CHILDREN

SEARCH

The

SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 2

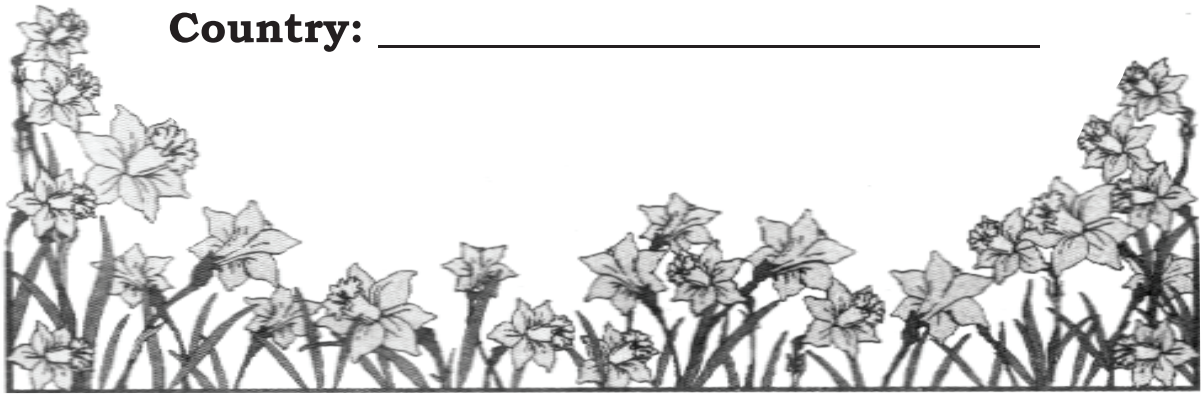
Name: _____

District: _____

Region/Group: _____

State: _____

Country: _____



Search the Scriptures
Volume 2

A publication of Deeper Christian Life Ministry, Inc.

Copyright © 2022

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted by any means – electronic, mechanical, photographic, recording, or otherwise – without permission from the publisher. Brief quotes are, however, permitted.

All quotations are from the Authorised King James Version of the Bible.

Printed in Nigeria by Life Press Limited
2-10 Ayodele Okeowo Street, Gbagada,
P.M.B. 1004, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria
RC 30268

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LESSON **PAGES**

PREFACE *6*
FROM THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT *7*

SECTION I

OLD TESTAMENT

1. JETHRO'S COUNSEL TO MOSES.....9-12
2. MOSES RECEIVES THE LAW AT MOUNT SINAI.....13-16
3. DIVINE INSTRUCTION ON THE PATTERN OF THE TABERNACLE.....17-20
4. INSTITUTION OF THE PRIESTHOOD.....21-24
5. ISRAEL DESCENDS INTO IDOLATRY.....25-27
6. RENEWAL OF THE LAW AND OFFERING FOR THE TABERNACLE.....28-31
7. CONSTRUCTION AND RAISING OF THE TABERNACLE.....32-36

NEW TESTAMENT

8. JESUS DENOUNCES THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES.....37-40
9. SIGNS OF THE END.....41-44
10. PARABLES OF THE TEN VIