion comes from God, at His own time, He will promote you. All you need to do is to fulfill the condition. This important demand is obedience

and faithfulness to God in every area of your life.

### **3. LESSONS FROM JOSEPH'S PROMOTION:**

Genesis 41:7-14,39-46; Psalm 75:4-7; 1 Samuel 2:6-10

Joseph was about Seventeen years old when he was sold into Egypt by his brothers. By the time he was promoted, he was already thirty years old, This means he had suffered and waited for about thirteen years both in Potiphar's house and in the prison.

Joseph's promotion shows us that it is good to wait for God's time. For two years, the butler forgot Joseph, but in God's time, He made something happen that brought Joseph out of prison to glory. In those two years while he was forgotten, he waited patiently for God's promised blessings to come to pass.

The life of Joseph is a great lesson to us. If he had forsaken his godly character and faith in God in the prison, God would not have remembered him. This tells us that, we should live our lives daily to please God. Whatever bad situations we find ourselves should not stop us from being godly. Godliness is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6). God will surely reward you as He did to Joseph. Are you like Joseph? If you are not, it means you are not born again.

As a sinner, you cannot love everybody including those who do bad to you. Joseph did not hate his master and wife for throwing him into prison for an offence he did not commit. God rewarded him in the end. Therefore, as a sinner, you must (i) Repent of your bad ways (ii) Confess your sins to Jesus Christ (iii) Ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus (iv) Invite Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour (v) Promise Him you will not go back to your bad ways and thank Him for saving you. Pray also for your heart to be sanctified and made holy. This is the only way you can excel and be above only (Deuteronomy 28:13).

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why was Joseph put into prison?
2. Who were the two prisoners that Joseph interpreted their dreams?
3. Joseph hated his master and wife for putting him in prison. Yes/No?
4. How did Joseph become ruler over the land of Egypt?
5. Can sinners be promoted by God? If no, what must they do?
6. Does it pay to trust in man? Yes/no? If no, explain.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace" (Genesis 41:15-16).

**LESSON:** God rewards everyone that fears and live his/her life to please Him daily.

**THOUGHT:** I will fear God and please Him in all areas of my life.



**ACTIVITY: SCRIPTURE HUNT** - Look up these passages in the Bible and write out in your notebook, how the dreams were fulfilled.

Dream 1 – GENESIS 37:5-8

Dream 2 - GENESIS 37: 9-11

Dream 3 – GENESIS 40: 9-13

Dream 4 – GENESIS 40: 16-19

Dream 5 – GENESIS 41: 1-4

Dream 6 – GENESIS 41:5-8

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 97 – OFT IN DANGER, OFT IN WOE**

**CHORUSES:** 1. Thy word have I hid in my heart 2. His word is yea and Amen. 3. Give me grace to follow.

**HOMEWORK:** Find out in the Bible, a boy and a girl who feared and pleased God even in difficult conditions.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	37:3-5
TUESDAY	GENESIS	37: 6-8
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	37: 9-11
THURSDAY	PSALM	75:5-7
FRIDAY	1 SAMUEL	2:6-8
SATURDAY	PSALM	105:16-19
SUNDAY	PSALM	105:20-23

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Humility 2. Trust 3. Offended 4. Execute 5. Miraculous.

## LESSON 32

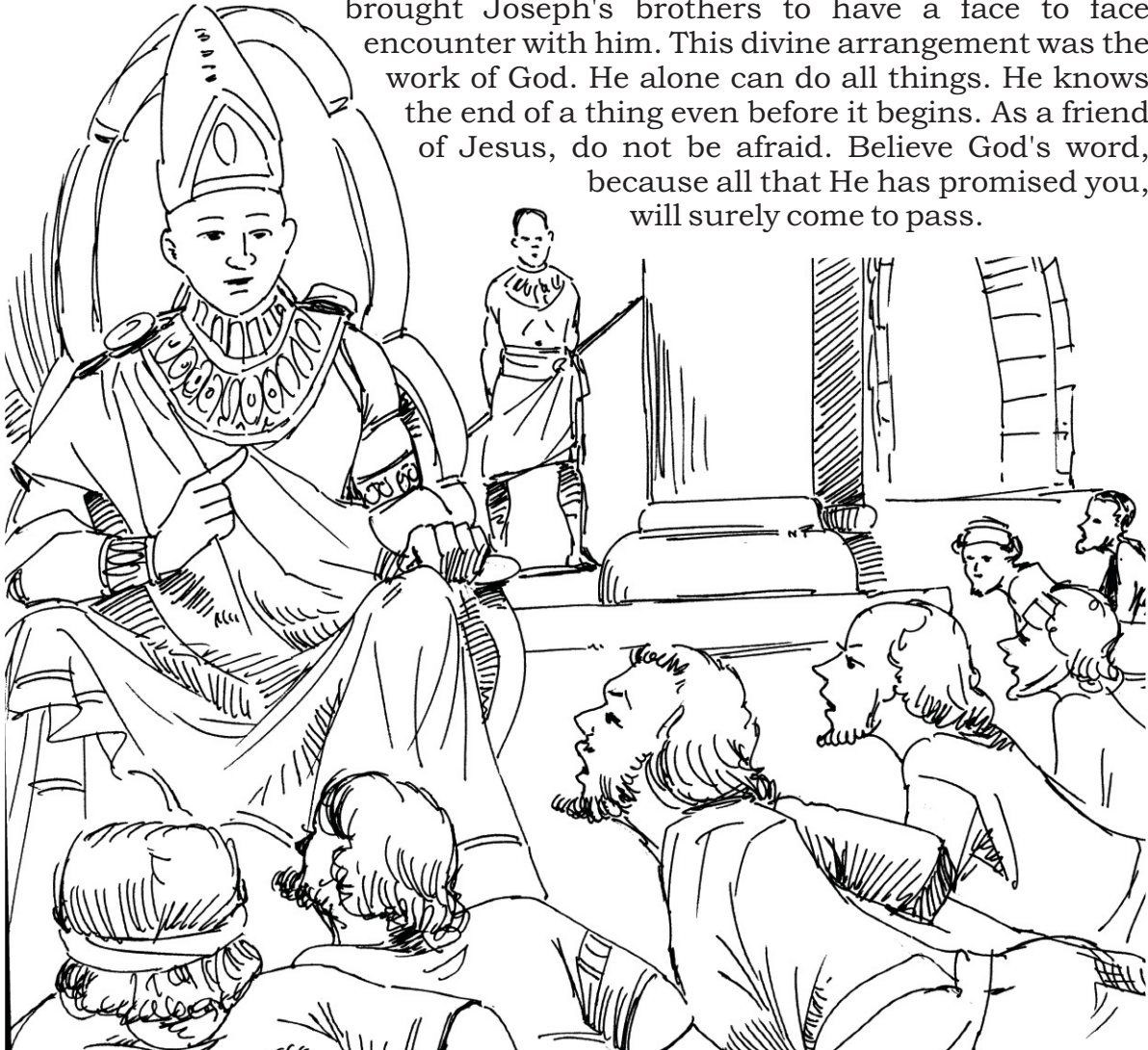
# JOSEPH'S ENCOUNTER WITH HIS BROTHERS

Genesis 42:1-38; 43:1-34; 44:1-34; 45:1-28

**T**he story of Joseph is a testimony which confirms God's love, care, mercy and faithfulness in fulfilling His promises to His children. Joseph, the beloved of his father was sold into slavery by his envious brothers, but God was with him. At the appointed time, God promoted him and he became the governor in Egypt.

Now the first phase to the fulfilment of the prophecy has been fulfilled. God had said that Abraham's seed would live in a strange land where they would suffer. The story unfolds to show Joseph, a seed of Abraham already been planted in Egypt. God will now work through a difficult situation in the whole earth to actualize the second phase of the prophecy. This difficult situation is the famine that Pharaoh saw in his dreams. This bad situation

brought Joseph's brothers to have a face to face encounter with him. This divine arrangement was the work of God. He alone can do all things. He knows the end of a thing even before it begins. As a friend of Jesus, do not be afraid. Believe God's word, because all that He has promised you, will surely come to pass.



## **1. FAMINE IN THE LAND:**

Genesis 42:1,2; 43:1,2; 41:53-57

Famine is a condition characterized by shortage of rainfall, scarcity of food and sicknesses or malnutrition especially among children. The famine at the time of Joseph, was all over the world. Jacob's family were not left out. There was no other way to survive such a difficult situation except to look for food wherever it can be found. Times of famine are times of serious lack, hardship and hunger. The famine in the whole earth was a fulfilment of the two dreams which king Pharaoh dreamt in Egypt. The famine was to last for seven years.

In the world today, we still experience famine in many parts of the world. In these situations, children are subjected to pain, hunger, thirst and severe malnutrition. You should be concerned for children in places where there is famine. Remember to pray for them that God would make a way for them as He did for Jacob's family. Also, there is spiritual famine in the land. There are many children all over the world who do not have knowledge of the word of God. We must as a matter of urgency spread the gospel of truth to the world (Mark 16:15). God has raised His friends up to spread the Truth so as to remove spiritual famine in the Land. Be counted among obedient children.

## **2. JOSEPH'S ENCOUNTER WITH HIS BRETHREN:**

Genesis 42:3-38; 43:15-34; 44:1-34; 45:1-24

Joseph as the governor in Egypt was the one managing the activities during the years of plenty and the years of famine. The famine was all over the earth. In Canaan where Jacob and his remaining eleven sons lived, there was also famine. Therefore, Jacob had to call all his children to go to Egypt and buy food. They all obeyed their father's instruction and went to Egypt.

As Joseph's brothers got to Egypt, they could not recognize Joseph again. However, Joseph recognized them and remembered his dreams. It was during their second trip that Joseph made himself known to his brothers. During this unforgettable encounter and re-union, Joseph spoke to them roughly. To encounter means to confront someone face to face. Many years had passed since they sold him into slavery. He needed to test them to know if they have changed from their wicked ways.

He however discovered that they have changed. They refused to forsake their younger brother Benjamin; they were also concerned about their aged father at home. It was really an emotional encounter. His brothers bowed to him as revealed through his dreams. Joseph wept out of pity for his brothers. He then revealed his identity to them. He did not make them feel guilty but accepted and treated them well.

Joseph showed uncommon love and humility in dealing with his brothers. He acknowledged the fact that the actions of his brothers and the troubles that he passed through were divinely arranged to fulfill God's purpose.

There is a purpose of God for your life. You have a part to play for that

purpose to be fulfilled. Recognize that part and play it well. Do not allow grudges and desire for revenge to stop God's purpose for your life. Love your brothers, sisters, parents, friends and even those who hate and persecute you. God will promote you and make you to have good success.

### **3. LESSONS FROM JOSEPH'S ENCOUNTER WITH HIS BROTHERS:**

Matthew 5:9-16, 38-48; romans 12:14

There are some important lessons we must take note of in this study.

- (i) Repentance – the brothers of Joseph had truly repented of their wicked ways. All sinners must repent, turn from their sins so as to receive God's mercy.
- (ii) Love – Joseph showed love to his brothers who once hated him. A true friend of Jesus must show love to God and others around him. You must show love even to those who hurt you.
- (iii) Forgiveness – as Joseph's brethren came to Egypt to buy food, it was in his power to punish them for the evil they did to him. Yet, he did not, because he feared God. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Do not repay evil with evil but rather forgive those who do bad to you.
- (iv) Hospitality/Generosity – Joseph provided more than enough for his brothers. If your enemy is hungry, give him food and share what you have with the needy. God will always work through every situation to make His will to be fulfilled. Initially, you may not know the reasons why some things happen, but God has a purpose for everything that concern all His children.

If you are not a friend of Jesus, you will suffer in the hands of Satan. Therefore, you must repent, confess your sins and ask for forgiveness and cleansing of your sins through the blood of Jesus. Determine not to go back to your bad ways again. This is the step that will bring you into a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

### **QUESTIONS:**

- 1. At what point did Joseph become a governor in Egypt?
- 2. What led to the face to face encounter of Joseph with his brethren?
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ recognized his \_\_\_\_\_ brothers when he saw them.
- 4. In his encounter with his brothers, why did Joseph speak to them roughly at first?
- 5. What lessons did you learn from the encounter of Joseph with his brethren?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth” (Genesis 43:26).

**LESSON:** God's ways are past finding out

**THOUGHT:** I will trust and obey God all the days of my life

**ACTIVITY:** The famine: Genesis 41-42

Jacob's son, Joseph, instructed king Pharaoh in ways to prepare for the famine. He was able to help his whole family through the seven dry years. Follow the instructions to find out why Jacob sent his ten sons to Egypt.

Judah – circle the 5<sup>th</sup> letter

Asher – last letter

Levi – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> letters

Issachar – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> letters

Simeon – circle o

Reuben – 1<sup>st</sup> letter

Dan – last letter

Benjamin – last 2 letters

Zebulun – 2<sup>nd</sup> letter

Gad – the 1<sup>st</sup> letter

Joseph – the 5<sup>th</sup> letter

Naphtali – circle letter T

Write the circled letters in the spaces below. Then read the Bible passage

“T \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 209 – I WILL NOT FORGET THEE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (2) Immortal God, Invisible God. (3) He has promised, He will never fail.

**HOMEWORK:** Pray for all the members of your family

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	PSALM	105:4-7
TUESDAY	PSALM	105:8-12
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	105:13-16
THURSDAY	PSALM	105:17-19
FRIDAY	PSALM	105:20-22
SATURDAY	PSALM	37:22-24
SUNDAY	PSALM	37:25-27

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of the following words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Encounter 2. Reveal 3. Emotional 4. Hospitable 5. Identity.



## LESSON 33

# JACOB MOVES TO EGYPT

Genesis 46:1-34; 47:1-31

**J**oseph was blessed with uncommon wisdom by God because he obeyed God. After his encounter with his brothers, he sent them to bring his father and the entire family down to Egypt. It was good news for Jacob to learn that his son was still alive. He was happy and longed to be united with his favourite “dead but living son”. Though Jacob was happy that his son was still alive and that there would be enough provision to keep his family through the years of famine, yet he asked from the Lord to be sure that Egypt was where God wanted him to go. After receiving the go-ahead from the Lord, Jacob moved all his family to Egypt. It was a glorious re-union and the beginning of 400 years sojourn for the descendants of Abraham.

God had told Abraham about 200 hundred years earlier, that he would be blessed with children and that his descendants would live in a foreign land for 400 years. God is great, mighty and accurate in His dealings with His children. Whatever He says He would do, He will accomplish.

The children of Abraham would still inherit Canaan, but at the moment, they had to leave so they would not be corrupted and scattered through inter-marriage and friendship with the idol-worshippers that were still in Canaan. Going to Egypt was a great opportunity to preserve Israel and his descendants. In Egypt, they lived in a separate land Called Goshen. The Egyptians would never mingle with any other tribe. This was God's plan to help Israel as one holy and separated people unto God. This world in which we live is like Egypt. The Bible acknowledges the fact that though we are living in the world, yet we are not of the world.

As you live in the world, do not associate with the sinful habits and corruption of the people. Be separate and live a holy life. God is preparing our Canaan land which is heaven, any moment from now, Christ will appear to take us out of “Egypt” to heaven our “Canaan Land”.



### **1. JACOB'S PRAYER:**

Genesis 46:1-3

Though Egypt had plenty of food during the famine, Jacob saw the need to still pray. He was a prayerful man. He had prayed at Jabbok and Bethel where he encountered God and had his name changed. Prayer is very important in everything that we do. Learn to pray by praying. Pray before going out to school, on errands or to do one activity or another. Pray in the morning and at night. Prayer is never too much.

Naomi and her husband did not ask God for direction at the time of famine. They left the place of blessing to a strange land. All they saw then was the temporary provision of food. That trip cost Naomi the life of her husband and children (Ruth 1:1-7). Therefore, you must be careful. Always commit your ways to God in prayers.

### **2. THE JOURNEY TO EGYPT:**

Genesis 46:5-7; Matthew 25:1-13

From the story of Jacob's family, it is clear that it was God's plan for Jacob and his family to move to Egypt. They packed their belongings and proceeded to Egypt. They were a distinctive family in their mode of worship, dressing, language and general outlook. They were God's chosen race.

The number of people in Jacob's family who made the trip from Canaan to Egypt were 67. Joseph and his two sons made the total to be seventy. God has a Book of record where all the names of His sons and daughters are registered. Is your name there? Are you a child of God? If no; you must repent and surrender your life to Jesus. Then your name will be written in the Book of Life. When Jesus comes, He will take us to be with Him in heaven.

### **3. A HAPPY FAMILY REUNION:**

Genesis 46:28-34; 47:1-26

When Jacob and his family got closer to Egypt, Joseph hurried out to meet them. What a happy moment it was for Joseph and his father! They hugged each other and cried for a long time. It was tears of joy. Joseph then presented his father to king Pharaoh. They were all given a warm reception.

There will be a greater, happier, sweeter welcome for all friends of Jesus when we get to heaven. But for sinners, the story will be different. It will be a time of shame, regret and sorrow. Why not repent now and surrender to Jesus, your Saviour and Lord? He will change your life and you will live with Him in heaven at last.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who invited Jacob and his family to Egypt?
2. What did Jacob do before he moved to Egypt?
3. Why is it important to pray?
4. What was the total number of people in Jacob's family that moved to Egypt?

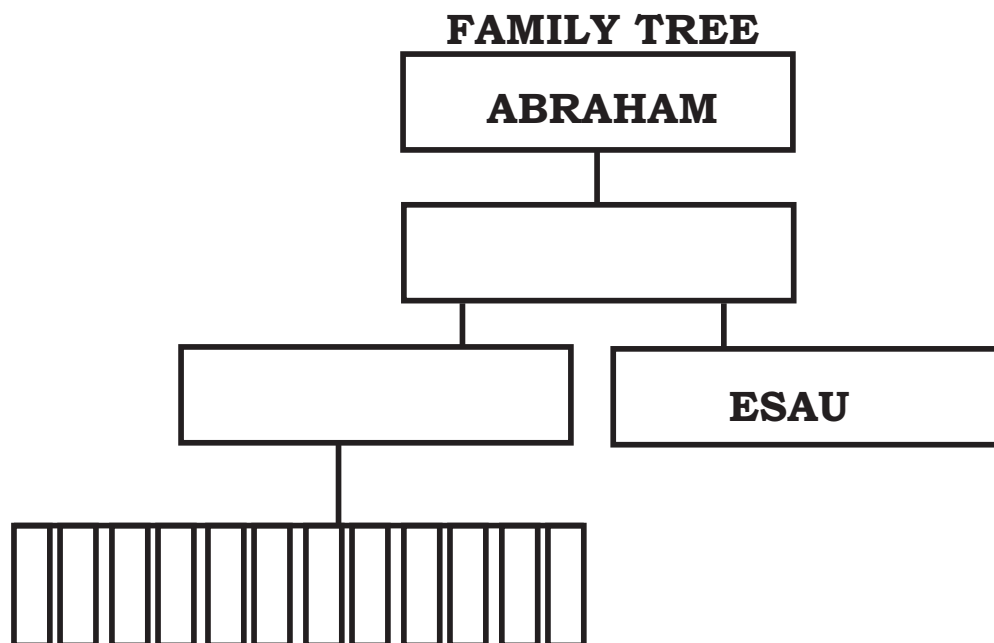
5. Where is the eternal home of friends of Jesus?
6. What should a sinful child do to get to the eternal home?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation” (Genesis 46:3).

**LESSON:** Obedience to God's leading brings success

**THOUGHT:** I will be obedient to God's word

**ACTIVITY:** Complete this family tree:



**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** GHS 165 – GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

**CHORUSES:** (1) I know there is another fellowship in heaven. (2) I will be what the Lord says I will be. (3) Will you be ready when the Lord shall come?

**HOMEWORK:** Find out the names of your paternal & maternal great grandparents, grandparents and parents. Write them out in your homework book.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	15:12-15
TUESDAY	GENESIS	15:16-21
WEDNESDAY	ACTS	7:3-7
THURSDAY	ACTS	7:8-10
FRIDAY	ACTS	7:11-15
SATURDAY	PSALM	37:3-6
SUNDAY	PSALM	37:18-19

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of the following words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Proceeded 2. Distinctive 3. Temporary 4. Encounter 5. Failure



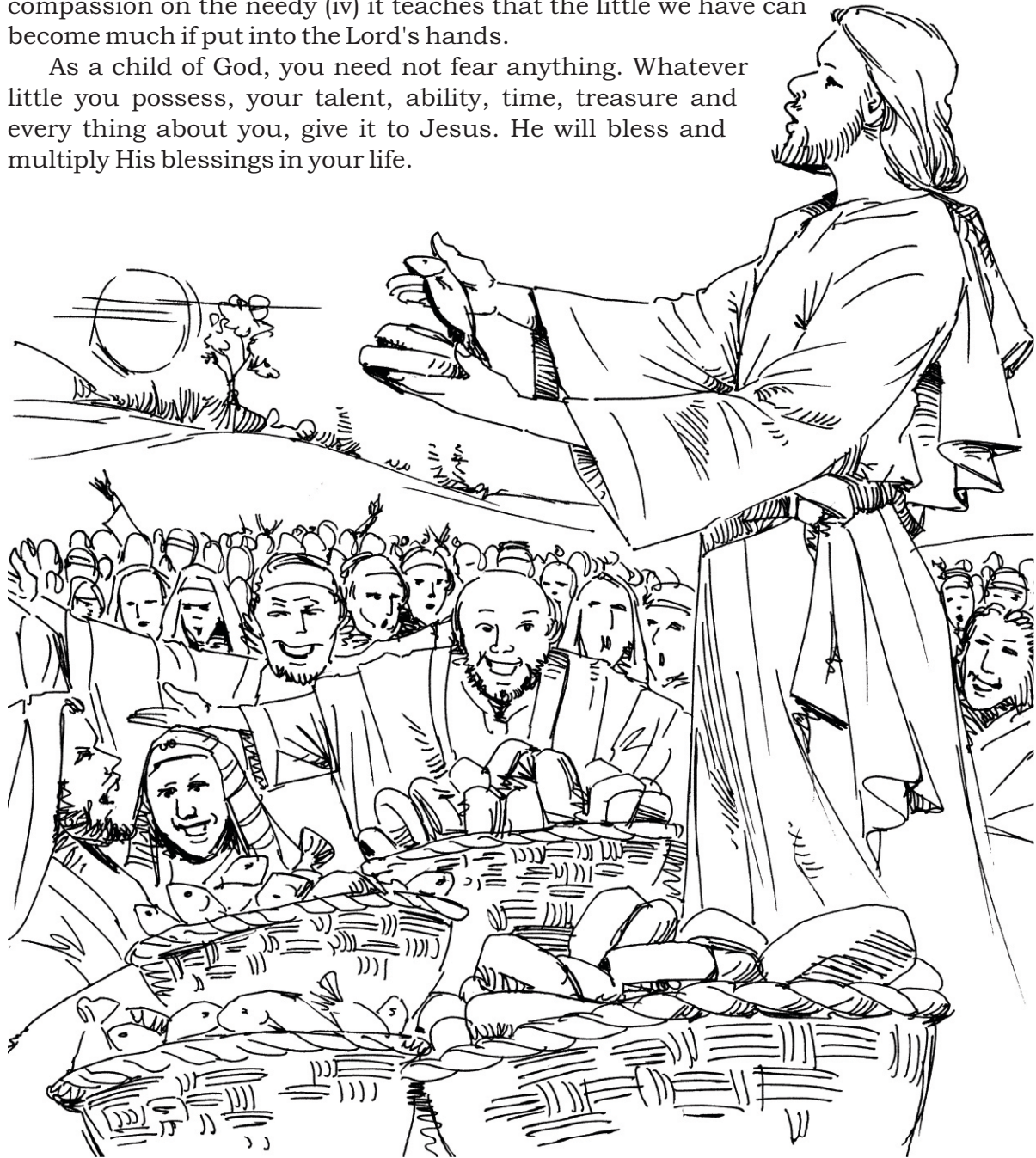
## LESSON 34

# JESUS FEEDS THE MULTITUDES

Matthew 14:14-21; Mark 8:1-26; Luke 9:11-17

**T**he miracle of feeding five thousand is recorded in all the Gospels. The significance of all the miracles includes the following: (i) it points to Jesus as the Bread of Life, the one who provides for both body and soul (ii) it is an open testimony of Jesus' power to perform miracles (iii) it is a demonstration of Christ's compassion on the needy (iv) it teaches that the little we have can become much if put into the Lord's hands.

As a child of God, you need not fear anything. Whatever little you possess, your talent, ability, time, treasure and every thing about you, give it to Jesus. He will bless and multiply His blessings in your life.





### **1. JESUS' PASSION FOR THE MULTITUDES:**

Matthew 14:14-16; 9:35-36; Mark 8:1-3; John 4:34; 9:4

Many people choose different things as number one in their lives, but for Jesus, it is the work of His heavenly father. He went about to seek and to save the lost. He does not want anyone to die in sin and burn in hell fire. He also feels for the sick and the needy. Through His word, He saves from sin and the consequences of sin. By the same word, He heals and delivers, breaks yokes and bondages. He has power and authority to rescue humanity from the hands of the enemy, Satan and his demons. Whosoever comes to Christ and obeys His word will be saved from sin, sickness, diseases and the judgment to come. But you must understand that when multitudes gather, it is not all of them that seek Christ for salvation and eternal life.

Many are usually spectators while some want only healing, deliverance, success, provision, protection and other physical things. Why do you come to the place of worship? Who is Jesus to you? Have you confessed and forsaken your sins? His blood cleanses us from our sins. Do not delay your salvation if you are not yet saved. Tomorrow may be too late. Come and receive mercy and pardon for your sins.

### **2. JESUS' PROVISION FOR THE MULTITUDES:**

Matthew 14:17-21; Mark 8:1-6; Luke 9:11-17

Jesus will never send those who come to Him away empty. They only need to believe, obey and be patient. All who seek first the kingdom of God will have all other things added. From our Bible passage, it is observed that the multitudes did not ask for food or shelter even though it was getting dark. They gave attention to the word of God. They did not worry about what to eat, drink, clothe themselves with or shelter in the wilderness. They were more attentive to the teachings of Christ beyond the thoughts of physical things.

If you give attention to God's word and true communion, He will take care of you. When you allow worries, anxieties, fears and impatience in your life, it shows that His word do not dwell richly in you. Those who leave everything to God will see the hand of God in everything that concerns them.

Here, only five loaves and two fishes were available. Jesus collected it, looked up to heaven and blessed it. The little provision was multiplied, and people ate to their satisfaction. Twelve baskets were gathered of the left-over (fragments). Let us learn always to look up to God in prayers when there is need for food, clothing, school fees and other things. With prayer of faith and holiness of life all our needs will be supplied.

### **3. JESUS' POWER TO DO MIRACLES:**

Mark 8:10-26; Luke 9:10,11; Matthew 8:16,17; 28:18

All power in heaven and on earth is given to Jesus Christ. He looks up to His Father and heaven confirms His authority. A little provision was multiplied, how can we explain this? No one can! That is why it is called a miracle. Jesus has the power to heal the sick, raise the dead, supply every need, give success and victory, defeat all the enemies of His servants and take His friends to heaven at last. With Him, nothing is impossible. All who come to Him have nothing to fear. Sincere trust in His word, simple faith, prayer, patience and hope is what you need to have your needs met. Do you want success, provision for your parents, healing, deliverance etc.? Call unto

Jesus, He will answer you. Five thousand (5000) men besides women and children, all ate what was supposed to feed just one person (a lad) and there were left overs. Jesus is well able to do all things. Put your trust in Him and you will never lack any good thing.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the significance of the miracle of the feeding of the multitudes?
2. What are we to seek first?
3. Why do people lack basic essentials?
4. Jesus has power to do \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is given unto Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “**And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full**” (Matthew 14:20).

**LESSON:** Jesus has power to do all things.

**THOUGHT:** I trust Jesus for all my needs.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should discuss in groups, five things they have learnt from the lesson.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 169 – WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Jesus is a mighty God, everybody bows before Him (2) Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life, whosoever cometh to Him shall never lack  
(3) He has done for me.

**HOMEWORK:** Share the love of Jesus with at least two children in your neighbourhood.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	JOHN	6:1-3
TUESDAY	JOHN	6:4-6
WEDNESDAY	JOHN	6:7-9
THURSDAY	JOHN	6:10-12
FRIDAY	JOHN	6:13-14
SATURDAY	JOHN	6:22-24
SUNDAY	JOHN	6:25-27

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Multitudes 2. Miracles 3. Provision 4. Shelter 5. Gospels.

## LESSON 35

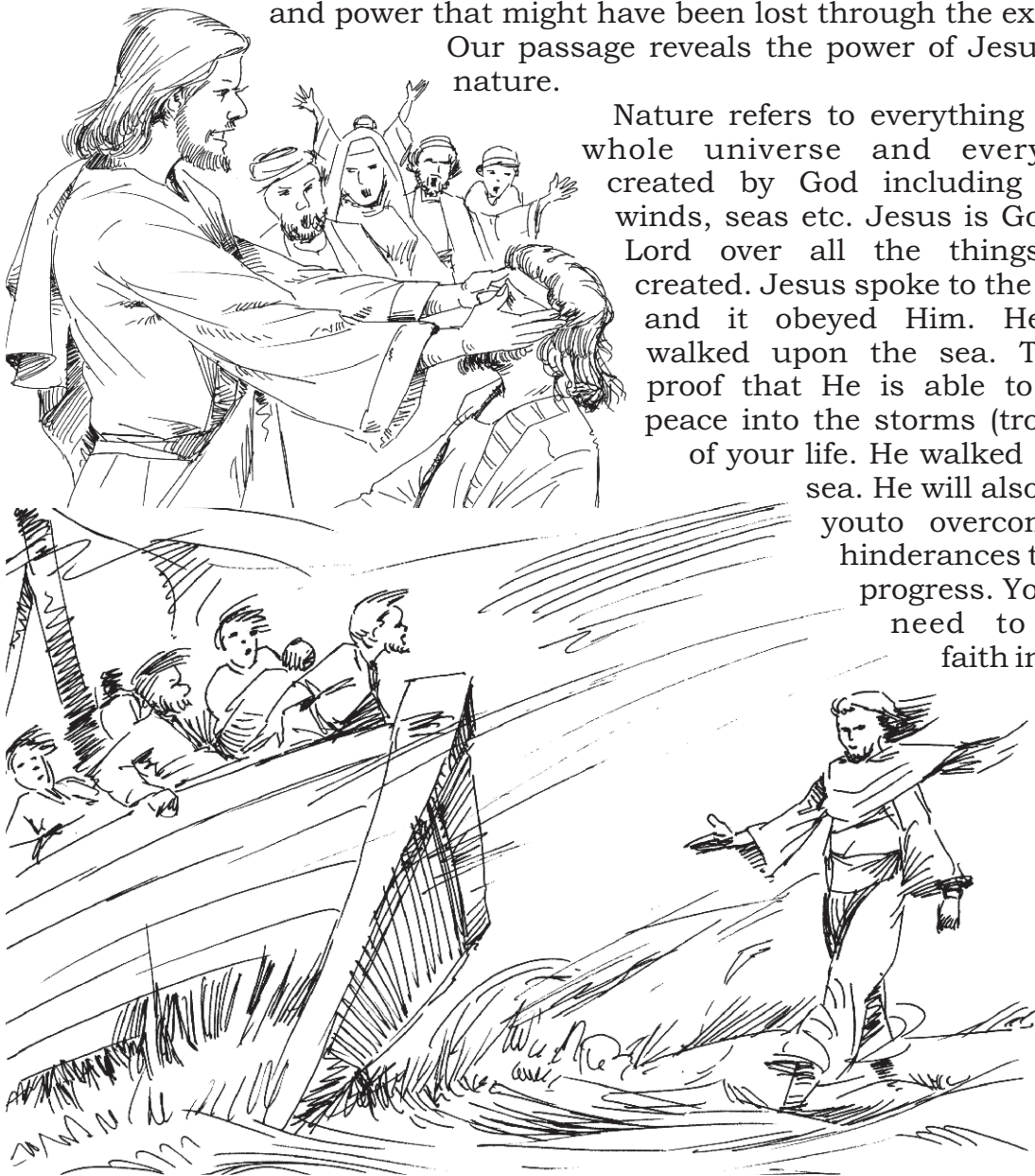
# CHRIST'S POWER OVER NATURE

Matthew 14:22-36; Luke 8:22-25

**J**esus had performed the miracle of feeding the multitudes in the wilderness, He then commanded His disciples to go before Him in a ship to the other side of the sea, while He sent the multitudes away. After He had done this, He went up into the mountain to pray until it was evening. He was there alone without anyone disturbing Him in order to receive fresh anointing from God the Father. It is very important that after a major spiritual exercise; children of God should find time to pray in order to renew anointing and power that might have been lost through the exercise.

Our passage reveals the power of Jesus over nature.

Nature refers to everything in the whole universe and everything created by God including stars, winds, seas etc. Jesus is God and Lord over all the things God created. Jesus spoke to the Storm and it obeyed Him. He also walked upon the sea. This is proof that He is able to bring peace into the storms (troubles) of your life. He walked on the sea. He will also make you to overcome all hinderances to your progress. You only need to have faith in Him.



## 1. THE PRAYER LIFE OF JESUS AND HIS WORK:

Matthew 14:22,23; Luke 8:22; Mark 1:35

Jesus Christ is a perfect example to all His friends in all areas of life. He showed this in the area of prayer as we saw in our text. Before Jesus started to pray: (i) He prepared Himself for the prayer by sending away the multitude so that they would not disturb Him. As friends of Jesus, we must not allow anything to disturb us while praying. We must make sure we don't pray in a noisy place but rather in a quiet place (Mark 1:35). (ii) He was alone praying to His Father. When we have our quiet time in the morning and evening, we must be alone and allow God to speak to us from the Bible while we in turn speak to Him in our prayers. Our Lord Jesus had reasons for withdrawing Himself to the mountain to pray; these might be firstly, to have a close relationship with His Father, thus He told His disciples to go ahead of Him to the other side of the sea. This shows His desire to always be with His Father in prayer.

Secondly, He was going to intercede for His disciples, knowing already that there will be storms on the sea which His disciples did not know about (Matthew 14:24). Thirdly, He wanted to receive instructions for the future, strength against temptation and fresh anointing for service.

Children should also pray without ceasing to receive instructions from the Lord particularly when important decisions are to be taken, like the type of secondary school to attend or where to be at a point of your life. You should also pray against falling into temptation on daily basis, pray for your parents for provision and protection of God. You should also not forget to pray for your friends, pastors, teachers, leaders and the nation. As you pray in the name of Jesus, God will answer your prayers.

## 2. THE POWER OF JESUS OVER THE ELEMENTS OF NATURE:

Matthew 14:24-33; Luke 8:23-25; John 6:20,21

After Jesus had prayed and received strength from His Father, He returned to His disciples walking on the sea; that is a demonstration of Jesus' power over nature (Matthew 14:25). Jesus has the power to walk on the sea which no other person can do because He is God and He can do all things. The disciples of Jesus were afraid when they saw Jesus walking on the sea. They thought He was a spirit, but in Matthew 14:27, Jesus spoke to calm their fearful hearts saying, **“be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid”**. Why are you afraid, is it for lack of food or school fees, sickness, pain and bad dreams? Jesus is saying to you today **“... be not afraid”**. He is the **“I AM THAT I AM”** (Exodus 3:14). He will solve all your problems today as you trust in Him.

Peter tried to walk on the sea when Jesus commanded him to come (Matthew 14:29) and he did, but it was at the command of Jesus. As Peter was walking on the sea to meet Jesus, he looked away from Jesus and saw the wind and he began to sink; but as he cried to Jesus, He immediately stretched out His hands and saved him. This is another demonstration of the power of Jesus to save in all circumstances of life. As you call on Jesus in any trouble and do not doubt His power, He will save you and deliver you as He did to Peter.

As Jesus entered the ship, the wind ceased (stopped). Jesus has power

over the wind, sea and all the things around us. Whatever you are passing through in your life, just call on Jesus, let Him enter the ship of your life by surrendering your life to Him in repentance. If you are still a sinner, ask Him to be your Lord and Saviour, He will surely do it and you will continue to enjoy His protection. As a saint, cry unto Him as Peter did, He will answer and deliver you.

After Jesus entered the ship, and the wind ceased, the disciples worshipped Him and said, **“Of a truth thou art the Son of God”**. In a similar way today, we must know that whenever God demonstrates His power in our midst either during crusades, in our churches, at the retreats or in our personal lives, we must worship and give Him all the glory because He is always present in our midst.

### **3. THE POWER OF JESUS OVER SICKNESSES AND DISEASES:**

Matthew 14:34-36; 4:24; 8:16,17; Mark 2:1-3,10-12; 3:8-12

After the storm, Jesus Christ and His disciples were able to sail safely to the other side of the sea. If you want to get to heaven and live forever with God, Jesus must remain in the ship of your life.

Immediately they landed at the other side of the sea and the people heard that Jesus had come, they went and invited their friends and brought all that were sick and diseased. Jesus healed them and they were all made whole. This same Jesus who healed those people is still alive today.

As you come to Him with your sicknesses and diseases. He will heal you and make you whole. However, the greatest sickness and disease that can destroy the body and soul in hell fire is sin. Are you a sinner? Confess your sins to God and turn away from them, ask for cleansing in the Blood of Jesus. Then invite Jesus to come to your heart and accept Him as your Saviour and Lord. Take these steps today and you will be saved. If you are sick, call upon Him, He will heal you.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Nature refers to \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Jesus demonstrate His power over nature?
3. What lessons can you draw out from the prayer life of Christ?
4. Who has power to heal all sickness?
5. What is the greatest sickness that can destroy both the body and soul?
6. How can a sinner be free from the great sickness?

**MEMORY VERSE:** **“And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm”** (Luke 8:24).

**LESSON:** All power belongs to Jesus.

**THOUGHT:** I will not be afraid as long as Jesus is in the ship of my life.



**ACTIVITY:** Children are to mention three Bible instances where Jesus demonstrated His power over nature.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 19 – CHRIST JESUS HATH THE POWER**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Jesus power, super power (2) What manner of man is Jesus (3) All power belong to Jesus.

**HOMEWORK:** Children are to draw the picture of Jesus walking on the sea and paint it with different colours to show the sea and Jesus.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MARK	6:45-48
TUESDAY	MARK	4:35-38
WEDNESDAY	MARK	4:39-41
THURSDAY	MARK	11:12-14
FRIDAY	MARK	11:20-24
SATURDAY	MARK	6:49-52
SUNDAY	MARK	6:53-56

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:

1. Power 2. Nature 3. Disturbance 4. Elements 5. Instruction

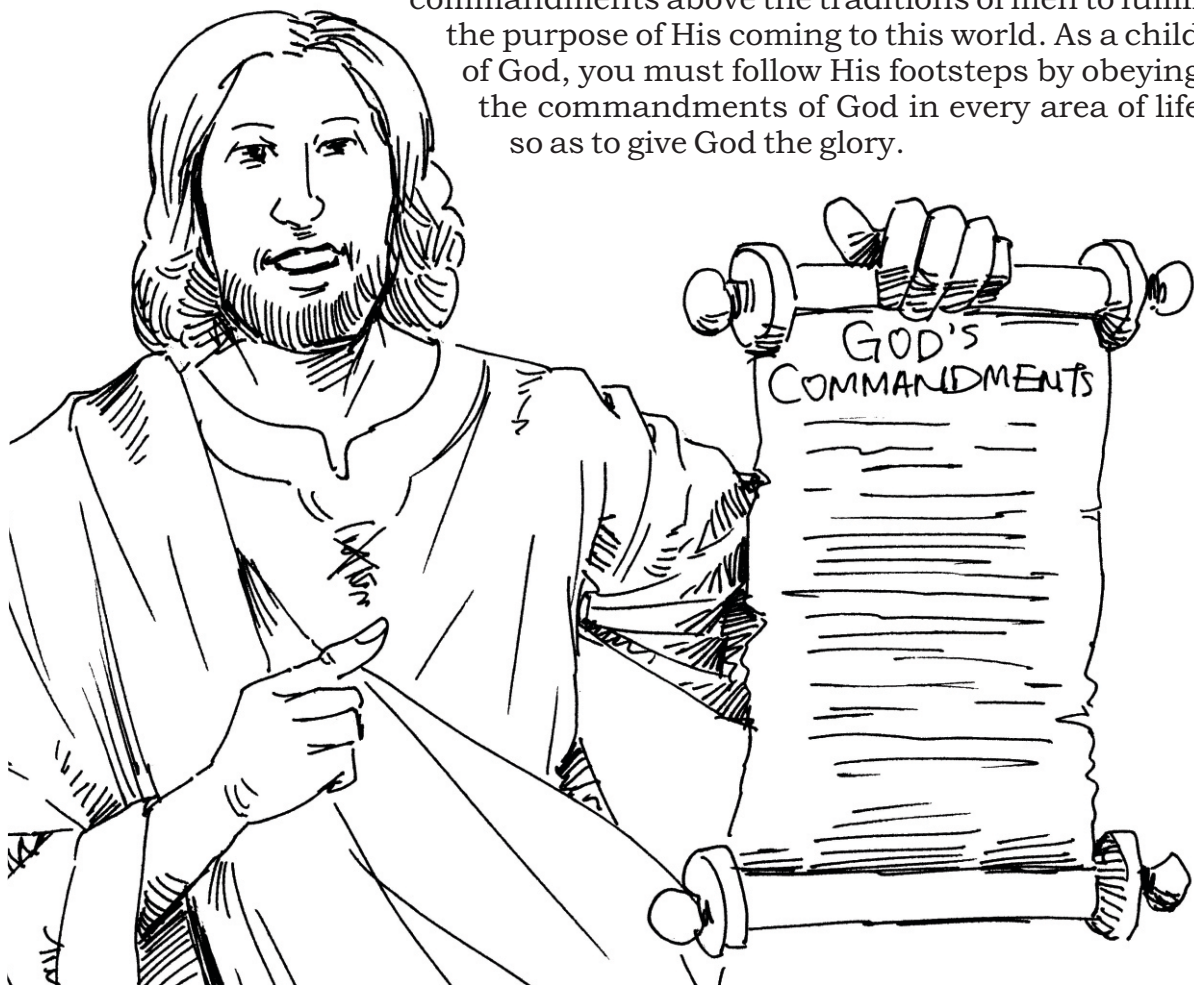
**LESSON 36**  
**CHRIST EXALTS GOD'S COMMANDMENTS  
OVER TRADITIONS**

Matthew 15:1-39

**T**o exalt is to honour, hold in high esteem or to be raised in rank or status. People usually honour whom they love in the society. As a friend of Jesus and a child of God, we are to exalt God more than anything or anyone in this world. Commandment is a rule to be strictly observed. The Ten Commandments were given to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai by God when they journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land under the leadership of Moses. The commandments were to control their behaviour and relationship with God and with one another.

Tradition is a part of culture that is passed from person to person or generation to generation. It could also refer to an inherited pattern of thought or action which may not be in line with the word of God.

Jesus Christ, our Saviour, the Son of God, highly exalted His father's commandments above the traditions of men to fulfill the purpose of His coming to this world. As a child of God, you must follow His footsteps by obeying the commandments of God in every area of life so as to give God the glory.



## **1. GOD'S COMMANDMENTS:**

Matthew 15:1-9; Exodus 20:1-17; Luke 10:25-28

Our loving God knows what is best for His children, He has given us some commandments (rules) to obey so as to live a life that will exalt His name. His love and care for His people made Him to give the children of Israel the Ten Commandments in the wilderness at Mount Sinai through Moses. These commandments are:

- i. Thou shalt have no other gods before me,
- ii. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,
- iii. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain,
- iv. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,
- v. Honour thy father and thy mother,
- vi. Thou shalt not kill,
- vii. Thou shalt not commit adultery (immorality of any kind),
- viii. Thou shalt not steal,
- ix. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour,
- x. Thou shalt not covet.

Children who are friends of Jesus have been given the grace by the Spirit of God to keep God's commandments. For a sinner to be able to keep them, he/she must repent from sins through the saving grace of God. He must confess all his sins and accept Jesus as personal Lord and Saviour. It is only then that he can receive grace to obey the commandments of God (Romans 8:2).

Knowing these commandments and reciting them do not earn you salvation. As you come out of your sin of lying, stealing, cursing, disobedience, immorality, wickedness etc., God will give you the grace to live in obedience to His word (Deuteronomy 28:1-2). The commandments of God are given to help children to live holy and abstain from every form of hypocrisy.

## **2. CHRIST EXALTS GOD'S COMMANDMENTS OVER TRADITION**

Matthew 15:1-39; Mark 7:1-13

After the fall of man, God drove Adam and Eve out of the beautiful garden of Eden; but because of God's love for us, He sent His only begotten son to die for us and bring us back to Himself (Romans 5:8). Therefore, Angel Gabriel announced the coming of Jesus to this sinful world through the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1:21).

According to the promise of God, Jesus Christ was born to save us from our sins. In obedience to His heavenly father, He went about doing good and preaching the word of God to people in the temple and everywhere, Jesus (i) healed the sick, (ii) raised the dead, (iii) restored sight to the blind, (iv) made the lame to rise and walk. As He went about His earthly ministry, He saw things in the life of the religious leaders that is not according to God's commandment. He frowned at such things and corrected the errors. The Pharisees' habit of living a double standard life and polluting the temple of God were corrected.

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law placed human tradition above

God's written revelation. Jesus Christ does not condemn all traditions but only those that are against God's word. The law of the land must be subject to the word of God. Tradition is from men and it allows (i) Fear in man's heart (ii) Hypocrisy (iii) Waywardness (iv) Lack of faith in God (v) Disobedience to God's word. Traditions does not exalt God therefore, observing it without repentance will lead to destruction in hell fire.

Biblical examples of those who exalted God's commandment are:

- i. **Abraham** – God called him out of an idolatrous nation, and he obeyed (Genesis 12:1-4).
- ii. **Moses** – God sent him to Pharaoh to deliver the children of Israel in the land of bondage and he obeyed (Exodus 4:19-20). He also received the commandments from God and gave it to the people
- iii. **Joseph** – exalted God's commandment and refused to commit immorality with his master's wife (Genesis 39:7-9).
- iv. **Phinehas** – the son of Eleazar – He stood against immortality in the camp of Israel in the wilderness (Numbers 25:7-13).
- v. **Micaiah** – he did not fear king Ahab but boldly delivered the message that God had sent him (1 Kings 22:14).
- vi. **The disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ** - they we re all obedient to God's commandment and exalted God in their lives.

As a friend of Jesus Christ, how can you exalt God's commandment? (i) Live a holy life (ii) Read your Bible daily (iii) Meditate on the word of God (iv) Share the word of God with others (v) Do your quiet time regularly (vi) Visit the sick (vii) Share your substance with the needy (viii) Pay your tithes and offering regularly (ix) Obey God's word, do not add or remove from it (x) Continue to follow Jesus till the end.

### **3. BENEFITS OF EXALTING GOD'S COMMANDMENT OVER TRADITION:**

Matthew 14:21-31; Numbers 25:12-13

Faith and obedience to God's word will attract God's abundant blessings into your life. The Canaanite woman exercised faith in Christ who is the word of God. She received a miracle as her daughter was made whole. A lot of benefits await those who exalt God's commandment over tradition in this world and in the world to come. Some of these benefits are:

- i. Experience of God's presence
- ii. Answers to prayers
- iii. Divine help and provision
- iv. Protection and preservation from evil
- v. Good success
- vi. Healing and divine health
- vii. Eternal life in heaven with God and crown with stars.

It is only those who exalt the Name of God through their lifestyle that will enjoy these benefits. If you are still doing bad things, why don't you surrender your life to Jesus now, by repenting and forsaking your sins and accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour. It is then that you can exalt God and enjoy the blessings of God.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. State the fifth commandment \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which should be placed higher - tradition or God's commandments? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Mention two people in the Bible that exalted God's commandment. \_\_\_\_\_
4. How should a Christian exalt God's word? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Mention any two benefits of exalting God's commandments \_\_\_\_\_
6. A sinner can exalt God's commandment. Yes/No?

**MEMORY VERSE:** "But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? (Matthew 15:3).

**LESSON:** God has exalted His word above everything.

**THOUGHT:** I must exalt God's word in my life so as to enjoy God's favour and blessings.

**ACTIVITY:** Two children should be called out to explain how friends of Jesus can exalt God's commandment over tradition.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 49 – LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IN YOU**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Blessings and honour and glory and praise (2) Immortal God, invincible God (3) We bring the sacrifice of praise.

**HOMEWORK:** Write in your homework book, reasons why believers should not exalt tradition and culture over God's commandments.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MARK	7:1-3
TUESDAY	MARK	7:4-6
WEDNESDAY	MARK	7:7-9
THURSDAY	MARK	7:10-13
FRIDAY	MARK	7:14-16
SATURDAY	MARK	7:17-20
SUNDAY	MARK	7:21-23

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH:**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Transgress 2. Hypocrites 3. Commandments 4. Tradition 5. Exalt



## LESSON 37

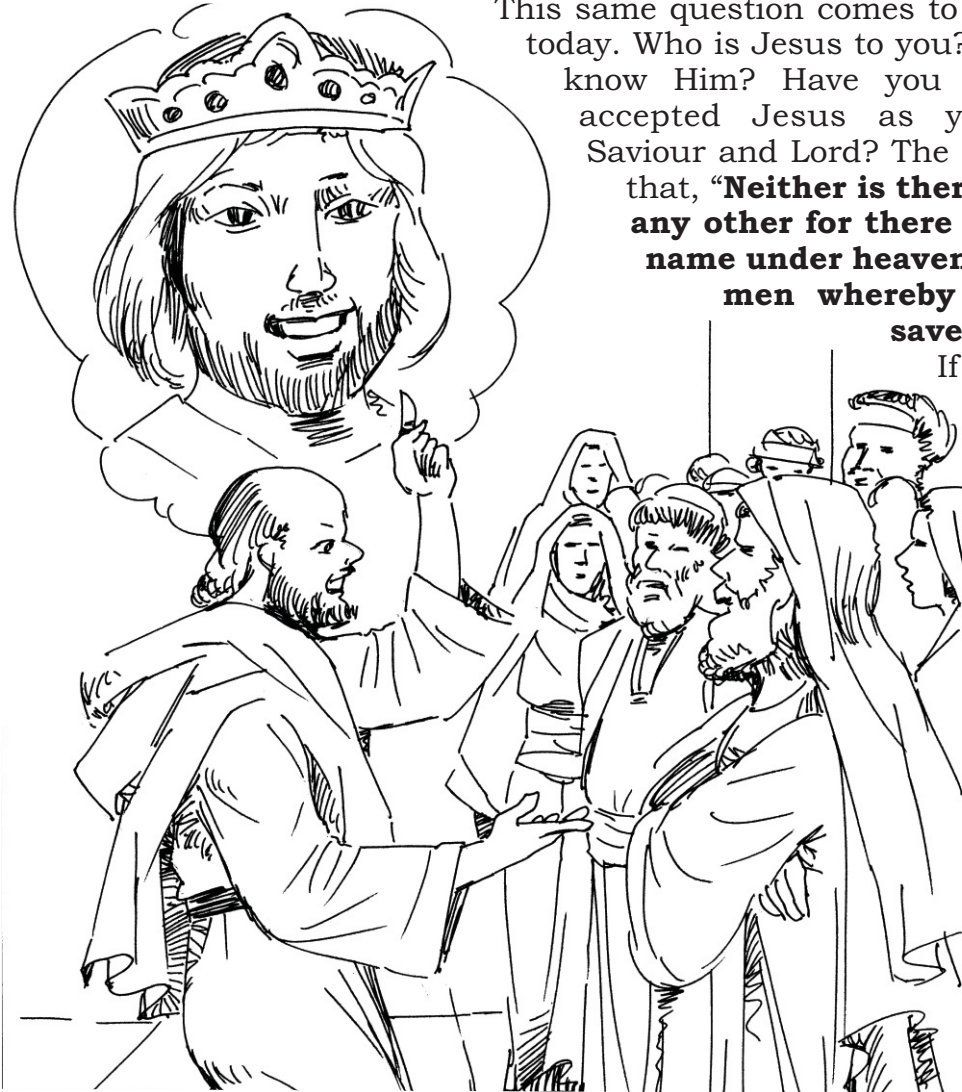
# PETER CONFESSES CHRIST

Matthew 16 1-28; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-27; 18:31-34

**A** lot of people view Jesus in different ways. For example, (i) The religious leaders say Jesus is Elijah, John the Baptist or one of the prophets who did miracles and pronounced God's judgment on sinners. This may be the reason why they came to seek for a sign from Christ (Matthew 16:1). (ii) Multitudes say that Jesus is a miracle worker, a prophet and provider. They were always seeking for Him so He could heal and provide bread for them (John 6:14,26). (iii) Nicodemus saw Jesus as a great teacher who came from God (John 3:2). Now Jesus wants to know if His close friends really understand who He is. Thus, in our Bible passage He asked them a simple question **"but whom say ye that I am?"** In answer to this question, Simon Peter gave the correct answer which shows that he really knows who Christ is.

This same question comes to every boy/girl today. Who is Jesus to you? Do you really know Him? Have you repented and accepted Jesus as your personal Saviour and Lord? The Bible confirms that, **"Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved"** (Acts 4:12).

If you are not yet saved, accept  
a n d  
c o n f e s s  
Jesus now  
and let  
Him be  
y o u r  
Saviour  
a n d  
Lord.



### **1. JESUS WARNS AGAINST FALSE TEACHING:**

Matthew 16:1-12; Luke 12:1

The Pharisees and the Sadducees were religious leaders who opposed Jesus teachings. They were pretenders who taught others but refused to apply those teachings to their own lifestyle. They came to Jesus to test Him and asked Him to show them a sign but Jesus knowing their thoughts told them they already had the sign of Jonah the prophet. The Messiah who was to die for their sins was before them and they refused to believe in Him. Unbelief leads to hardness of heart and eternal separation from God. That is why Jesus warned His disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.

Jesus knew that His disciples were yet to fully understand His mission on earth, some were still concerned about only physical things like bread, comfort and enjoyment. Jesus did not want them to fall into the same error of the religious leaders. The leaven of the Pharisees refers to their teachings and evil influence. A little of their error can spread and influence a large group of people to miss the Saviour and the Kingdom of God. Do not be deceived by false teachers, they are everywhere doing miracles and deceiving many people. Beware! Jesus only is our message, seek Him, believe in Him and you will be saved.

### **2. JESUS' QUESTION AND PETER'S CONFESSION OF FAITH:**

Matthew 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-27

The discussion of Jesus with His disciples was a kind of question and answer session. Jesus wanted to find out if His disciples really knew Him. He wanted them to be different from the religious leaders therefore, He asked them two important questions: (i) Whom do men say that I the son of man am? The disciples replied that some thought Jesus was John the Baptist or one of the prophets. (ii) But whom say ye that I am? This was the question that really concerned the disciples. Peter's answer showed that he had a clear revelation from God. He confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Based on this confession of faith, Jesus promised the establishment of his true church and gave Simon Peter a new name.

The church is built on Christ the solid rock and the gate of hell can never prevail or stand against the friends of Jesus. Are you a member of this glorious church? To become a member, a sinner must repent and confess all his sins to Jesus. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus and confess Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Jesus will give him/her a new name. The saved child must confess Jesus before sinners, tell them of His saving grace, defend the word of God and reject false teachings.

### **3. CONFESSING CHRIST AND FOLLOWING HIM TILL THE END:**

Matthew 16:19,21-28; Luke 18:31-34

Jesus has established His church and given the keys of the kingdom to His friends. The keys represent authority for entry. He gave us this authority to carry out the great commission of preaching the gospel. This authority for proclaiming the gospel include power to “**bind**” and to “**lose**” on earth. He

expects us to use every method available to reach sinner, preach to them and get them converted. As we do this, we must remember that He died on the cross to save us. Peter forgot the purpose of Christ coming into the world. He told Jesus that He should not go to the cross. Jesus rebuked him and made him to know that Satan was behind his words of unbelief. Jesus then taught them of the need to follow Him steadfastly. Anyone who desires to serve the Lord must be ready to deny himself, endure suffering and determine to follow Jesus till the end.

Jesus will soon come to take His friends to heaven. Therefore, friends of Jesus must continue to love Him, reject false teachers and confess Christ everywhere they go. There are great rewards for those who will endure: joy of salvation of sinners, miracles, signs and wonders, spiritual strength, provision of good things of life and eternal life in heaven at last.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. How did religious leaders view Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did Jesus warn His friends against false teachings? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Peter confess Christ?
4. How can (a) a sinner (b) a Christian confess Christ?
5. Who is Jesus Christ to you?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “**And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God**” (Matthew 16:16).

**LESSON:** Jesus is the son of God and the Saviour of the world.

**THOUGHT:** I confess Jesus as my Saviour and Lord.

**ACTIVITY:** Sword Drill - Acts 4:12; 1 John 4:1; Luke 12:1; Matthew 14:33; Hebrews 1:2

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 75 – THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Magnify Him Amen (2) He is the King of kings (3) Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever

**HOMEWORK:** Tell two people in your class about the love of Jesus during the week.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	1 JOHN	4:1-3
TUESDAY	1 JOHN	4:4-6
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	14:32-34
THURSDAY	JOHN	6;67-69
FRIDAY	JOHN	11;25-27
SATURDAY	ACTS	8:35-37
SUNDAY	ROMANS	10:8-11

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Multitudes 2. Confession 3. Beware 4. Confess 5. Proclaim



## LESSON 38

# TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

Matthew 17:1-27; Mark 9:1-29; Luke 9:28-45

**J**esus took three of his closest disciples to a mountain to pray. These three were Peter, John and James. He wanted them to see His glory. Suddenly, His appearance changed. His clothes became whiter, very beautiful and His face shone with brightness and great glory. Moses and Elijah appeared by His side and spoke with Him on His forthcoming suffering and death for the salvation of humanity. Then a cloud came around them (showing the presence of God the father) and a voice spoke out of the cloud **"This is my beloved son: hear ye him"** The change was so glorious that Peter wanted them to stay back and live there forever.

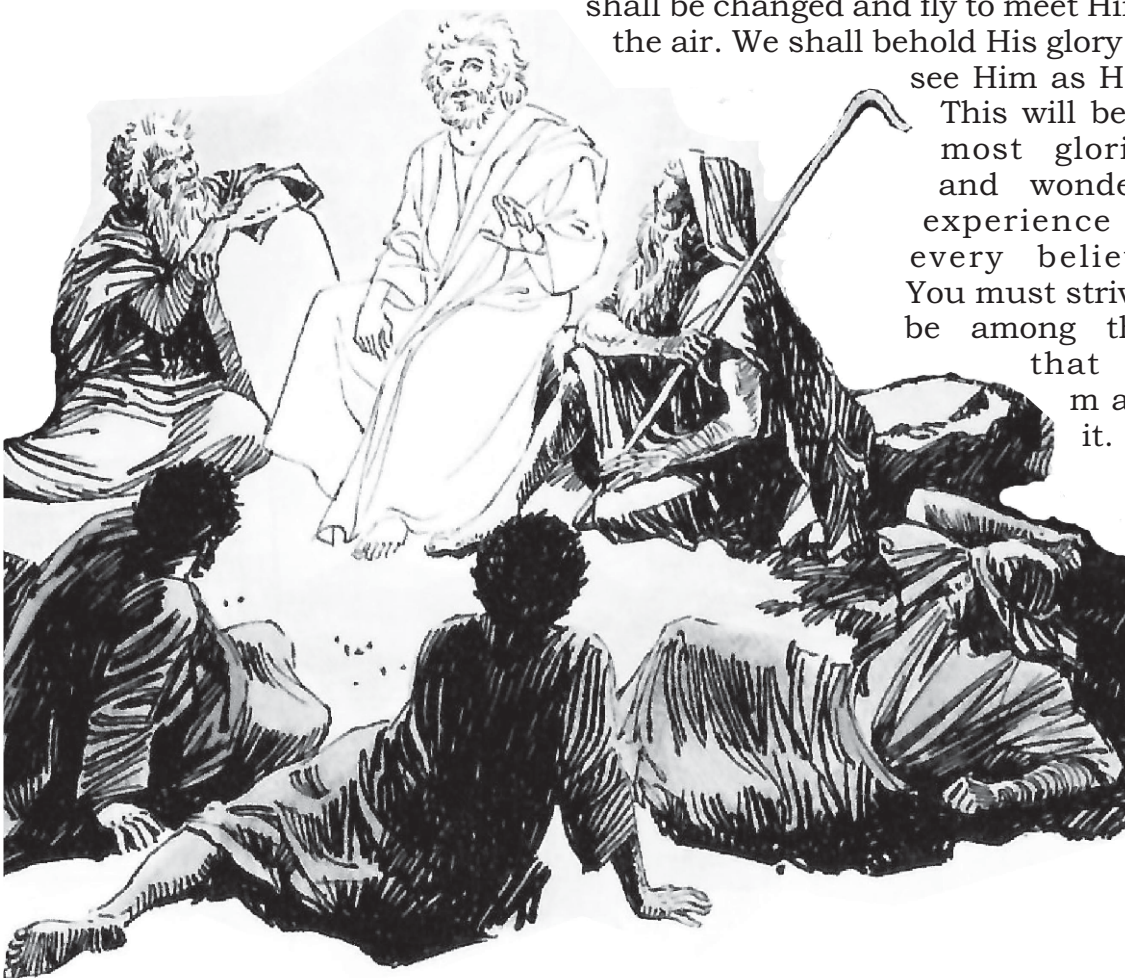
The disciples fell on their faces afraid but Jesus touched them and assured them not to be afraid. When they lifted their faces, they did not see Moses and Elijah again. Jesus asked them not to tell anyone about what they had seen. This experience was a great miracle to the three disciples; they saw Christ's heavenly glory as He really is - God in human flesh. One day, all His friends

shall be changed and fly to meet Him in the air. We shall behold His glory and

see Him as He is.

This will be the most glorious and wonderful experience for every believer.

You must strive to be among those that will make it.





## **1. MEANING AND PURPOSE OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST:**

Matthew 17:1-14; Mark 9:1-6; Luke 9:28-34

Transfiguration means a change in appearance; making a person more beautiful, important and more glorious than people know him to be. Christ was transfigured while He was praying. This is to teach us as His friends the importance of praying. The disciples were sleeping while Jesus was praying. (Luke 9:29-32). This is not the only occasion that the disciples slept while Jesus was praying. They slept also in the garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:37). Most children today are in the habit of sleeping or playing while their parents are praying. We should join others during prayer time at home or in the church. It is only through prayer that we can experience spiritual transformation and receive other blessings from God. Transfiguration of Jesus happened in the presence of His friends so that they could become witnesses of all that they had seen and heard. The purposes of Jesus' transfiguration are to: (i) Encourage Jesus as He got nearer to His death on the cross. (ii) Announce to the disciples that Jesus must truly suffer and die for our sins. (iii) Prove to the disciples that Jesus is the Son of God who alone had the power to die for our sins (iv) Reveal a little part of the glory that friends of Jesus would enjoy in heaven.

**“Beloved, now are we the sons of God and it does not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is”** (1 John 3:2). Are you prepared for heaven? As the body of Jesus was transfigured, so also the body of all friends of Jesus would change at the time of rapture. We shall not go to heaven with our present bodies. The body you have now will be removed and a new one would be given (1 Corinthians 15:49-52) The privilege is only for friends of Jesus and if you are yet to become one, ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus.

## **2. THE MESSAGE AND INSTRUCTION ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION:**

Matthew 17:5-13; Mark 9:7-13; Luke 9:35,36; Matthew 3:17

**“And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying; this is my beloved son: hear him”** (Luke 9:35). God the father spoke from heaven instructing every child to listen to Jesus and obey Him. There are lots of benefits to be enjoyed when you listen to God's word and do them. Jesus told the disciples to keep the transfiguration story secret until He rose from the dead. We can learn the following lessons from this: (i) There is time to speak and time to be silent. Many children make noise in school and in the church.

As a friend of Jesus, you must not make noise lest you talk out the power of God in you, become empty and lose the favour of God. (ii) It is also a mark of the Lord's humble nature. Humility is a Christian virtue which makes a child not

to think of himself better than others. We are what we are by the grace of God. Therefore, you must follow Christ example in everything.

### **3. MIRACLES AND WONDERS THROUGH GOD'S BELOVETH SON:**

Matthew 17:14-27; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-45

As soon as Jesus and His three disciples came down from the mount of transfiguration, they encountered some challenges that needed immediate solution. Jesus immediately provided solution to those problems. He demonstrates His power and authority over sicknesses, diseases, demonic affliction and evil powers. (i) He delivered a boy that was possessed by evil spirit. The boy had been brought earlier by his father to the remaining disciples. They could not help him because of their lack of faith. By the word of authority from Jesus, the devil came out of the boy. Jesus has given us power to cast out all demons, tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the powers of the enemy.

All we need to do is to have faith in Him and His holy word. Our trust and obedience to His word are the source and secret of faith. (ii) Jesus sent Peter to bring money out of the fish's mouth to pay for tax. He demonstrated His power over all things so that the religious leaders would know that the earth and everything in it belongs to Him. To be able to work wonders and miracles, a child must surrender his life to Jesus. He must repent, turn away from all sins and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Then he will be transformed and given power to follow Jesus and do all that the Saviour did. If you are still a sinner, you must repent now and receive Jesus into your heart.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is transfiguration?
2. Mention the three friends of Jesus who followed Him to the mountain of transfiguration.
3. Who are the two Old Testament saints that appeared on the mountain with Jesus?
4. What was the message received on the mount of transfiguration?
5. At what time will the bodies of friends of Jesus be changed and what can a sinful child do to partake of the change that will take him to heaven?

**MEMORY VERSE:** "And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them" (Mark 9:2).

**LESSON:** Friends of Jesus will be transfigured like Jesus at the rapture.

**THOUGHT:** I will live a prayerful and holy life by the grace of God in order to partake in the rapture.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should search the following Bible passages and discover the instructions of Jesus to His friends. Luke 18:1; John 15:4; Hebrews 12:14; Mark 16:15

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 11 - HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Jesus shall reign forevermore (2) Heaven is full of joy (3) He is the Lord He changeth not.

**HOMEWORK:** Go and share the story of the transfiguration of Christ with sinful children and relate it with the rapture of friends of Jesus.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	2 PETER	1:15-18
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	3:15-17
WEDNESDAY	MARK	1:9-11
THURSDAY	ISAIAH	42:1-4
FRIDAY	DANIEL	8:15-18
SATURDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	15:51-54
SUNDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	15:55-58

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

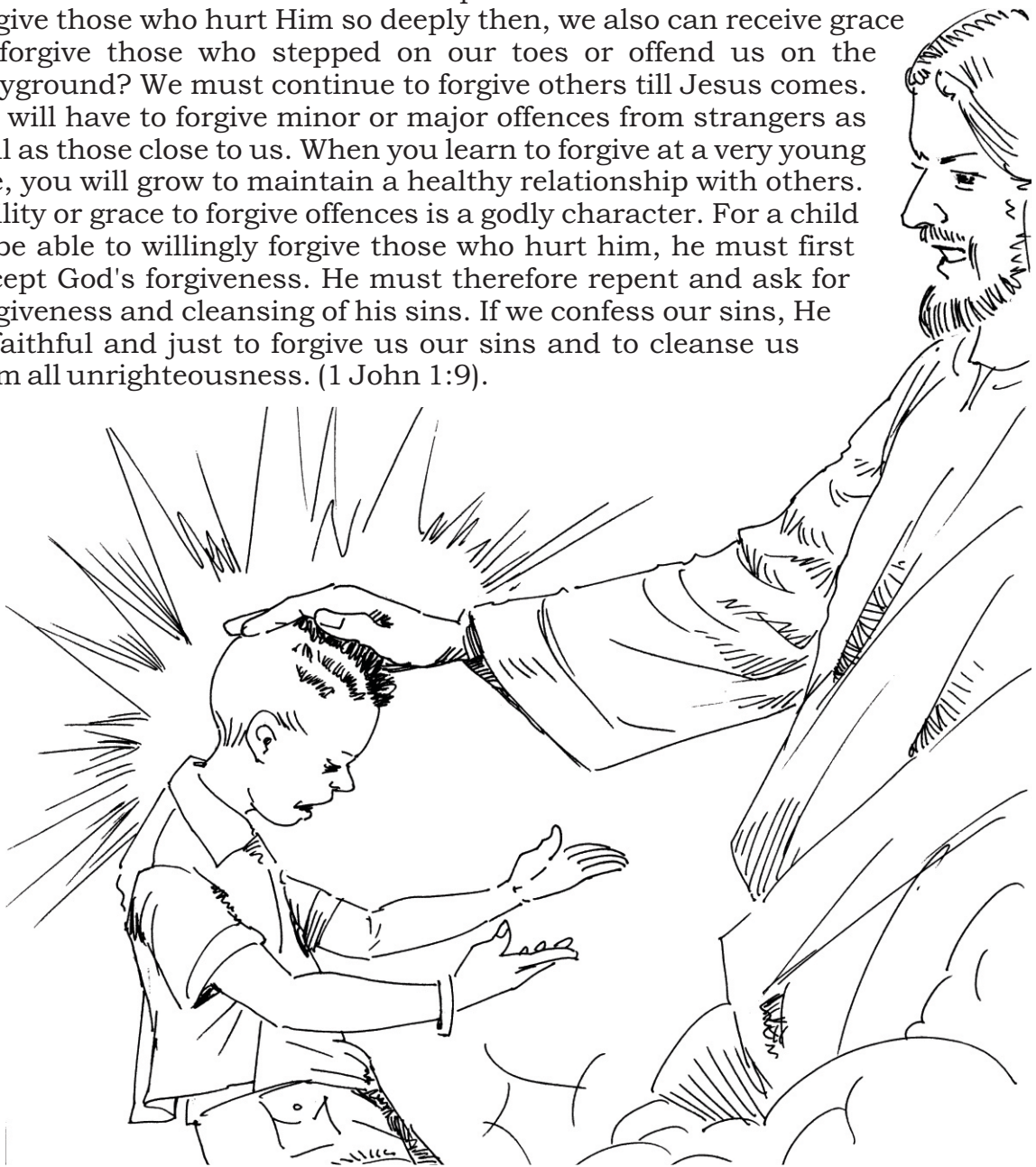
1. Humanity 2. Humility 3. Resemble 4. Countenance 5. Glistening

## LESSON 39

# CHRIST TEACHES ON FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:1-35

**J**esus taught that forgiveness is central to the relationship between God and His creatures and also between individuals. First, Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins so that we can be forgiven. We are therefore encouraged by scriptures to forgive others by following the Lord's example as He forgives us. Jesus being hung on the cross and still forgiving those who crucified Him is an example for us to follow. If Jesus could forgive those who hurt Him so deeply then, we also can receive grace to forgive those who stepped on our toes or offend us on the playground? We must continue to forgive others till Jesus comes. We will have to forgive minor or major offences from strangers as well as those close to us. When you learn to forgive at a very young age, you will grow to maintain a healthy relationship with others. Ability or grace to forgive offences is a godly character. For a child to be able to willingly forgive those who hurt him, he must first accept God's forgiveness. He must therefore repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing of his sins. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9).



## **1. GOD FORGIVES:**

Matthew 18:1-14; 1 John 1:7-9; Luke 15:17-24

God is ever willing to forgive sinners. It is not His wish that anyone should perish. He wants everyone to turn to Him for salvation so that they will not die in their sins. Sinners deserve to die but God in His love and mercy made provision for man to receive pardon for sin by sending His only begotten Son who came into the world to seek and save the lost. Forgiveness is a part of the whole plan of salvation provided for those who believe in Christ.

When a sinner is forgiven, the guilt of sin is taken away and replaced by justification and the sinner is declared righteous. However, we must know that God's forgiveness is conditional. It is not automatic for a sinner to be saved. There are certain things he must do. Therefore, if you are still a sinner, you have to take these steps: (i) Humble yourself before God and accept that you are a sinner. (ii) Confess all your sins to God. (iii) Pray for forgiveness and cleansing of your sins with the blood of Jesus. (iv) Ask Jesus to come into your heart and be your Saviour, Lord and Master.

As a child, if you humble yourself, trust God and wholeheartedly take these steps, He will forgive all your sins. You will then receive grace to go and sin no more and also forgive those who offend you. Remember, that the greatest in God's kingdom are those who are genuinely converted.

## **2. JESUS TEACHES US TO FORGIVE:**

Matthew 18:15-20; 6:12-14; 5:38-39

Jesus' teaching on forgiveness is based on certain principles:

- That God has forgiven all our sins we also must forgive others.
- Forgiveness is not just for once, it should be a continuous act. Therefore, He said 'until seventy times seven' - we are to forgive as many times as we are offended.
- We must therefore employ every means available to us to maintain peace with others. If anyone hurts you, instead of taking revenge, tell him his offence. If he fails to listen or make peace, tell other believers or your teachers. Make efforts to settle misunderstandings between you and those who offend you.

Friends of Jesus must learn to forgive one another. Joseph forgave his brothers who sold him to strangers because they were envious. David forgave king Saul who wanted to kill him, and Stephen forgave those who stoned him to death by praying for them. There is no offence that is too big to be forgiven. Forgive those who abuse and hurt you, so you will also receive forgiveness from Christ. When you pray as a team or an individual, God will answer your prayers. Forgiveness helps to mend broken relationship and brings people closer together. Therefore, you must forgive.

## **3. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO FORGIVE OTHERS:**

Matthew 18:21-35; 6:15; Mark 11:25-26; James 2:13

Jesus emphasizes that Christians must be ready and willing to forgive the offence of others. There are great consequences for those who keep offences



and refuse to forgive those who hurt them. Jesus illustrated this with the parable of the unforgiving servant. He owed his master much more than he could pay. But his master had compassion on him. Notwithstanding this act of mercy that he received from his master; he punished a fellow servant who could not pay the little that he owed. He was forgiven much, yet he could not forgive the little that his fellow servant owed him. This was a wicked act on his part! He was therefore given the punishment he deserved.

If we are unwilling to forgive those who do us wrong, God will not forgive us our offences. Unforgiveness can also bring bitterness and separation amongst friends, unanswered prayer, emotional trouble and loss of fellowship with God. Anyone who dies with unforgiving spirit will not be accepted in God's kingdom. To avoid these consequences, you must learn to forgive and follow peace with all men. (Hebrews 12:14).

**QUESTIONS:**

1. How did God make provision for sinners to be saved?
2. What steps should a sinner take to receive forgiveness?
3. Christ's principles of forgiveness is based on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are the consequences of failing to forgive others?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “**So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses**” (Matthew 18:35).

**LESSON:** God always forgives those who repent and turn to Him.

**THOUGHT:** I will forgive those who do wrong to me.

**ACTIVITY:** True reconciliation - Children should think of someone who has hurt them at one time or the other. Then write a letter titled “I forgive you” to the person. Show it to the teachers for correction before sending it to the recipient.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 129 - GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Jesus loves me He died for me (2) Jesus’ love is very wonderful (3) We are heirs of the Father.

**HOMEWORK:** Write out in your note book, two people in the New Testament who received forgiveness from Christ.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MATTHEW	5:38-42
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	5:43-45
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	5:46-48
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	6:12-15
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	5:23-25
SATURDAY	EPHESIANS	4:30-32
SUNDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	2:5-10

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Forgiveness 2. Principles 3. Revenge 4. Illustrated 5. Compassion

## LESSON 40

# JACOB'S LAST DAYS ON EARTH

Genesis 48:1-22; 49:1-33; 50:1-26

**T**he people who walked with and served God in the Bible were referred to as Patriarchs. They served God faithfully to the extent that they received revelation when they would die and leave the earth. They were people who were not ashamed to be called children of God. They were outstanding believers in their generation. They were called and blessed by God. One of such patriarchs was Jacob. He was the grandson of Abraham, God's friend.

Through Jacob, God fulfilled the covenant He made with Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Jacob was now old and about to die. There were some significant and memorable things that he did during his last days. These events at the tail end of his life is what we shall examine in this study.

There are many lessons for us to learn here. Firstly, we should know that, no matter how long we live on earth, the end would come one day. Nevertheless, we must understand that our exit from the earth is not the end of life. Life continues hereafter either in hell or heaven.

The choice of where to spend eternity is left to you. The wise thing to do is to choose Jesus so that you can enter heaven at the end of your journey.

Secondly, we also learn that there are consequences for all our actions as we live in this world. The consequences can be negative or positive as

we can see from Jacob's last words to his children. This means that we must live to please God so as to enjoy blessings and be free from curses.



## **1. JACOB BLESSES JOSEPH'S CHILDREN:**

Genesis 48:1-22

Jacob was now one hundred and forty-seven years old and had lived in Egypt for seventeen (17) years. As a result of old age, Jacob became sick. When Joseph heard that his father was sick, he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim to visit Jacob. He knew that as their grandfather, he would be glad to pronounce God's blessings on them.

Though God revealed to Jacob that Manasseh, the older son would not be as great as his younger brother Ephraim, yet he pronounced God's blessings on them.

Jacob was old and he could not see very well anymore. Yet, his inner eyes were bright as the day light. Thus, he placed his hand of blessings on Joseph's children to signify who would come first among them. Those who are true children of God do not walk by sight but by the spirit.

Many times, in the Old Testament history, God chose the younger child over the older – for example, he chose Isaac instead of Ishmael, Jacob instead of Esau, Ephraim instead of Manasseh, David over his brothers. This shows that what we take as being 'first' among humans is not necessarily first with God. God chooses people on the basis of their obedience, purity and love for Him and not their position in the family.

Notwithstanding, Jacob still blessed both boys and they had equal rights and status with his other sons such as Reuben and Simeon. The descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh each became a full tribe in Israel. God's blessings are for the obedient. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land (Isaiah 1:19).

## **2. JACOB BLESSES HIS CHILDREN:**

Genesis 49:1-27

As Jacob's life drew to an end, he gathered together his sons and prophesied about their lives and future in God's purpose of redemption. The prophecies in this Bible passage contains both curses and blessings.

**(i) Curses** – the first prophecy was directed at Reuben who was Jacob's first born. He was entitled to the birthright and the first place of leadership, honour and power. Instead, his first place as leader was taken from him because of his immoral act with his father's wife. Children must be careful of what they do even while they are growing up. Your sinful acts can lead to damaging results not only to you but your future children and even grandchildren. If you have done any bad thing to God, your parents and others, repent now and make your way right.

The two other sons who were cursed are Simeon and Levi. In their anger, they destroyed a whole community because of their sister's (Dinah) carelessness. However, their father's curse on them was of a conditional nature even as were all the blessings for others. In later years, Levi's descendants who stood on the side of God during the wilderness journey were blessed and promoted to a honourable place. This shows that the curses on a

family can be broken and removed through repentance and faith in God.

**(ii) Blessings** – The other sons of Jacob were blessed because they were obedient to their father's counsel. These blessings also are conditional on their descendant's relationship with God. Through these promised blessings, especially on Judah the fourth born, Jesus was born to save the whole world.

Now, the door of abundant blessings is open to everyone that would come to the Saviour Jesus Christ. Even those who are under the curse can come. Jesus has come to seek and save the lost and deliver from every curse. Therefore, come to Him now, repent of all your sins, ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Invite Jesus to come into your heart to be your Saviour and friend. Continue to walk with Jesus as you pray every day, grow spiritually, live a holy life and preach the love of Jesus to sinners around you. There are both physical and spiritual blessings awaiting you as you take steps to repent and become a friend of Jesus.

### **3. THE END OF THE RIGHTEOUS:**

Genesis 49:28-33; 50:1-26; Psalm 116:15; Numbers 23:10

The last chapter of the book of Genesis drew the curtain on the lives of the two great patriarchs, Jacob and Joseph.

No matter how many years we spend on earth, one day, we will leave this world. Jacob, after blessing his children, gathered up his feet unto the bed, drew his last breath and went to heaven to meet His God. Likewise, after many years, Joseph also died peacefully at the age of One hundred and ten (110). He is now in heaven with other faithful patriarchs.

For true friends of Jesus, death is the beginning of an endless life of peace, joy and everlasting blessings in the presence of the Almighty God and His holy angels. Where will you be, heaven or hell? There was a man in the Bible who desired to die the death of the righteous. Alas! He ended up in dying as a sinner. His name was prophet Balaam. Do not be like him. Live for Christ both day and night, be faithful, be brave, be pure and lead others to light and life. This is the only way that can take you into the presence of God at the end of your journey on earth.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the people who walked with and served God.
2. No matter how long we live on earth, the end will come one day, True/False?
3. What did Jacob do during his last days on earth?
4. What lessons did you learn from Jacob's prophecies on Joseph's children, Reuben, Simeon and Levi?
5. What should a sinful child do to receive and enjoy God's blessings?
6. Where will you spend eternity?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “**And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people**” (Genesis 49:33).



**LESSON:** Better is the end of a thing than the beginning.

**THOUGHT:** My latter end shall be more glorious than my beginning.

**ACTIVITY:** Use the letters in the box to complete the words numbered 1-10. Pray and claim the promise.

**\A E U I O R C S\**

(1) P \_ \_ C \_ (2) P \_ R \_ T Y (3) P \_ W \_ R (4) P \_ \_ V \_ S \_ \_ N (5) P \_ \_  
M \_ T \_ \_ N (6) P \_ \_ G R \_ S S (7) P \_ \_ F \_ C T  
(8) S \_ C \_ \_ S \_ (9) S \_ L V \_ T \_ \_ N (10) S \_ C \_ R \_ T Y

### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 58 – THE LAST MILE OF THE WAY**

**CHORUSES:** (1) When I think of the goodness of Jesus (2) Today, today, tomorrow no more (3) Eternal life, I want to live eternal life.

**HOMEWORK:** Search the Bible and write out the name of five people who died as believers.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	HEBREWS	11:8-12
TUESDAY	HEBREWS	11:13-16
WEDNESDAY	HEBREWS	11:17-19
THURSDAY	HEBREWS	11:20-22
FRIDAY	DEUTERONOMY	33:1-3
SATURDAY	DEUTERONOMY	33:4-7
SUNDAY	DEUTERONOMY	33:8-11

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Patriarch 2. Outstanding 3. Generation 4. Redemption 5. Immoral.

## LESSON 41

# ISRAEL'S MULTIPLICATION AND OPPRESSION IN EGYPT

Exodus 1:1-22

**I**n the last study, we learnt that Jacob, the father of the children of Israel died. After his death, Joseph through whom the children of Israel got to Egypt also died. All the generations of his brothers died, and the remnant was their children, grandchildren and descendants. God multiplied them according to His promise to Abraham. Then king Pharaoh who loved Joseph

also died. Then came to the throne another Pharaoh who did not know Joseph. This king Pharaoh was wicked and decided to put the children of Israel under serious oppression and bondage. Today,

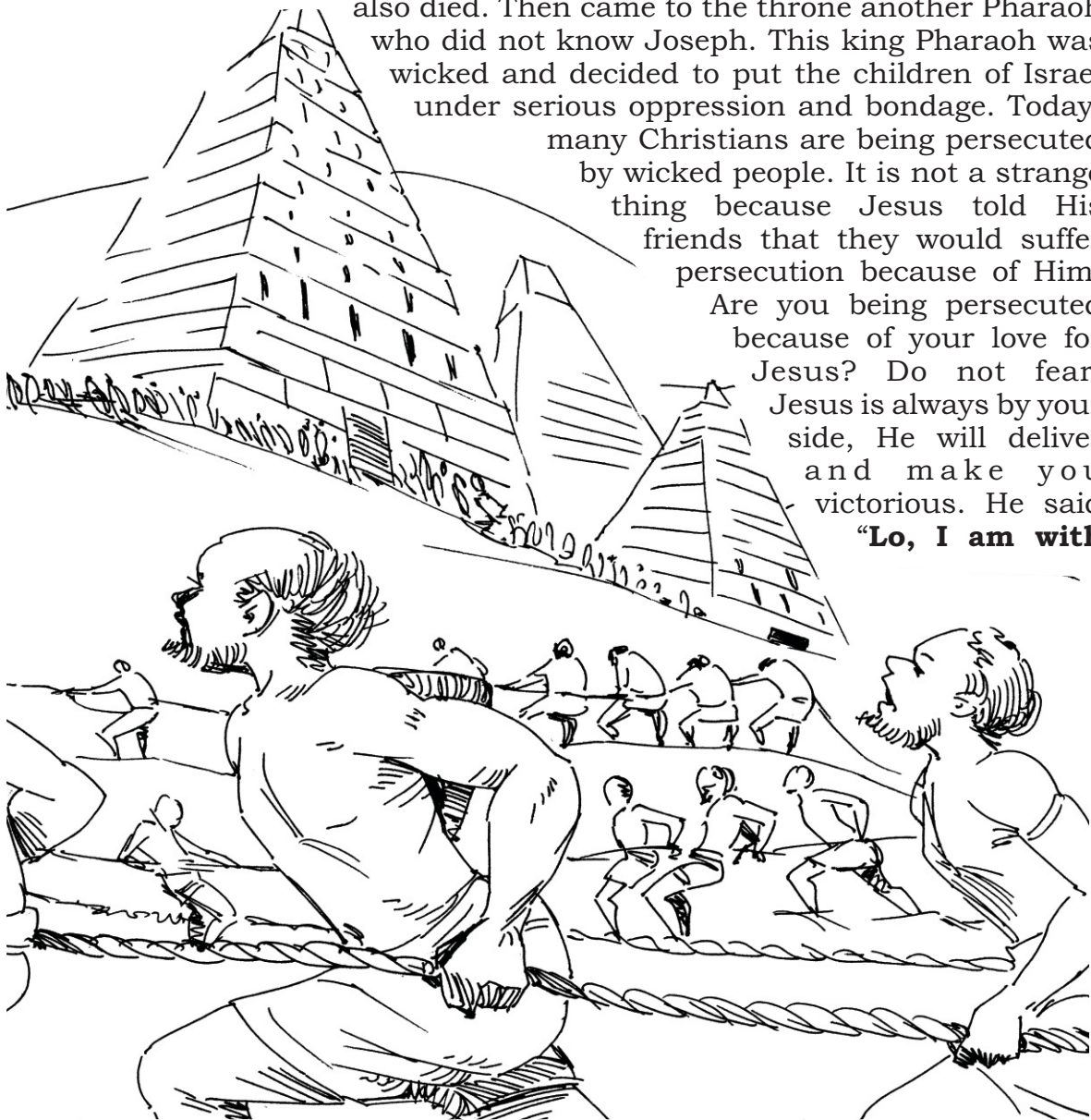
many Christians are being persecuted by wicked people. It is not a strange

thing because Jesus told His friends that they would suffer persecution because of Him.

Are you being persecuted because of your love for Jesus? Do not fear,

Jesus is always by your side, He will deliver and make you victorious. He said

**"Lo, I am with**



**you always, even unto the end of the world amen” (Matthew 28:20).**

### **1. ISRAEL'S MULTIPLICATION IN EGYPT:**

Exodus 1:1-7; Genesis 15:5; 46:8-27; Deuteronomy 10:22; Acts 7:14-17

Jacob and his children (sons, grandsons along with their wives and daughters) went down to Egypt. They were about seventy (70) people. Joseph and his two sons were already in Egypt. They became a mighty nation according to the promise God made to Abraham that He will make his children to become a great nation. God fulfilled His promise by multiplying them and made them mightier than the Egyptians. As friends of Jesus, we must trust God to fulfill His promises. God is faithful, all we need do is to trust Him.

The book of Exodus continues the story of God's dealings with the children of Israel which began with Abraham in Genesis. The time gap between the promise to Abraham and its fulfillment in Egypt runs into hundreds of years. Yet, God did exactly what He promised Abraham. His children multiplied and became like the stars of heaven as God promised. Time and distance, circumstances and situations can never affect God's promises.

Whatever He says He would do will surely come to pass. The choice to walk with God to make it happen is in our hands. If we remain faithful and obedient to His word, all that He has promised us will surely come to pass. Promises concerning fruitfulness both physical and spiritual, promotion, prosperity, provision of good things of life are available in His word. Believe it, pray it into your life and claim it by faith will, and be blessed.

### **2. BONDAGE AND OPPRESSION OF ISRAEL IN EGYPT:**

Exodus 1:8-22; Genesis 15:12-14; Psalm 105:25

After the death of Pharaoh, a new king arose in Egypt who did not know Joseph and the God of Joseph. The Egyptians began to oppress the children of Israel so as to: (i) stop them from multiplying and thereby weakening them, (ii) prevent them from growing to a point where they would gain freedom and leave Egypt. They made them serve as slaves and engaged them in the task of making bricks without giving them the needed materials. They afflicted them by setting over them taskmasters who allotted work and beat them when they could not meet targets. They did not allow them to have free movement, they made them to do hard labour in the fields without giving them wages.

To add to the oppression, Pharaoh commanded the midwives to kill Israel's male infants, but the Hebrew midwives did not obey him because they feared God. Friends of Jesus must have the fear of God in them and depart from iniquities. Pharaoh then commanded all the Egyptians to throw all the Hebrew male infants to the river. Godly children must not obey wicked counsels and decrees.

There are lessons to learn from the suffering of Israel in Egypt.

- (i) Suffering and persecutions separate believers from the world, idolatry and immorality.
- (ii) It made Israel to yearn and pray to leave Egypt.
- (iii) It made Israel to be physically strong, vigorous and lively.

(iv) It gave them a new revelation and knowledge of the power of God.  
(v) Through oppression the children of Israel increased more and more.  
Today, Satan and his agents are angry with God's children. He tries to stop the blessings of God in our lives. He will not succeed because God has assured us of His presence and power even in difficult times (John 16:33). God who was with Israel in Egypt will do everything to make us victorious.

### **3. DIVINE INTERVENTION AND PRESERVATION OF ISRAEL IN EGYPT:**

Exodus 1:5; 12-20; 3:8

Sufferings, persecutions, trials and troubles are stepping stones to greatness for God's people. Pharaoh thought that by making the children of Israel to serve with hard labour, he would weaken and reduce their strength and number, but God intervened and preserved Israel in Egypt by: (i) making them to multiply and grow (ii) instilling His fear in the hearts of the Hebrew midwives who refused to kill the male infants. God rewarded the midwives because they feared Him. He gave them families and built houses for them. Godly children must not yield members of their body as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but must yield themselves unto God.

The more they were afflicted, the more they multiplied and grew. Remember, the anger of Nebuchadnezzar could not stop Daniel and his friends from being promoted. The beating and suffering of the Apostles in the early church could not stop the spread of the gospel. The Lord will always be by His children and help them to grow even in troublous times.

Do not worry, trust in God. If you are not a friend of Jesus, the devil will oppress you. Therefore, repent now and surrender your heart and life to Jesus, your Saviour and king.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you understand by multiplication and oppression?
2. Those who live righteously will suffer \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Who were the people that afflicted the children of Israel?
4. What is the lesson you can learn from the oppression of God's people in Egypt?
5. Did the Hebrew midwives obey Pharaoh?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “**But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel**” (Exodus 1:12).

**LESSON:** Problems and persecutions draw believers closer to God

**THOUGHT:** I will walk closely with the Lord to receive strength to stand in time of troubles.

**ACTIVITY:** Read Exodus 1:1-17; Deuteronomy 10:22 and write how the children of Israel began to multiply in Egypt.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 196 – DOES JESUS CARE?**

**CHORUSES:** (1) His word is yea and amen (2) Jesus conquered the world and gave us victory (3) I stand upon the word of God.

**HOMEWORK:** Write the names of the two Hebrew midwives and the reward they received for their good deeds.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	15:1-4
TUESDAY	GENESIS	15:5-7
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	15:14-18
THURSDAY	PSALM	105:4-8
FRIDAY	PSALM	105:9-13
SATURDAY	PSALM	105:23-25
SUNDAY	ACTS	7:14-18

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Affliction 2. Oppression 3. Intervention 4. Vigorous 5. Vigilant



## LESSON 42

# BIRTH, CALL AND COMMISSION OF MOSES

Exodus 2:1-25; 3:1-22; 4:1-31; 5:1-23; 6:1-30

**M**oses was born at a crucial time in Israel's history. God divinely arranged his conception, birth, preservation, training in the palace of the king, his escape to the wilderness, all in order to build him up to fulfill His purpose. God had purposed that Israel would live in Egypt and suffer for a period of four hundred years (Exodus 15:13-14). After this, He promised to deliver and take them to the Land He promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the ancestors of Israel.

In order to achieve His plan for Israel, God raised up Moses because the children of Israel remembered their God and cried unto Him. There are important points to note in this study:

(i) God's promise or covenant with His people cannot be altered. God is faithful to His promise (Psalm 89:34).

(ii) God will always work through our situations in life to fulfill His purpose.

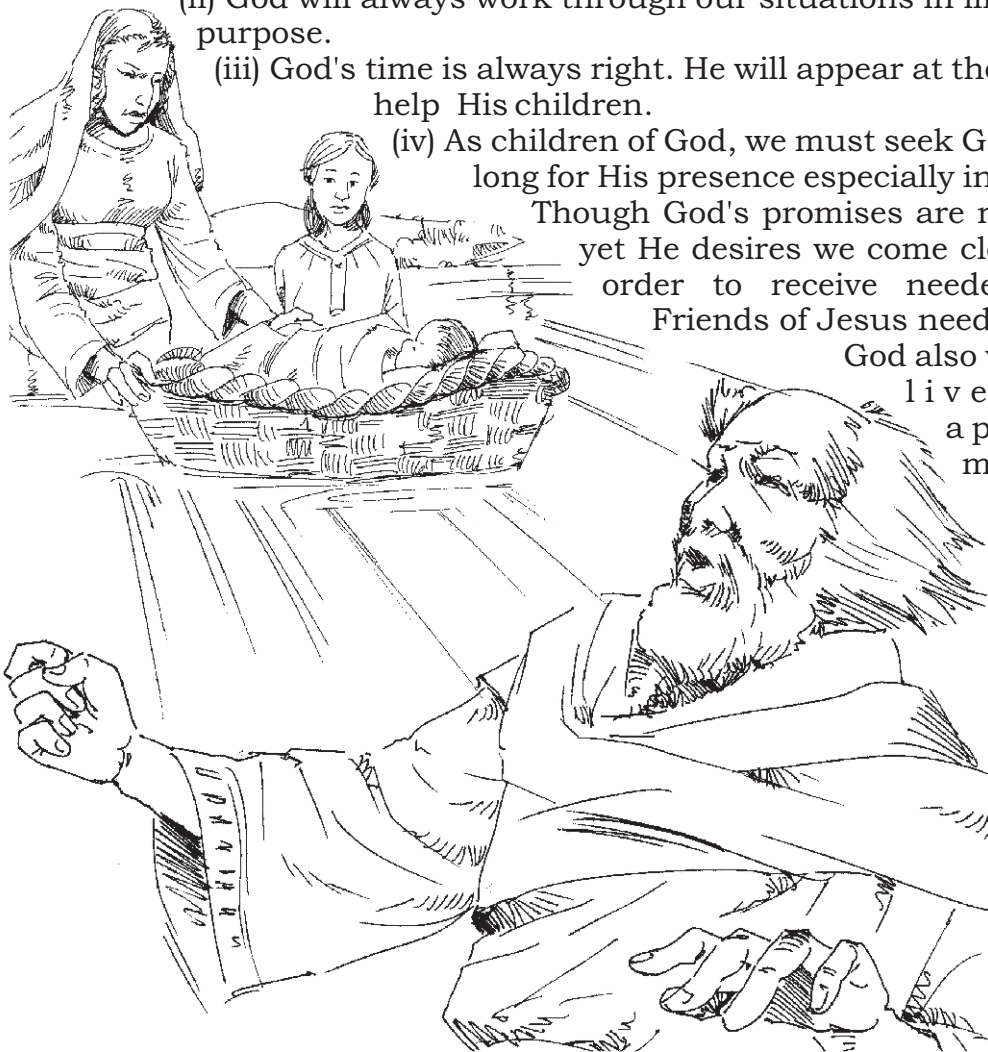
(iii) God's time is always right. He will appear at the right time to help His children.

(iv) As children of God, we must seek God in prayers, long for His presence especially in time of need.

Though God's promises are real and sure, yet He desires we come close to Him in order to receive needed blessings.

Friends of Jesus need to know that

God also works in their lives, using appropriate means to accomplish His will.



## 1. **THE BIRTH OF MOSES:**

Exodus 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:23-26

Moses was born at a troublous time for Israel in the land of Egypt. Before the time of his birth, a law was passed that all male children born by Hebrew women should be killed (Exodus 1:15-17,22).

It was really difficult for Amram, the father of Moses and Jochebed, his mother to keep the child. However, because God had a good plan for the boy Moses, He preserved him.

The mother of Moses hid him for three months and then she could no longer hide him as he was growing older. To save his life, she put him in a basket and placed it by the river bank. She sent her daughter Miriam to watch close by and see what would happen.

By divine arrangement, Moses was rescued by the daughter of Pharaoh and taken in as her son. In the meantime, Miriam appeared in the scene and suggested to Pharaoh's daughter for their mother to have Moses back to be nursed. Therefore, the mother could nurse and teach him the word of God. God allowed this so that Moses would be prepared for the work ahead of him.

When Moses grew up, He identified with the people of God. He did not allow the enjoyment of royalty in Pharaoh's palace to take away God's word from his heart. He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but rather chose to suffer affliction with the people of God (Hebrews 11:25). This made Moses to flee from Egypt when he was forty years old. He ran to Midian where he lived, married, had children and worked as a shepherd. All through his life journey, God was working out to fulfill His will for Moses.

God is preparing you for a great future. You have to follow His leading in all areas of your life. You are born for a purpose, no matter what happens, just continue to love God and obey His word. His purpose and plan will be accomplished in your life.

## 2. **CALL AND COMMISSION OF MOSES:**

Exodus 2:11-25; 3:1-22; 4:1-31; 5:1-21; 6:1-30

Moses ran away from Egypt to Midian. There, he married Zipporah and became a shepherd. After forty years, God called Moses where he was taking care of the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law. The Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire. The bush was burning but it was not consumed. That was a strange thing, This signifies the condition of the children of Israel in Egypt. They were undergoing great affliction, yet they were not consumed. Rather, they continued to multiply and grow. This is God's doing.

Whatever you are passing through, have faith in God, He will never allow you to be consumed. Through the flame, the Lord spoke and called Moses. He gave him a commandment to go back to Egypt to deliver Israel from bondage. To confirm the call, God revealed His special name **"I AM THAT I AM"** to Moses. Whatever situation or trouble you may be passing through, the Lord knows about it. He will surely deliver you (Job 5:19,20).

Though Moses gave some excuses why he would not be able to do the work, God assured him of His presence. In fact, Moses was made to know that

the ground on which he was standing was a holy place. God is holy and we must worship and serve Him in spirit and holiness. Keep your body holy, maintain cleanliness and respect for God's house.

At last, Moses obeyed God's call and went to Egypt to begin the process for Israel's final deliverance. Whatever God calls us to do, we should obey like Isaiah who said, **“Here am I, send me”**.

### **3. CALLED AND COMMISSIONED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL:**

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:8

Every child born into this world is called to serve God and live for His glory. There are three levels in this call.

(i) Call to salvation – this is to all sinners. They are called to come to Jesus the Saviour, confess their sins, repent and accept Him as Lord and Saviour (Matthew 11:28; 1 John 1:7-9).

(ii) Call to holy living – you must desire to be like Jesus in your heart. Then you will pray that the root of sin be removed completely from your heart. God will wash your heart very clean and give you His nature. You can also pray for the baptism in the Holy Spirit to enable you fulfill the next call (1 Thessalonians 4:7; Acts 1:8).

(iii) Call to service – This is a call to preach the gospel. Moses left all that he had to answer God's call. The Apostles also left all to obey the Great commission. Jesus is still enlisting boys and girls who are ready to serve. You are called to preach the love of Jesus to sinners. Many boys and girls are under Satan's bondage. If they do not hear the gospel, they may die in their sin and go to hell fire (Mark 16:15; Acts 9:15).

Do not delay, Jesus has promised to be with His friends who are faithful in preaching the gospel. Do not fear, be obedient to the call and preach the gospel. There are various methods of carrying out this great commission – person to person evangelism, tract and literature evangelism, morning/evening cry, mass evangelism and other methods that God may lay in your heart.

When Moses and Aaron met with pharaoh, he refused to release God's people but hardened his heart. However, God was with Moses and backed them up with signs, wonders and miracles. You have nothing to fear as you obey God's command. He will be with you so that sinners will be saved and added to the church. Let us arise now and preach the gospel.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the situation surrounding the birth of Moses?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were Moses' parents?
3. Why did Moses run away from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Moses was called and commissioned to \_\_\_\_\_
5. Explain the three levels of God's call to boys and girls
6. How can you carry out the great commission?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I” (Exodus 3:4).

**LESSON:** Positive response to God's call attracts bountiful blessings

**THOUGHT:** I will answer God's call and preach the gospel

**ACTIVITY:** Sword Drill – Isaiah 40:10; 1 Samuel 1:20; Jeremiah 1:7-9; Isaiah 6:8; Mark 16:15.

### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 86 - NOTHING BETWEEN**

**CHORUSES:** (1) God must be honoured (2) When He calls me, I will answer. (3) Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus.

**HOMEWORK:** Search the scriptures and write out in your homework book four people that were called by God and the purpose of their call

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	HEBREWS	11:23-25
TUESDAY	HEBREWS	11:26,27
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	28:18-20
THURSDAY	MARK	16:14-16
FRIDAY	MARK	16:17-20
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	10:5-8
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	10:26-32

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Commission 2. Hardened 3. Affliction 4. Preservation 5. Conception.

## LESSON 43

# DIVINE JUDGMENT ON EGYPT

Exodus 7:1-25; 8:1-32; 9:1-35; 10:1-29; 11:1-10

**T**he children of Israel had lived in Egypt for more than four hundred years as slaves. Pharaoh and the Egyptians had made Israel to suffer with hard labour. In the midst of the hardship, Israel remembered the God of their father Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They cried unto God for help. God heard their cry and raised up Moses and Aaron to deliver His people from the bondage and oppression in Egypt. God told Moses that the assignment was not going to be an easy one. He promised that though, Pharaoh the king of Egypt would harden his heart, yet, He would fight for Israel and deliver them from bondage.

God did great things to deliver the children of Israel. He released His divine judgment on Pharaoh and the Egyptians. The judgment came in form of plagues (afflictions, troubles) and no one was spared including their animals. Before the judgment came, God had already sent Moses to warn Pharaoh. If he

had listened and obeyed God's word, the judgment would have been avoided. God is not willing that a

sinner should perish but that he should repent and be saved. Anyone

who partake of God's judgment has chosen to do so.

This is why sinful children are warned to repent. Those who

remain in their wicked ways

will be judged and thrown

into hell. On the other hand,

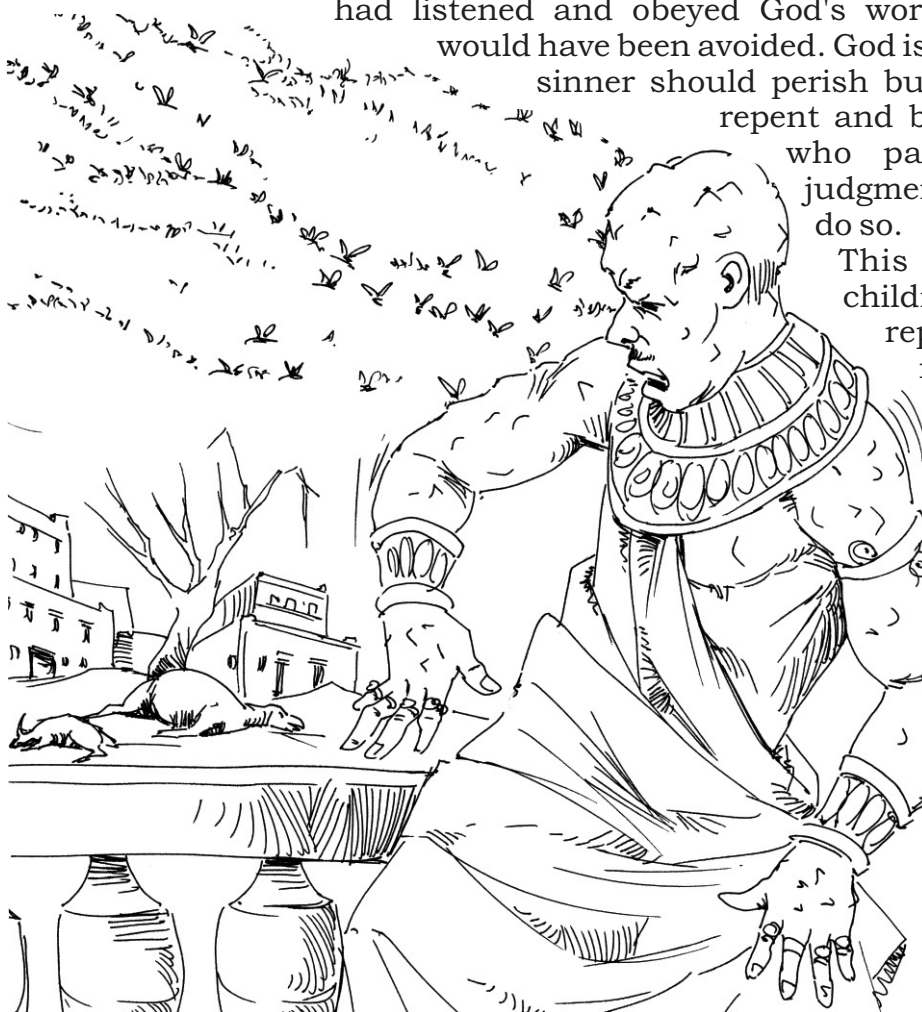
those who answer the call

of God and repent will

receive pardon and deliverance

from the judgment to come. The

choice is yours.





## 1. MOSES BEFORE PHARAOH:

Exodus 7:1-13

In obedience to God's command, Moses with his elder brother Aaron went to Pharaoh, king of Egypt to deliver God's message. The message was simple and direct. God said, **“Let my people go that they may serve me”**. However, Pharaoh the king, did not let the people of God go because he and the Egyptians did not know or believe in the Almighty God. In ancient times, the Egyptians worshipped many idols (wood, rivers, different species of animals etc.). They also engaged in magic, occultism and other demonic activities. Pharaoh refused to honour God, he was a proud king who could not recognize God as his maker. He asked: **“Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go”** (Exodus 5:2).

God confirmed His word through the miracle of the rod and snake. Aaron's rod became a snake which later swallowed up the magician's snakes. This miracle was enough to convince Pharaoh and his people that there is only one God. But he refused and hardened his heart until he experienced God's divine judgment. Sinners should not harden their heart because the Bible cautions that **“He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy”** (Proverbs 29:1). Sinners should not wait until it is too late, they must repent and turn from their wicked ways.

## 2. DIVINE JUDGMENT ON EGYPT:

Exodus 7:14-25; 8:1-32; 9:1-35; 10:1-29; 11:1-10

God is merciful and longsuffering. He will always give sinners the opportunity to repent from sin and make their ways right. When the opportunity is not accepted, then judgment will follow. This was what happened to Pharaoh and his people. The divine judgment came upon Egypt in form of plagues. These plagues were ten in number and it was experienced by the Egyptians alone because of the wickedness and rebellion of their king. Friends of Jesus must always pray for our leaders in the school, church, community, nation and family so that their actions will lead us to enjoy God's blessings and not judgment.

The plagues that came upon the Egyptians were: (i) River Nile, their source of domestic water turned to blood (Exodus 7:17,20). (ii) Frogs invaded their land and homes (Exodus 8:2,6). (iii) Lice came upon human beings and animals (Exodus 8:16-18). (iv) Swarms of flies covered their houses (Exodus 8:21-24). (v) Strange diseases killed their animals (Exodus 9:6). (vi) Boils and sores on human bodies and animals (Exodus 9,10). (vii) Thunder and hailstones destroyed plants and trees (Exodus 9:18,23-25). (viii) Locusts consumed all vegetation (Exodus 10:4,12-14). (ix) Thick darkness covered the land for three days (Exodus 10:21,22). (x) The firstborn of every family and animals died (Exodus 11:5).

It was a time of great suffering for the Egyptians. These ten miraculous plagues against Egypt had several purposes to: (a) Show Egypt as well as the children of Israel that the Lord is God above all gods. (b) Exalt God's Name among the Egyptians and throughout all the earth. (c) Establish Israel's faith and convince them of God's power, love and supremacy. (d) Demonstrate God's power over the gods of Egypt and all the forces of evil. The divine judgment forced Pharaoh to let Israel go free. Sinners should not wait till it becomes too late to repent. If Pharaoh had heeded God's warning, he could have saved his people from the punishment that came on them. Sinful children must repent now because tomorrow may be too late. The judgment of God is coming soon.

### **3. ETERNAL JUDGMENT ON UNREPENTANT SINNERS:**

Exodus 7:4; 6:6; Psalm 9:16,17; 2 Peter 3:1-11

While the Egyptians were suffering under God's judgment, the children of Israel were safe. God is going to separate the righteous from the sinners during the time of judgment. A time is coming when everything in the world will be destroyed and the wicked cast into hell fire.

Knowing this fact is enough to make sinners repent so as to escape God's righteous judgment. Therefore, if you are still a sinner, do not harden your heart like Pharaoh did. To escape God's judgment: (i) Humble yourself and accept that you are a sinner. (ii) Repent and confess all sins (stubbornness, wicked acts, witchcraft, idolatry, fighting, rebellion etc.). (iii) Ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. (iv) Invite Jesus into your heart as Lord and Saviour. If you sincerely take the above steps, you will escape the judgment of God and suffering in hell fire.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. The children of Israel cried unto God for deliverance from bondage. Yes/No?
2. Who did God send to deliver them?
3. What was the first miracle performed before Pharaoh?
4. Mention five of the plagues that came as punishment upon Egypt.
5. What were the reasons for the miraculous judgment?
6. How can a sinful child escape God's judgment?

**MEMORY VERSE:** "But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments"

(Exodus 7:4).

**LESSON:** God's judgment will soon come upon unrepentant sinners.

**THOUGHT:** I must not remain a sinner to escape God's judgment.

**ACTIVITY:** Prayer session (1) Sinners and backsliders should pray for forgiveness and restoration. (2) Saved children should pray for sanctification

and grace to endure till the end.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 208 - THE GREAT JUDGMENT MORNING**

**CHORUSES:** (1) There's a great day coming. (2) No, you can't get to heaven without SALVATION. (3) Pharaoh, let my people go.

**HOMEWORK:** Warn sinful children about the coming judgment and lead them to the Saviour.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	PSALM	9:15-17
TUESDAY	PSALM	78:40-44
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	78:45-48
THURSDAY	PSALM	78:49-52
FRIDAY	2 PETER	3:1-4
SATURDAY	2 PETER	3:5-7
SUNDAY	2 PETER	3:8-11

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Plagues 2. Divine 3. Judgment 4. Eternal 5. Confirmed.

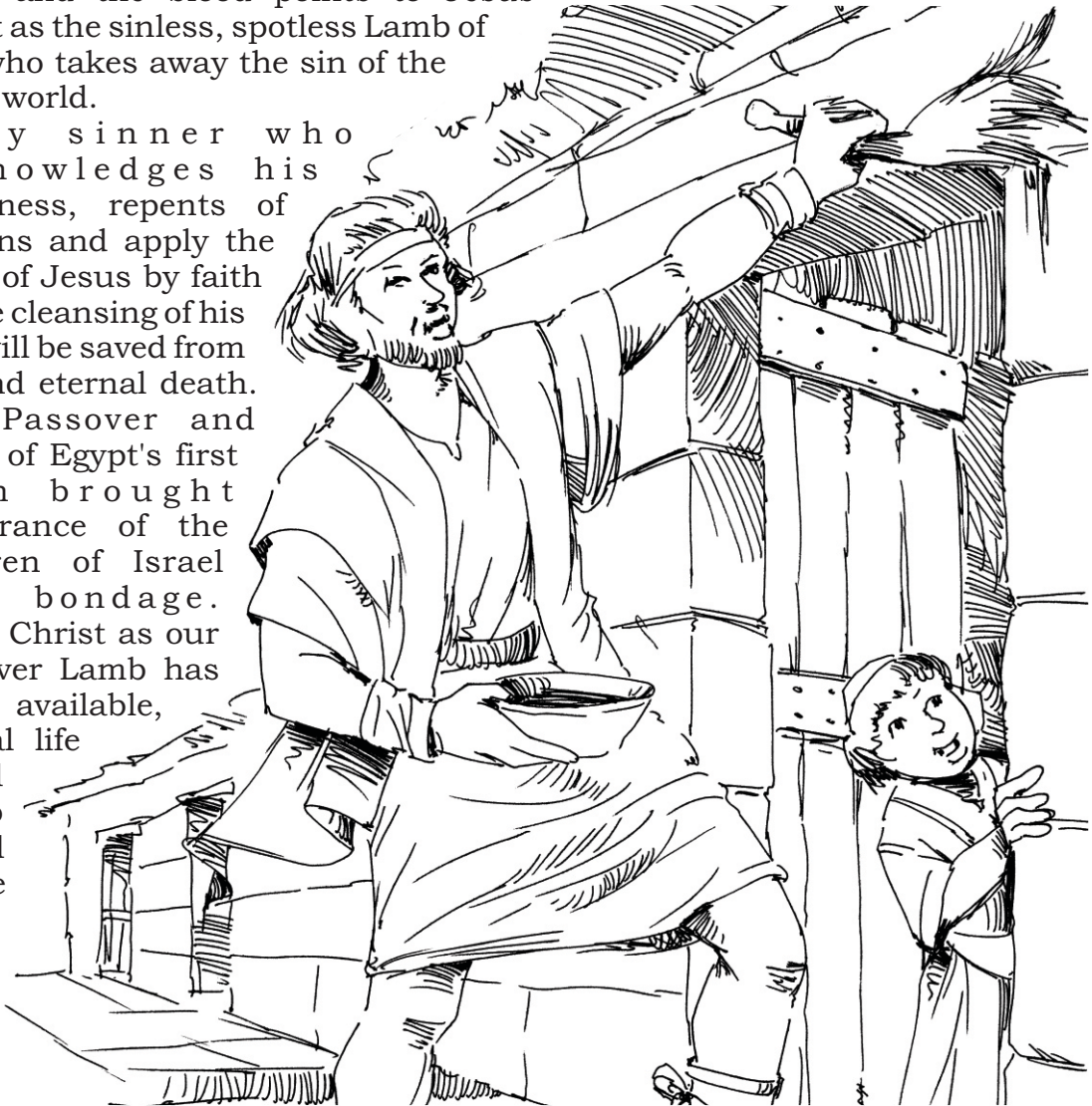
## LESSON 44

# THE PASSOVER AND ISRAEL'S EXODUS

Exodus 12:1-51; 13:1-22

**T**he last of the ten plagues that came as divine judgment on Pharaoh and the Egyptians was the death of the first born in the land. It was a final and complete judgment. God gave the Egyptians enough time to repent and release His chosen people, but they ignored all the warnings. This last plague made them to order the children of Israel out of their land. God had already assured the children of Israel of His protection. But God's protection was based on their obedience to God's command. In order to protect their first born, they were to kill a lamb without blemish, whose blood was to be sprinkled on the lintel and door posts. The sign of this sprinkled blood would make God's judgment of death to pass over them. The sacrifice of the spotless Lamb and the blood points to Jesus Christ as the sinless, spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world.

Any sinner who acknowledges his sinfulness, repents of his sins and apply the blood of Jesus by faith for the cleansing of his sins will be saved from sin and eternal death. The Passover and death of Egypt's first born brought deliverance of the children of Israel from bondage. Jesus Christ as our Passover Lamb has made available, eternal life for all who will come today.



## 1. THE PASSOVER:

Exodus 12:1-28; Leviticus 23:5; Numbers 28:16; Deuteronomy 16:1-8

In fulfilment of God's prophecy to Abraham, God determined to deliver the children of Israel from slavery after more than four hundred (400) years of bondage in Egypt. God chose Moses to confront Pharaoh with His demand to **“Let my people go”** (Exodus 5:1). To make Pharaoh understand the seriousness of this message, Moses, through God's power called down plagues as judgment on Egypt.

Each time God sent a plague, Pharaoh would readily agree to release the Israelites but once the plague ended, he would harden his heart again and refuse to let them go. Then came the tenth and final plague, the one that gave the Egyptians no other choice than to release the children of Israel. God passed through the land of Egypt and destroyed all their firstborn both of man and animals.

To protect the children of Israel living in Egypt, the Lord gave specific instructions to them to obey so that they would be protected. Every Israelite family was to take a year-old male lamb without defect and kill it. Some of the blood of the lamb was to be sprinkled on the two side posts and on the upper door post of their houses. When the destroyer went through the land, he would pass over their homes that had the blood marks on them. This is where the term 'pass over', which means to “spare” originated from. Thus, by the blood of the slain lamb, the children of Israel were spared the judgment of death that came upon all the firstborn of the Egyptians. God used the sign of the blood to teach His people the importance of obedience and of redemption through the blood (Hebrews 9:22). The passover event was a prophetic sign of Jesus' death as **“the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”** (John 1:29).

Important lessons from the Passover: (a) Obedience to the word of God - The children of Israel obeyed the instructions of God in the land of Egypt. They were delivered by God and set free from bondage. If you also obey the word of God today, you will enjoy His blessings in your life. (b) The sprinkling of the blood - The children of Israel sprinkled the blood of the lamb on the door posts and lintels in obedience to the instructions of God. Therefore, you must apply the blood of Jesus by faith to make your heart clean. (c) The lamb without blemish - The children of Israel were to kill lambs without any blemish because God is holy, and He will not accept anything that is unclean from them. This shows that your life must be holy and without blemish for God to be happy with you and give you His blessings. (d) All the first born of Israel belonged to God, He possessed them by the blood of the lamb that died in their place. As new testament believers, we belong to God through the blood of Jesus, we are bought with a price. Jesus paid the price on the cross of Calvary, you should no longer live for yourself again, God owns your life.



## **2. ISRAEL'S EXODUS:**

Exodus 12:29-51; 13:17-22

The death of the firstborn of Pharaoh and his people led to the miraculous release of Israel from bondage. At this period of their life, Israel had lived in Egypt for 430 years. At the appointed time, God fulfilled His promise and led Israel out of Egypt. The children of Israel needed not only to be redeemed from suffering but also from spiritual bondage. They had turned to idol-worship during their four hundred and thirty years in Egypt. God in His mercy and love led Israel out of Egypt and through their journey to the promised land. His divine presence was with them as a pillar of cloud and pillar of fire.

On the night of the Passover, the children of Israel were expected to be dressed and ready to leave. They were commanded to roast the lamb and prepare bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. They would eat the food and depart immediately. Everything happened as the Lord had spoken because the Egyptians came and begged them to leave their country (Exodus 12:29-36). Whatever God has promised, He will surely fulfill. All He expects from His children is absolute faith and obedience to His word. Just like the Israelites, believers are strangers and pilgrims in the world. Our home is in heaven, the eternal resting place for the saints. Surrender your life to Christ, live a holy life as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Very soon, He will come and take us away from the suffering in this world to our eternal home. Will you be ready?

## **3. JESUS CHRIST OUR PASSEOVER LAMB:**

Exodus 13:1-16; Matthew 1:21; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7;

1 Peter 1:19

The Passover points to Jesus Christ the Lamb of God that was slain for us. Jesus shed His blood on the cross in order to save us from death and God's judgment (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus our Passover Lamb is the sinless, holy, pure and perfect Son of God (Hebrews 4:15). Friends of Jesus must identify with the death of Jesus by participating in the Lord's supper. For a sinner to receive pardon and forgiveness, he/she must have faith in the power of the blood of Jesus to wash and make him/her clean.

God requires total separation of all friends of Jesus from sin and evil practices of the world. Sinful boys and girls are to repent and ask God for forgiveness and cleansing with the blood of Jesus. You must always remember what Jesus did for you on the cross as you examine yourself daily. Be watchful and prepare for the coming of Jesus.

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the meaning of Passover?
2. When did the first Passover take place?
3. The lamb without blemish stands for \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mention four things you learn from the Passover.
5. Who is our Passover Lamb?
6. How can a sinner benefit from the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:13).

**LESSON:** Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb who died for the sins of the whole world.

**THOUGHT:** I will give my life to Jesus, the Lamb of God.

**ACTIVITY:** Saved children in the class are to share testimonies of how God saved them from their sins and the great things God has been doing for them.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 37 - WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD**

**CHORUSES:** (1) The blood of Jesus has made me whole. (2) Jesus died on the cross. (3) We are moving on to the victorious city.

**HOMEWORK:** Children should go out during the week and tell people about the purpose of Jesus' sacrificial death and how they can benefit from it.

#### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	LEVITICUS	23:5-8
TUESDAY	NUMBERS	28:16-19
WEDNESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	16:1-3
THURSDAY	PSALM	78:51-54
FRIDAY	JOHN	1:29-31
SATURDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	5:7,8
SUNDAY	1 PETER	1:18-21

#### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Passover 2. Absolute 3. Pilgrim 4. Spotless 5. Blemish.

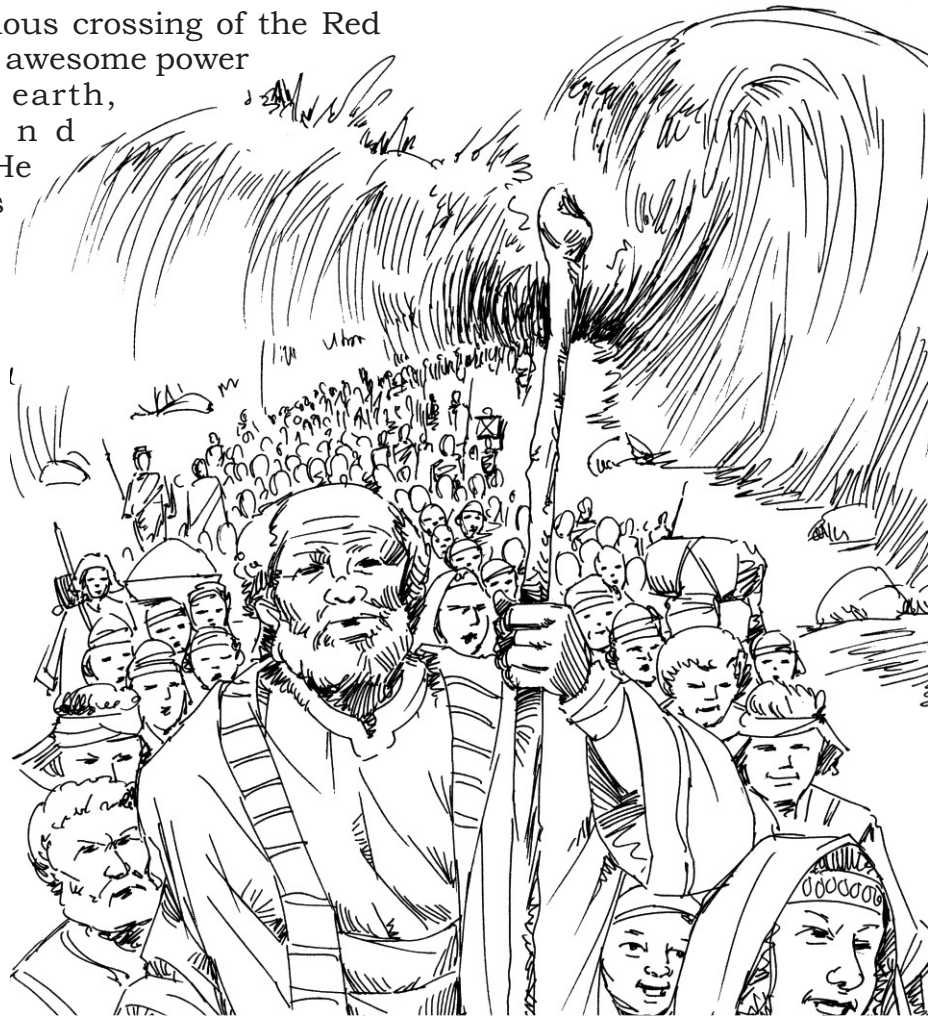
## LESSON 45

# ISRAEL'S MIRACULOUS PASSAGE THROUGH THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:1-31; 15:1-27

**T**he children of Israel were delivered from bondage in Egypt through the mighty acts of God. They were led into the wilderness by Moses, their leader. They were not allowed to pass through the land of the Philistines which was nearer, rather the Lord Himself led them through the wilderness and the Red Sea. This was done for some special reasons. (i) God did not want Israel to face war so soon from the enemy nations. The Israelites did not have the experience of fighting wars. If they encountered the enemies on the way, they might be tempted to go back to Egypt. (ii) God wanted to further demonstrate His power, might and absolute authority in executing final judgment on Pharaoh and his army. (iii) God would also show Israel through His many miracles especially the parting of the Red Sea, that He is God Almighty and there is none else.

The miraculous crossing of the Red Sea shows God's awesome power over heaven, earth, nature and everything that He has made. It is one of the greatest miracle recorded in the Bible. God has power to do all things. Whatever may be standing as a 'Red Sea' on your way to victory, trust in the Lord, do not show unbelief like the children of Israel. Have faith in God and every Red Sea will part before you and you will get to your promised blessings.



### **1. PREPARATION TO CROSS THE RED SEA:**

Exodus 14:1-14; Isaiah 41:10,11

The children of Israel left Egypt after the last plague. They were happy to be free from slavery and oppression in Egypt. Rather than follow a shorter route, God led them into the wilderness towards the Red Sea. This sea stood between them and the promised land. They needed to demonstrate faith in God's promises to cross over to possess the land. However, there were other obstacles. Pharaoh and his people expressed regret for allowing their slaves to escape. Therefore, they made plans to chase them with chariots. These made Israel to express fear rather than faith. Thank God for Moses, he assured the people through the word of faith that God would fight for them.

God has promised to give us victory and bless us, no Red Sea or enemy can stop Him. All you are expected to do is to believe His word, meditate on His promises, confess it and pray it in, you will surely receive answers to your prayers.

### **2. PASSAGE THROUGH THE RED SEA:**

Exodus 14:15-31; Psalm 106:7-11

God assured His people that He would fight for them, but they had to move forward toward the Sea in faith. God fights for His people as they walk in faith and in obedience to His word. In obedience to God's command. Moses lifted up his rod and the Sea parted into two. There are three significant things that happened during the passage of Israel through the Red Sea.

(a) The presence of the pillar of cloud and fire - In the darkness the cloud miraculously protected Israel from the Egyptians. At the same time, God's pillar of fire flooded the ways with light across the Sea so that the children of Israel could cross over.

(b) Egyptians chariot's wheel – In the midst of the sea, God removed the wheel of the Egyptians chariots to slow down their movement. They could not get near the children of Israel.

(c) Overflow of the Sea – The same water which parted to allow the passage of the Israelites, came back in full force and drowned the Egyptians army and their chariots.

The crossing of the Red Sea took place through a direct miraculous act of God. This event should remind us of God's power and greatness. The emphasis in experiencing God's miracles is faith. Jesus said “... **If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you**”. The Lord is still working miracles in the midst of His people today. Do not be left out. What do you desire? Pray, believe His promises and God will do wonders in your life.

### **3. PRAISING GOD FOR HIS MIRACULOUS WORKS:**

Exodus 15:1-27; Revelation 15:2; Psalm 106:11,12

After the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea and overthrow of the



Egyptians, Moses composed and led Israel to sing a song of praise unto God. The contents of this song describe the Lord's enemies, God's attributes and deliverance. (i) Firstly, the song speaks about the enemies of the Lord. They had weapons of war, yet they perished in the Red Sea. Those who do not trust in God but only trust in chariots and horses will surely fail. We must put our trust in God Almighty. (ii) Secondly, the song speaks of God's attributes. He is holy and great and there is none like Him. He has power over enemies, nature, circumstances and will fight for His children. (iii) Finally, the song speaks of the Lord's deliverance of Israel.

God delights in our praises. It is important that we offer praises and thanksgiving unto God all the time for His mighty acts of salvation, sanctification, spiritual blessings, deliverance from Satan, answers to prayers and many other blessings that we enjoy. Our praises will attract more blessings into our lives. You should sing praises even in difficult times. Do not be like the children of Israel who murmured because of water even after experiencing God's miracle. Always praise and trust God, He will never leave nor forsake you.

The deliverance out of Egypt and the Red Sea points to the victory of God over Satan and the anti-Christ that would come in the last days. Friends of Jesus who continue to steadfastly follow the Lord will sing the "song of Moses as the redeemed of the Lord" (Revelation 15:3). You must continue to follow Jesus so that you will be counted among those that will sing songs of praises. If you are still a sinner, repent now and accept Jesus as your personal Saviour and Lord.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. God led the children of Israel through the wilderness and the Red Sea.

Yes/No?

2. The miraculous crossing of the Red Sea shows God's awesome power over

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Explain three significant things that manifested during the passage of

Israel through the Red Sea.

4. What did the children of Israel do after they crossed the Red Sea?

**MEMORY VERSE:** "But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore" (Exodus 14:29-30).

**LESSON:** God led the children of Israel through the Red Sea by His awesome power.



**THOUGHT:** I will always seek the face of God in time of difficulties.

**ACTIVITY:** Find these words and circle them out in the puzzle below: Angel of God, Army, Chariot, Dry ground, Egyptians, Great fear, Lift rod, Morning, Moses, Night passed, People of Israel, Pharaoh, Pillar of cloud, Pursued, Sea returned, Stretch hand over sea, Strong east wind, Wall, Waters divided.

D N I W T S A E G N O R T S D M H A  
I E W N S Q J V A E Z X K Y R F E E  
P H A R A O H G P U L Y T W M S O S  
E B T D R Y G R O U N D G D R R I Y  
O F E H U C E D O G F O L E G N A B  
P J R G R P M Q T V L Y V S X I O D  
L N S R Y M O S E S Z O K P U G W E  
O D I A E B T L S N H N C L F T I M  
F J V T O R L I A E I L Q I U P N A  
I C I F S A K H A N A T P F M A D C  
S H D E W V H Y R N E S A T C S E N  
R A E A Z C B O F D S W H R X S U E  
A R D R T J M U G O B I T O P E S Q  
E I D E N R U T E R A E S D R D R H  
L O R A L B M C N D O F P G S E U Y  
S T N A V R E S V L C S Z X M A P R  
S S N W K P I L L A R O F C L O U D

### CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 14 - HOW GREAT THOU ART

**CHORUSES:** (1) The Lord knows the way through the wilderness. (2) I will sing unto the Lord, for He has triumph gloriously. (3) I am that I am ...

**HOMEWORK:** Children should write out in their homework book what God did for the children of Israel at the Red Sea.

### DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	PSALM	78:1-5
TUESDAY	PSALM	78:6-8
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	78:12-15
THURSDAY	PSALM	105:36-39
FRIDAY	PSALM	106:7-9
SATURDAY	PSALM	106:10-13
SUNDAY	PSALM	105:1-6

### BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Encamp 2. Entangled 3. Significant 4. Triumphed 5. Miraculous.

## LESSON 46

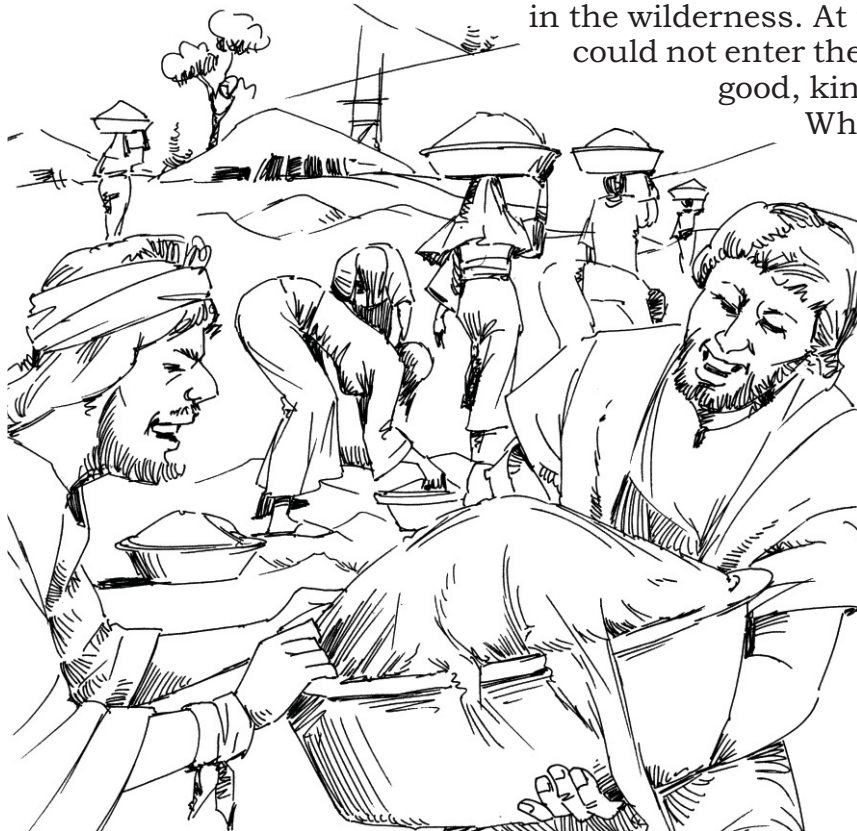
# ISRAEL'S MURMURING AND DIVINE INTERVENTION

Exodus 16:1-36; 17:1-16

**T**he children of Israel were God's chosen people. He raised up Moses to deliver them from slavery in Egypt. Through His miraculous deeds, He led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea and into the wilderness. He promised to give them a land flowing with milk and honey. This promise was first given to Abraham the ancestor of the children of Israel. Many generations after this promise, God was about to bring it to pass. God has shown through His dealings with the children of Israel, that He is a covenant keeping God. He has also shown that all powers belong to Him and there is nothing too hard for Him to do. He expects His children to always reflect on His word, believe Him and obey all He says.

This was not the situation with the children of Israel. They always react to situation according to their own limited understanding. They never remember God's ways and wonders in their life whenever they are faced with challenges. They sang songs of praise when the Red Sea parted but began to murmur against God when they came across bitter water. They showed by their actions that they do not want to believe or trust God. Their attitude and complaints brought suffering and defeat to them when they were in the wilderness. At the end, many of them could not enter the promised land. God is good, kind, loving and merciful.

When the children of Israel murmured, He endured it because He is a merciful God. He miraculously provided water and food to feed them for forty years. God will always intervene in our lives in difficult times. But He does not want us to complain or murmur. Rather, we are to pray, trust Him and believe His promises. At the right time, He will help us and provide for all our needs.



## **1. ISRAEL MURMUR AGAINST GOD:**

Exodus 16:1-12; 17:1-7

After God parted the Red Sea for them to escape from their enemy, the children of Israel should have been satisfied because God was caring for them, but instead they complained and murmured against Moses and Aaron because of food. Many children are guilty of this habit of murmuring. They are never satisfied with what is given to them. Some will even forget their parent's instruction about not taking food from strangers. While others will murmur about the quality of food they are given. If you are in the habit of complaining and murmuring against your parents because of food or any other thing, you are like the children of Israel.

In spite of all that God had done for them, the children of Israel were quick to lose faith in His goodness, and plan for their lives. The Bible warns friends of Jesus not to follow Israel's bad example (1 Corinthians 10:10). When serious problems arise (hunger, thirst, sickness, failure, affliction etc.), instead of murmuring and crying, we should commit our way to God, humbly ask for help and trust Him. God will never fail, He is merciful as He has shown in His dealings with Israel.

## **2. GOD'S CARE AND MERCY IN TIME OF NEED:**

Exodus 16:9-36; 17:8-16; John 6:22-35

In spite of Israel's repeated complaint and murmuring, God graciously intervened in their situations at different times: (i) Provision of manna: (Exodus 16:4; John 6:35) God sent bread and quails from heaven – manna to feed the children of Israel. It was a special miracle food God sent to feed them for forty years throughout their journey in the wilderness. They did not have to work before they ate. It was delicious, nourishing and freely given. The supply of manna ceased when the Israelites entered the promise land and food became available (Joshua 5:12). Manna was given to them as a sign of the coming Messiah. The Bible confirms that Jesus Christ is the true Bread from heaven who gives eternal life. If you believe in Him, you will receive eternal life. (ii) Water from the rock (Exodus 17:5,6; John 7:37,38). The people did not only complain about food, they also murmured because of lack of water. God then instructed Moses to strike the rock for water to come out for them. He did, and water came forth from the rock and they had more than enough to drink. The striking of this rock to provide life-giving water was a reflection of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. He would be smitten upon the cross for the sins of the whole world to provide everlasting life for all (1 Corinthians 10:4). Jesus said **“If any man thirst, let him come and drink”**. Do not complain or murmur, Jesus has power to satisfy all your needs. (iii) Victory over the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-16; 2 Corinthians 10:4). The Amalekites who were descendants of Esau were the first nation to fight against Israel. It was an unprovoked attack. Though Israel did not have experience in fighting war, neither did they possess enough weapons to fight. God Himself fought for them. He honoured Moses' faith who depended upon Him to fight for Israel. As Moses lifted up his hands to heaven,

he was showing that he depends upon God and surrendered the battle to Him. God helped them, and they won the battle.

As believers, our only hope of victory lies in continually approaching the throne of grace through Christ, that we might receive the power of God to help us in time of need.

### **3. THE CURE FOR MURMURING:**

1 Corinthians 10:6-13; Philippians 2:13-16

The children of Israel often forgot God's intervention in their past suffering. Whenever they came across any challenge, instead of trusting the Lord, they will start to complain and murmur against God. This action led to loss of fellowship with God, suffering, defeat and inability to possess their inheritance. Children of God must beware of the danger of murmuring. To avoid this error, sinful children must repent and ask God for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. They must also open their hearts to Jesus to be their Saviour and Lord.

Then press on to pray for sanctification and holiness of life. A pure heart will not complain or murmur. Be grateful to God for past blessings. Always show appreciation to your parents and honour God for all that He is doing for you.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What problems did the children of Israel encounter in the wilderness?
2. How did they react to these problems?
3. God intervened in the problems of Israel through \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_
4. What is the relationship between (a) the manna from heaven (b) water from the rock and Jesus Christ?
5. What is the cure for murmuring and complaining?

**MEMORY VERSE:** "I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God" (Exodus 16:12).

**LESSON:** God will always intervene in the life of His children.

**THOUGHT:** I will not murmur but trust God to intervene in my life.

**ACTIVITY:** Scripture hunt – The teacher should call out the following Bible passages one at a time. The first child to locate a passage should arise, open and read to the hearing of others. He/she should also explain the lessons in the passage: (i) Exodus 15:24; (ii) Exodus 16:2; (iii) John 6:41; (iv) Exodus 17:3; (v) 1 Corinthians 10:10

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 43 - TRUST AND OBEY**

**CHORUSES:** (1) My God knows the way through the wilderness. (2) Obedience is the very best way. (3) Jehovah Jireh, my provider.

**HOMEWORK:** Children are to search the Bible and write out three instances where the children of Israel murmured against God and the consequences.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	EXODUS	14:10-13
TUESDAY	EXODUS	15:22-24
WEDNESDAY	JOHN	6:41-45
THURSDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	10:1-5
FRIDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	10:10-12
SATURDAY	JOHN	6:47-51
SUNDAY	PHILIPPIANS	2:13-15

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Intervention
2. Murmuring
3. Generation
4. Inheritance
5. Sanctification.



## LESSON 47

# JESUS FORBIDS SEPARATION IN THE FAMILY

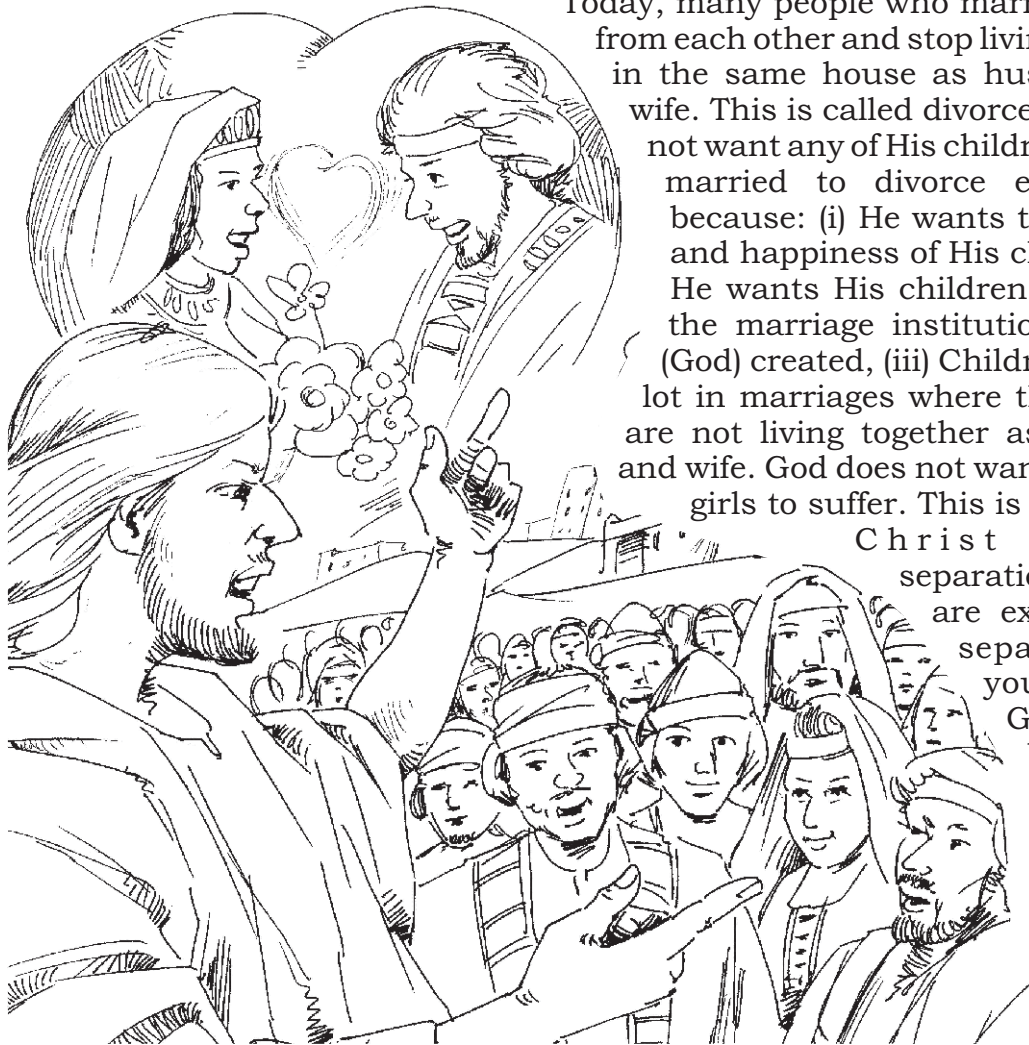
Matthew 19:1-15; Mark 10:1-16

**J**esus our Lord and Saviour during His earthly ministry travelled wide to preach and teach the truth. During this period, wherever He went, people followed Him to learn and take instructions while others followed Him to be fed or to be healed. In our Bible passage, the Pharisees asked questions not because they wanted to learn but to tempt Him. But as a teacher, filled with the Spirit of God, He answered with wisdom and silenced them.

God in His wisdom created Adam and Eve. He joined them together for comfort and to provide help for each other, and in His goodness commanded them to live together in love till death part them. God did not make any provision for Adam and Eve to separate from each other. He wanted them to be together for life.

Today, many people who marry separate from each other and stop living together in the same house as husband and wife. This is called divorce. God does not want any of His children who are married to divorce each other because: (i) He wants the comfort and happiness of His children. (ii) He wants His children to respect the marriage institution that He (God) created, (iii) Children suffer a lot in marriages where the parents are not living together as husband and wife. God does not want boys and girls to suffer. This is the reason

Christ forbids separation. If you are experiencing separation in your family, God will bring healing and restore love as you trust Him.



## **1. JESUS' TEACHING ON MARRIAGE:**

Matthew 19:1-8; Mark 10:6-9; Genesis 1:27; 2:18-24

The religious leaders in the time of Jesus did not like what Jesus taught about marriage and divorce. They wanted the freedom to marry as they like or leave the marriage whenever they like. Jesus made it clear that **“Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”** (Matthew 19:6). God in the beginning ordained marriage and the family unit as the first most important institution on earth. God's plan for marriage consists of one man and one woman who become 'one flesh' that is, united physically and spiritually.

Man and woman were created to form family relationship. This stated purpose of God in creation indicates that He considers a godly family and the raising of children of utmost priority in the world. God's plan and standard is one man and one woman joined together in a marriage that only ends at the death of one of the partners.

Children are products of God's perfect plan in marriage relationship. You must not engage in any act that will lead to separation between your parents. You are to be agents of unity. Your character, conduct and words should promote love and togetherness in the family. As you do this, you will learn godly principles that will also help you to settle down in a godly marriage in future.

## **2. SEPARATION FORBIDDEN IN MARRIAGE:**

Matthew 19:8-12; Mark 10:1-5, 10-12; Genesis 2:18; Malachi 2:14-16

Divorce takes place when a marriage between a man and a woman is legally dissolved in the law court or through personal decision of the couple to separate from one another. God hates divorce. Divorce or separation has negative consequences on the society and the family. It breeds immorality, mental sickness and all sorts of social disorders and wrong behaviour in children.

Separation is against the word and will of God for the family. This is because it (i) Scatters family members and brings hatred (ii) Denies the family of the love, fellowship and care they ought to enjoy with one another. (iii) Hinders children from being trained in the way of and fear of the Lord. (iv) Makes children to suffer, become bitter and rebellious. God is not happy when anything tries to tamper with His perfect will or order concerning His creatures. He hates separation. Your desire and prayer should always be for your family to stay together in love and unity.

Also, you must be of good behaviour at home so as not to cause separation between your father and mother. More importantly, the members of the family must surrender their lives to Christ and be born again. When Jesus reigns and rules in your family, there will be no separation.

### **3. JESUS BLESSES LITTLE CHILDREN:**

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15

After teaching the people the evil of divorce, Jesus now turned His attention to the children. He acknowledges the importance of children as products of the family who must be cared for. Christ is deeply concerned about the salvation and the spiritual upbringing of children. He longs to receive them, love them and bless them.

In our Bible passage, we read that parents brought their children to Jesus so that He can touch them and bless them. Jesus blessed them by putting His hands on them. Children must also be ready to repent and stop doing bad things so as to receive His touch of salvation, blessing, healing, wisdom and understanding.

Our Lord Jesus did good things wherever He went. On this occasion, He told His disciples not to hinder children from coming to Him. He loves children and He was happy that some parents brought their children to Him. He was tender towards the children and took notice of them and their needs as He “... **laid his hands on them**” (Matthew 19:15). Do you want Jesus to lay His hand on you too? Even though He is not physically with us today, He can still “lay His hands” on you if you surrender your life to Him and make Him the Lord of your life. He is knocking at the door of your heart, confess your sins, repent from them and believe on the Lord Jesus.

It is also very important that you pray to God to help you so that you will not hinder any child from coming to Jesus as the disciples of Jesus did. Don't let your lifestyle be a stumbling block that can hinder the salvation of other children. Treat other children better than the disciples of Jesus did when the parents brought their children to the Lord. Show them the way to Jesus. As Jesus put His hands on the children, so will He pour His Spirit upon you and set you apart for His glory. Come to Jesus today and be blessed.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who established marriage?
2. The will of God is for the husband, wife and children to stay together. Yes/No?
3. What are the negative effects of separation in the family?
4. What should members of the family do to help them stay together?
5. How did Jesus show His love to children in our Bible passage?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Mark 10:9).

**LESSON:** The will and plan of God is for the husband and wife to dwell together in love and never separate.

**THOUGHT:** I will be an agent of peace and unity in my family.

**ACTIVITY:** Prayer for families.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 46 - A CHRISTIAN HOME**

**CHORUSES:** (1) When Jesus is in the family, happy, happy home. (2) We are heirs of the Father. (3) Jesus loves the little children.

**HOMEWORK:** Pray every day of the week for your parents and other family members.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	GENESIS	1:26-28
TUESDAY	GENESIS	2:15-18
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	2:21-24
THURSDAY	MALACHI	3:14-16
FRIDAY	ROMANS	7:1-3
SATURDAY	LUKE	18:15-17
SUNDAY	PSALM	128:1-4

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Forbids 2. Consequences 3. Divorce 4. Disorder 5. Marriage.

## LESSON 48

# PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARDS RICHES

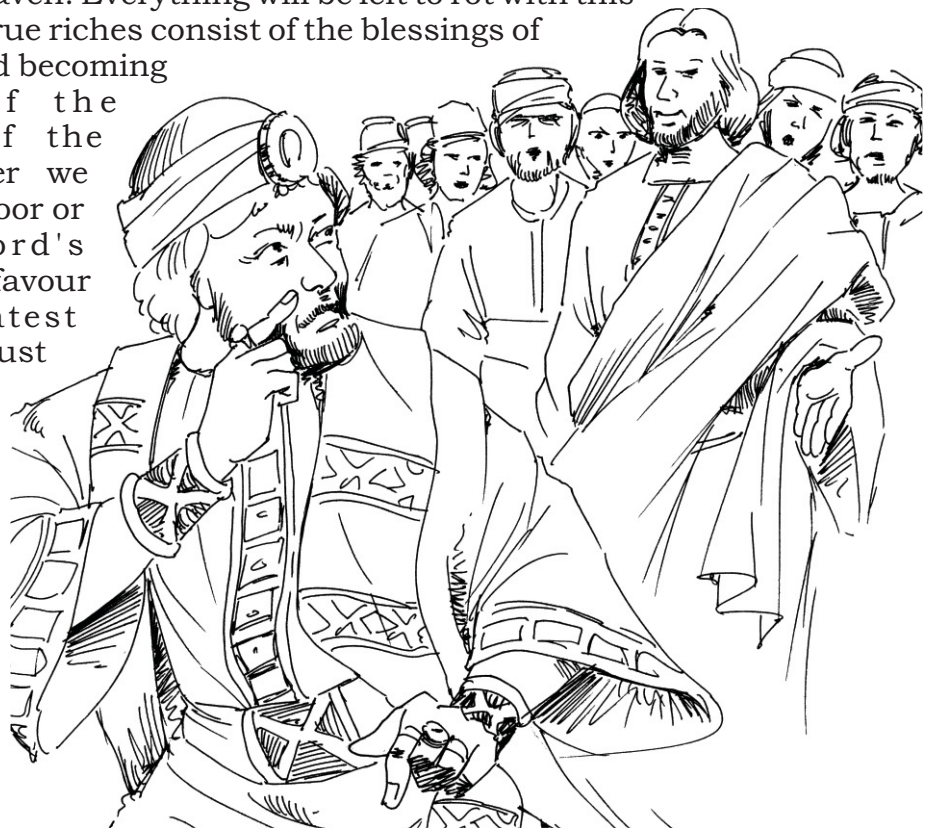
Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:15-30

**R**iches means great material wealth which can be in form of money, houses, cars, private jets, clothing, furniture, treasures and other possessions that we value so much. Riches can also include talents, academic success, gifts, position, opportunities and privileges that are open to someone at one time or the other. It is not a bad thing to be rich, but it is dangerous to put our trust in riches. When we have riches, it is often difficult to trust God because no one can serve God and mammon (Matthew 6:24). This was the problem of the rich young ruler. He was young, yet he had the honour to be a ruler and also possessed great wealth. His riches were not the problem but his attitude toward the riches.

Jesus tested the heart of this young ruler in the area of his greatest weakness which was his wealth. He was not willing to put Christ before and above his possessions, yet, he wanted to have eternal life. The young man was full of himself, he did not want to humble himself before Jesus, the life giver. He also did not care about the poor despite his riches.

Jesus used the attitude of this young rich man to teach us important lessons on the danger of putting our trust in riches. All that is in the world will perish one day. We cannot take our car, houses, clothes, toys, or even certificates to heaven. Everything will be left to rot with this present world. True riches consist of the blessings of knowing God and becoming

partakers of the inheritance of the saints. Whatever we are materially, poor or rich, the Lord's presence and favour are our greatest wealth. We must therefore be willing to give up anything that Christ demands of us. For He has promised to give us hundred-fold in this present world and in eternity.





### **1. A YOUNG RULER'S DESIRE FOR ETERNAL LIFE:**

Matthew 19:16-21; Mark 10:17-21; Luke 18:18-23

Eternal life is a life of happiness and unending joy with Christ in heaven for friends of Jesus. For children who had surrendered their lives to Jesus and had turned away from their sins, Jesus has gone to prepare a place for them (John 14:1-3). This young rich ruler also wished to get to heaven but when Jesus told him the qualification for heaven, he went away sorrowful. Maybe your daddy is very rich and because of this, your heart is only in the riches and the things money can buy. This would hinder you from getting to heaven.

The young ruler had false ideas about riches like other rulers of his time. They believed that to be wealthy was a sign of God's special favour and that to be poor was a sign of God's displeasure. The man was greedy, proud, pretentious, uncaring and had no desire to seek first, God's righteousness. The kingdom of God is not meant for such people. It is meant for those who will seek God by repenting and forsaking their sins to follow Christ. There is danger in putting our trust in riches. Do not be deceived like the young ruler.

### **2. DANGER OF TRUSTING IN RICHES:**

Matthew 19:21-26; Mark 10:21-27; Luke 18:24-27; Proverbs 11:28;  
1 Timothy 6:8-11

The young rich ruler went away sorrowful when he heard the response of Jesus that he should go and sell all his possessions and follow Him. Jesus then told His disciples how hard it will be for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven (Luke 18:24). Jesus teaches us that those who will love riches more than God will not be saved nor become true disciples of Christ (Matthew 19:24; 13:22). They give a false sense of security (Luke 12:15), deceive (Matthew 13:22), and demand the total loyalty of one's heart (Matthew 6:21). The rich often live as if they do not need God like the rich man in Luke 16:19-24. In searching for material things, the individual is led into temptation and harmful desires.

A child who is always seeking for worldly things and pleasure will become an enemy of God. If he fails to turn from his worldly pursuits, it can land him in eternal damnation in hell fire. Do not love the world because, everything in the world will pass away. Remember, true riches consist of faith and love which expresses itself in self-denial and willingness to follow Jesus. As you make up your mind to forsake all and follow Jesus, He will bestow on you, eternal blessings. There are many godly men that were rich while on earth and are now in heaven – father Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, David etc.

### **3. BLESSINGS FOR LEAVING ALL TO FOLLOW JESUS:**

Matthew 19:27-30; Mark 10:28-31; Luke 18:28-30

The disciples of Jesus were amazed at Jesus' view about riches. Jesus told them that with God, all things are possible. He went further to assure them that though they have left everything to follow Him, there are manifold blessings awaiting them. Many godly men in the Bible were rich, like

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, David etc. But, they made God the central focus of their lives and riches.

When you give your life to Jesus, you have everything to gain and nothing to lose. You have peace, joy, good health, success, victory over sin and Satan and at last you will get to your beautiful mansion in heaven. But if you are a sinful child you have nothing to gain unless you come to Jesus, repent of all your sins and surrender your heart, life and everything to Jesus.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Who came to Jesus in our Bible passage?
2. Why did he go back sorrowful?
3. You must not love riches more than God. Yes/No?
4. Mention the dangers of putting your trust in riches.
5. What blessings will you have when you give all to Jesus?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me” (Mark 10:21).

**LESSON:** Desire for riches and worldly pleasure will hinder many people from getting to heaven.

**THOUGHT:** I will not allow riches and worldly things to hinder me from getting to heaven.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should discuss how they can use their talents, gifts, time and treasures for the glory of God.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 204 - YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I will love, I will love. (2) I have decided to follow Jesus. (3) Give and it shall be given unto you.

**HOMEWORK:** Share your things with the needy, but tell your parents first.

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	MATTHEW	6:19-21
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	6:24,25,33
WEDNESDAY	LUKE	12:15-19
THURSDAY	LUKE	12:20,21
FRIDAY	LUKE	12:31-34
SATURDAY	1 TIMOTHY	6:6-8
SUNDAY	1 TIMOTHY	6:9-12

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Riches 2. Eternal Life 3. Damnation 4. Treasure 5. Possession.

## LESSON 49

# PARABLE OF THE LABOURERS

Matthew 20:1-34; Mark 10:32-45; Luke 18:35-43

**J**esus told a parable (a short story), of a householder (a family man) who had a vineyard (farmland). The farm-owner went out early in the morning and hired labourers (workers) to work in his farm for the day, at an agreed amount of a penny, the normal daily pay in those days. Later, about the third hour (9am). Sixth hour, (12noon), ninth hour (3pm) and eleventh hour (5pm), respectively, he went out, encouraged others who were standing idle at the market place to go work in his farm, not for any specific amount but for whatever he felt was right to pay them. At the end of the working hours the householder paid the same penny to all the labourers including those that had come later in the day. Though some of them complained, he explained the reason for his actions. This parable teaches that entrance into the kingdom of God is a matter of privilege not merit. Jesus warned against some wrong attitudes (i) Do not feel superior because of your talent, gift, ability or position (ii) Do not fail to share the love of Jesus with those who are outside the kingdom (iii) Avoid being envious of those who are more talented than you. Whatever you do in the house of God, be humble and let God be glorified. There are eternal blessings awaiting all faithful labourers.



### **1. CALL FOR FAITHFUL LABOURERS:** Matthew 20:1-7; 9:37-39

A labourer is a person called to do some work which afterward, he receives a reward. Some farms are very large, and the farmers cannot do the work on the farms alone. They have to call some labourers to assist them. Both the farmer and labourers will agree on the amount of money (reward) to pay. The parable of the labourers in our Bible passage refers to the call of Christ to His friends. When Jesus started His earthly ministry, He called twelve disciples to work with Him. Afterward, He sent out other seventy. Since then, more labourers have come into the vineyard to work. Many have worked faithfully and have gone to enjoy their rewards in heaven. Yet the harvest is still plenty and there is still need for more labourers. If you are a friend of Jesus, you must heed His call to work in God's vineyard. The major work He has called us to do is to preach the gospel.

### **2. PAYMENT OF THE LABOURERS:**

Matthew 20:8-14; 19:27-30; Hebrews 6:10; Galatians 6:9

At the close of the day, that is, 6.p.m, the farm- owner gathered the workers together to pay them. He began with the last people who had worked the shortest time and paid each of them the same amount. When those who began the work earlier came for payment, they thought they would receive more than a penny, but they were paid the same amount. Though they had worked all day and borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day; they however had agreed, to work for a penny, and that was what they received (Matthew 20:13). The farm-owner reminded them that they should not be envious of his generosity towards those who had worked only for a short period. As friends of Jesus, whatever we are doing for Him, we should not compare our talent or gift with others; neither should we envy them because everyone shall be rewarded according to what he/she has done for the Lord. The Lord demands obedience and faithfulness from boys and girls before they can enjoy the reward. As you determine to work for Christ, you will receive your due rewards from the faithful Master and Lord.

### **3. IMPORTANT LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE:**

Matthew 20:15,16; 19: 27-30; Hebrews 6:10; Galatians 6:9

From this story, Jesus wanted His disciples, and by extension friends of Jesus, to know that the matter of rewards is under the control of God – the 'Farm-owner'. God will reward everyone according to his work for Him. Therefore, we should be careful of what we do for Him because there is a day of reward awaiting us. The Lord warned that those at the fore-front in God's service now should take care to maintain their position lest others who are at the end of the line of service take their first position. **“So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called but few chosen”** (Matthew 20:16). Finally, we should not serve God because we want to receive rewards. God is good, generous, gracious and will always give us better things than we deserve.



**QUESTIONS:**

1. At what time did the householder engage each set of labourers?
2. How much were the labourers paid each?
3. Why should we not envy others?
4. What lessons did you learn from the parable?
5. What are friends of Jesus called to do in God's vineyard?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard” (Matthew 20:1).

**LESSON:** Eternal rewards awaits faithful labourers in God's vineyard.

**THOUGHT:** I will labour in God's vineyard so as to enjoy eternal rewards.

**ACTIVITY:** Children should read Matthew 20:1-16 to find out how much was paid to the first set of workers and the last set.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 54 - I AM READY FOR SERVICE**

**CHORUSES:** (1) I will go and tell them Jesus is alive (2) I have decided to follow Jesus (3) Following Jesus every day by day.

**HOMEWORK:** Write down what you will do for God during the week and share with your teacher.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	LUKE	10:1-3
TUESDAY	LUKE	12:35-37
WEDNESDAY	LUKE	12:38 – 40
THURSDAY	LUKE	12:41-43
FRIDAY	LUKE	12:44-48
SATURDAY	JOHN	9:4-5
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	9:35-38

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Parable 2. Labourers 3. Householder 4. Vineyard 5. Eternal.

## LESSON 50

# TRIUMPHAL ENTRY AND CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

Matthew 21:1-27; Mark 11:1-33; Luke 19:28-48; 20:1-8

**I**n our lesson today, we shall look at Christ's last visit to the city of Jerusalem, before He was crucified on the cross at Calvary. This event was so important that all the four gospels, (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) recorded it. The word "**Triumphal**" means celebrating victory, success or to rejoice over a victory. Jesus Christ our Saviour made a triumphal entry because He is victorious over sin, Satan and the world (John 16:33).

There are some significant things associated with the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Our Lord Jesus proved that He is Saviour and Messiah, and that He has authority over all things. As Jesus triumphed over sin, Satan and the world, so shall all friends of Jesus, triumph too.



## 1. JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM:

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; Zechariah 9:9

Jesus sent two of His disciples to go and bring a colt for Him to ride on as He came into Jerusalem. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a colt, publicly testifies that He is the King and Messiah of the world. This entry was prophesized by Zechariah the prophet. Jesus' humble entry into the capital city, is a symbolic action to show that (i) His kingdom is not of this world (ii) He did not come to the world to rule by force or with violence (iii) He was ready to go to the cross to pay the price for our salvation. It is also important to note from the story, the response of the people to Jesus' triumphal entry: (a) Jesus' disciples obeyed, went and did as He commanded them; (b) The owner of the colt did not argue with them, he too released the colt for the use of the Lord Jesus Christ. We learn here that we should not keep ourselves and every good thing we possess from being used by Jesus because we belong to Him by creation and redemption.

Many people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem by spreading branches of trees and clothes on the way as carpet for Him to walk upon to Jerusalem, with a shout of hosanna or praise to Him, this is to show that Jesus is the expected Messiah, Lord of lords, and the coming King. You must invite and welcome Him into your heart now for Him to be your Saviour and friend (Revelation 3:20).

## 2. JESUS' CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE:

Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:12-19; Luke 19:41-48

Immediately Jesus entered Jerusalem, He went into the temple where He saw people buying, selling and exchanging money. Jesus was not happy with them because they turned the house of God into a market place instead of a place of prayer and the study of God's word. Jesus drove them out of the temple, to show His unhappiness with their practice. In the same way today, some boys and girls, when they come to church, they play around, pinch one another, make noise, eat and throw biscuit wraps and pieces of paper on the floor, turn the chairs or benches into writing boards, instead of sitting quietly to listen to the word of God. We have two types of "**Temples**". The first is the physical building (church), and the second is our body as the temple of the Holy Ghost (1Corinthians 6:19,20). As the Lord expects us to keep the physical temple clean, so also, He expects His children to keep clean their bodies from things that make them unclean before God, like stealing, fighting, lying, smoking, bad association, immoral friendship, cheating and other bad things. **Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are**" (1Corinthians 3:16-17). Jesus cannot live in a dirty heart. If your heart has been polluted with sin, you must repent now. Confess all your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and cleanse your heart with the blood of Jesus. Promise Him that you will not do wrong things anymore, keep your body and the house of God clean. Live

a holy and righteous life every day.

### 3. JESUS' TEACHING ON FAITH AND HIS RESPONSE TO THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Matthew 21:18-27; Mark 11:20-23; Luke 20:1-8

The fig tree was cursed by the Lord Jesus and it dried up. The disciples were surprised at how soon the fig tree dried up and called Christ's attention to it. Christ's reply teaches His disciples and all His followers today to learn the importance of faith in our walk with God, **"But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)"** Hebrews 11:6a. This miracle shows Christ's authority and power over all things. It teaches us that if we have faith and pray, nothing shall be difficult or impossible for us; we can be healed from every sickness and disease and we can have good success in our academics. The chief priests and the elders were angry with Jesus for healing the blind and the lame in the temple and for driving out those who were buying and selling in the temple. Therefore, they challenged His authority, saying, **"Who gave you this authority to do all these things?"** (Matthew 21:23-27). Jesus responded to their question by asking them a question too, but they purposely refused to give answer to His questions, to escape making a fool of themselves (Matthew 21:24-27). It is unbelief that will make someone to question God. You must not question God's word but rather believe, read, meditate over it and obey everything. Be prayerful and preach the gospel to sinners and teach other children how to keep the house of God clean. This is the only way you can bear fruit in God's kingdom. Then Jesus will answer your prayers and bless you.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of animal did Jesus ride on to Jerusalem?
2. Mention three things you learnt from Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem.
3. Why did Jesus drive those people from the temple?
4. How many types of temples do we have according to our lesson?
5. What makes the temple (our body) dirty before God, and how can you

keep It clean?

**MEMORY VERSE:** **"And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest"** (Matthew 21:9).

**LESSON:** Jesus will reign triumphantly in the heart of children who keep the temple of God holy.

**THOUGHT:** I will love Jesus, keep my life clean, obey God's word so that He will reign forever in my heart.

**ACTIVITY:** Draw a picture of Jesus sitting on a colt and people laying palm leaves on the road for Him to pass. Colour and make it beautiful.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 214 - ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS NAME.**

**CHORUSES:** (1) He is the King of kings (2) Jesus shall reign forever more (3) Lift Him up higher.

**HOMEWORK:** Spread the love of Jesus to your neighbours.

**DAILY BIBLE READING:**

MONDAY	ZECHARIAH	9:9-11
TEUSDAY	ZECHARIAH	2:9-13
WEDNESDAY	JEREMIAH	23:5-6
THURSDAY	ZECHARIAH	8:7,8
FRIDAY	JOHN	12:12-16
SATURDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	3:16,17
SUNDAY	REVELATION	3:18-20

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Triumphal 2. Revelation 3. Polluted 4. Temple 5. Authority.



## LESSON 51

# PARABLE OF THE WICKED SERVANTS

Matthew 21:28-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19

A parable is a short story often employed by Christ to teach about heaven. Jesus knew that **“He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all”** (John 3:31). **“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”** (1 Corinthians 2:14). The use of parables was very important to teach the people so that they can understand and believe the gospel. As Christ taught His disciples through parables, He also warned His enemies through parables. Christ desires that we listen to His word, think deeply on it and obey it. This is the only way to succeed in life and qualify to live with Him in heaven. Very soon, He will appear in the sky to take His saints home.

Do away with all sin and be ready for His coming.



### 1. **PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS:**

Matthew 21:28-32; Luke 15:11-32

In this parable, our Lord was talking to the people who hated Him and always found faults with Him. The Lord painted a picture of the chief priests and the elders. The parable represented two kinds of persons: the obedient and the disobedient. The first son who said, **"I go, sir"** and did not go is like the scribes and pharisees who claimed to know God but did not keep His word. The second son who said **"I will not"** but repented and went is like the publicans and the sinners who genuinely repent of their sins. Like the first son, there are children who attend church but do not obey the word of God.

Obedience to God's word is the key to life. Jesus calls all sinful children to repentance. Those who are like the second son, will become sorry for their bad ways, repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Do not follow the bad example of the pharisees. Accept Jesus as your Saviour and Lord and follow Him till the end.

### 2. **PARABLE OF THE WICKED HUSBANDMAN:**

Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19

The Lord used the vineyard as a symbol in this parable to speak directly to the children of Israel and their leaders. The vineyard stands for the children of Israel, the householder for God as the owner of the vineyard (Israel), and the hedge around the vineyard stands for the word of God. God planted Israel in the land of Canaan and handed them over to their leaders who were judges, chief priests and kings. These were the husbandmen. They were to make the children of Israel bring forth fruits of obedience unto God but they failed to do so.

This made the Lord to send prophets to them so that they could lead the people back to Him. But they persecuted the prophets and killed some of them. This is how children who are not born again reject the word of God and abuse the children of God. Christian children should obey the word of God and follow the examples of godly leaders and teachers of the word of God. Like Jesus, persecuted children of God should not be afraid, but continue to follow the Lord.

The kingdom of God is for those who respond to the gospel of Christ. The kingdom and its power will be taken away from those who reject the word of Christ. It will only be given to those who separate themselves from the world and seek first God's kingdom and righteousness. Be counted among these few (Matthew 6:33).

### 3. **PROFITING FROM THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST:**

Mark 10:10-12; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11

**"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope"** (Romans 15:4). There are important lessons for the children of God to learn from these parables of Jesus. (i) Children of God should be truthful and obedient. (ii) Children who disobey the word of God will be punished by

God if they fail to repent. (iii) Children who do not accept the doctrines (teachings) of the word of God are not friends of Jesus. (iv) There are two ways laid out before everyone, individuals have the opportunity to choose whichever way he/she wants to go. The desire of Christ is that you choose the right way so that you will live and not perish. Consider your ways now. Are you disobedient or obedient to God's word? You can choose to be obedient now repent and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord, so as to enjoy God's abundant grace and blessings.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What is a parable?
2. What should children do when they hear the word of God?
3. What should Christian children do when they are persecuted?
4. What will happen to children who disobey the word of God?
5. State three lessons that you have learned from the parables in the Bible passages.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes” (Matthew 21:42).

**LESSON:** Obedience to God's word is the road to a successful life.

**THOUGHT:** Lord, help me to be obedient to your word.

**ACTIVITY:** Write down five ways to show obedience to God and your parents.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 47 - JUST OBEY**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life (2) I am ready to obey thy word (3) On the last day.

**HOMEWORK:** Spend five (5) minutes to pray for your friends to repent and be obedient to God

### **DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	DEUTERONOMY	28:1 – 3
TUESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	28:15 – 16
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	24:43 – 44
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	24:45 – 47
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	24:48 – 51
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	25:31 – 33
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	25:34 – 36

### **BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Parable 2. Husbandmen 3. Publicans 4. Householder 5. Scribes.

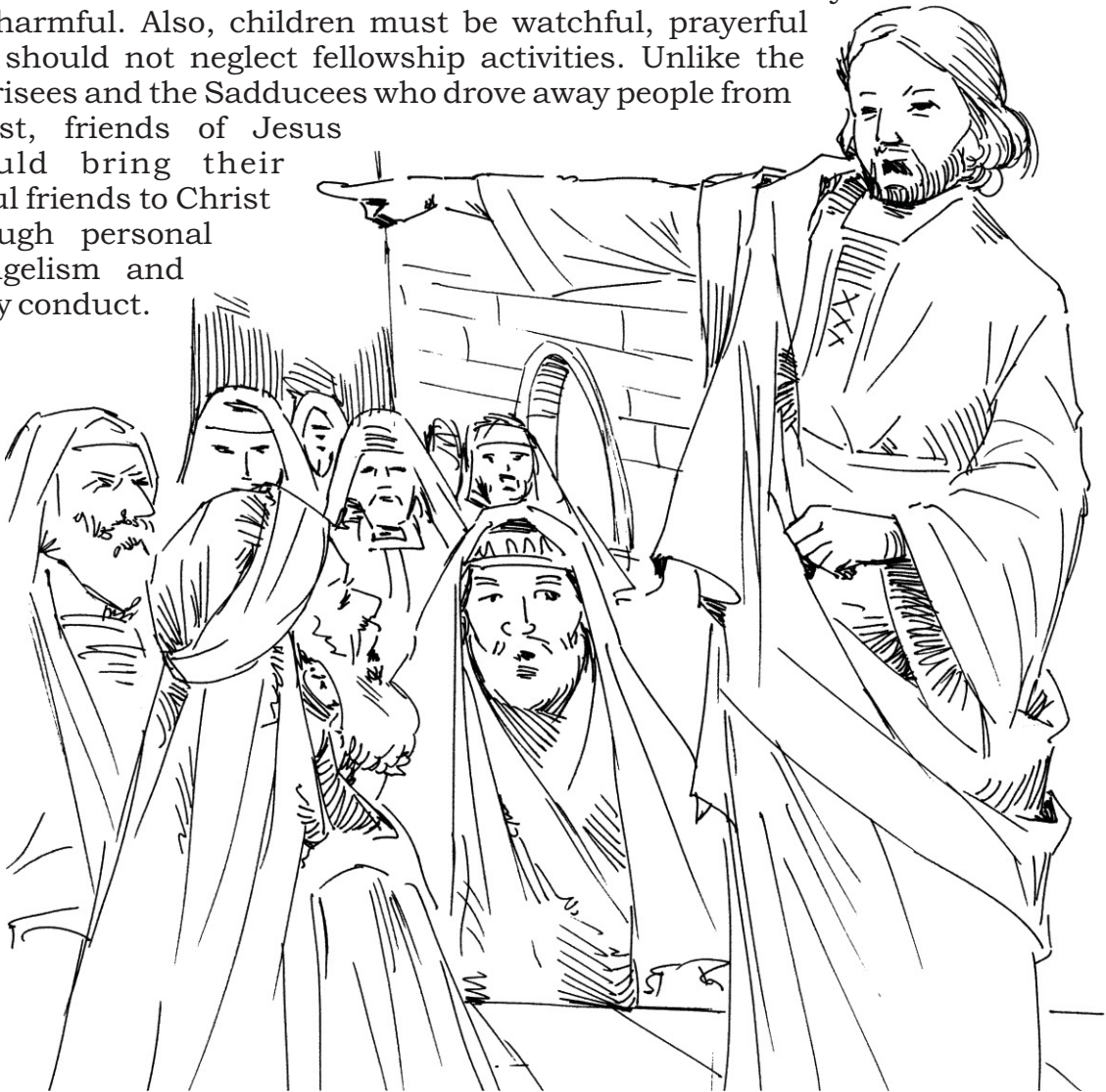
## LESSON 52

# JESUS CORRECTS THE SADDUCEES AND PHARISEES

Matthew 22:1-46; Mark 12:13-37; Luke 20:20-47

**T**he Pharisees and the Sadducees were religious leaders at the time of Jesus' earthly ministry. They claimed to know the scriptures more than others. Therefore, they exercised control over religious matters to the extent that people were afraid to challenge them. They taught their own ideas in place of God's word. They opposed the teachings and doctrines of Christ meant to save and transform their souls. The Pharisees and the Sadducees also prevented people from coming to Christ so that they might be saved.

You should not allow anyone to hinder you from coming to Christ. Do not collect or read materials from false teachers because they are harmful. Also, children must be watchful, prayerful and should not neglect fellowship activities. Unlike the Pharisees and the Sadducees who drove away people from Christ, friends of Jesus should bring their sinful friends to Christ through personal evangelism and godly conduct.





## 1. **CONDEMNATION FOR REJECTING GOD'S CALL:**

Matthew 22:1-14; Proverbs 1:24-33; Isaiah 55:1-7; Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 19:7-9; 20:15; 22:17

The Lord gave a parable of the Kingdom. He used the parable to explain His message so that the religious Pharisees could understand Him better. The Lord spoke with authority to correct the wrong beliefs. He did not change His message because of the attitude of the Pharisees. Similarly, children must always be fearless in telling the truth, even when others do not like it. It is only the truth that can set you free. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Children who have received the truth must share it with others everywhere.

The parable of the wedding feast talks about a king who invited guests to the wedding of his son. The king sent his servants at different times to invite the guests to the wedding feast, but they refused to honour his invitations. They even killed the servants who were sent to invite them. The “**King**” is God the father, the creator of heaven and earth, while “**His son**” is the Lord Jesus Christ, the people that were invited to the wedding are the sinners in the world that Christ wants to save. The king provided beautiful wedding garments for those who came to the wedding. He was surprised to find a guest not wearing the wedding garment. He immediately ordered that he should be sent out.

Sinners without the garment of salvation freely given by the Lord Jesus will not be allowed into God's kingdom. Rejection of God's offer of salvation is dangerous and will lead to regret. It leads to eternal damnation and sorrow. If you are still living in sin, do not delay, surrender your life to Jesus so you can partake in His eternal kingdom. Only those who are saved and live a holy life to the end will take part in the marriage supper of the Lamb.

What lessons can children learn from the parable? (i) God has a beautiful plan to save all the children in the world. (ii) Like the king's servants, children of God must always be ready to do His will. (iii) Sinners must not delay answering God's call to salvation. (iv) There is punishment for refusing to answer the call of God to salvation.

## 2. **JESUS CORRECTS THE LEADER'S WRONG BELIEFS:**

Matthew 22:15-33; Mark 12:13-27; Luke 20:20-40; 1 Corinthians 15:1-22; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15

The religious leaders were filled with wrong beliefs and false doctrines. They wanted to remain with their wrong beliefs, therefore they often come to Christ to test and challenge His words. They asked Him if it was right to pay tax to Caesar or not. Their aim was to set the government of the day against Jesus and His ministry, but Jesus knew the evil plan in their minds. He asked for a penny that has the picture and stamp of Caesar. Looking at it, He told them “... **Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at him**” (Mark 12:17).

The people were surprised at His wisdom! Children have a lot to learn from the answer that Jesus gave to the Sadducees and Pharisees (i) We must be watchful of those who may cause us to sin against God. (ii) We need the help

of the Holy Spirit to recognize the enemy's plans. (iii) Children must obey leaders at home, school and church according to the word of God. (iv) We must be ready to tell others about Jesus.

They Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, they told Jesus about the seven brothers who took turns to marry the same woman to raise children for their first dead brother. They wanted to know whose wife she would be after the resurrection. Jesus told them that there was no marriage after death. He went on to correct their wrong teaching on the resurrection of the dead, for they believed there was no resurrection of the dead. Here, Jesus taught immortality of souls, that souls never die. The moment a child is born into the world, even after death, he will live forever either in heaven or hell. Therefore, to spend eternity in God's presence, children must believe the gospel and surrender their lives to Christ now.

### **3. THE GREAT COMMANDMENT:**

Matthew 22:34-46; Mark 12:28-40; Deuteronomy 6:5; Romans 13:8-10  
**“Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law”** (Matthew 22:35-36). The lawyer asked Jesus about the greatest commandment in the word of God. Jesus told him that the first commandment was to love God with all our soul, mind and strength. He added that the second commandment was similar to the first **“To love thy neighbour as thyself”**. The response of the lawyer made Jesus to be happy. He said to the lawyer, **“Thou art not far from the kingdom of God”** (Mark 12:32-34).

The lawyer had a good knowledge of the scriptures, Jesus acknowledged this. Children must take time to read and meditate on the Holy Bible. Jesus made him to understand that having a head knowledge of God's word without a change of character and readiness to obey is useless. Therefore, all children who are yet to be saved must acknowledge their sinfulness, confess and forsake their sins and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. They will be received into God's kingdom.

Jesus is the only begotten son of God, He died to save us from our sins. No one should question His power and authority. God demands devoted love to Him. This involves (i) A personal attachment and loyalty to Him (ii) Faith in His unfailing word, (iii) Dedication to His righteous standards in the midst of a corrupt world (iv) A desire for His presence and fellowship. Children of God are required also to love everyone including their enemies. However, their love for others must be subject to and controlled and directed by their love for and devotion to God. Love for God is the first and great commandment. Therefore, you must love Him because He first loved us.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Who are Sadducees and Pharisees?
2. What lessons do you learn from the parable of the wedding feast?
3. Explain the question brought to Jesus by the religious leaders.
4. What will happen to sinners who reject God's call to salvation?
- 5 (a) What is the great commandment?  
(b) In what ways can friends of Jesus show their love?

**MEMORY VERSE:** “And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God” (Mark 12:24).

**LESSON:** God's children need the knowledge of God's word and the help of the Holy Spirit to recognize the enemy's deception.

**THOUGHT:** I will be watchful and prayerful to overcome the deception of the enemy.

**ACTIVITY:** Write out in your notebook, four lessons you learn from this study.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 83 -THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MY HEART**

**CHORUSES:** (1) Give me grace to follow (2) I will dig a little deeper (3) I love Jesus, He's my friend.

**HOMEWORK:** Pray for five minutes each day of the week that you will not be deceived by false teachers

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

MONDAY	LUKE	14:16-20
TUESDAY	LUKE	14:21-24
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	17:24-27
THURSDAY	ROMANS	13:6-10
FRIDAY	DEUTERONOMY	6:4-7
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	7:15-20
SUNDAY	REVELATION	19:7-9

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

Find the meaning of these words, you can use your dictionary:

1. Damnation 2. Scriptures 3. Devoted 4. Loyalty 5. Belief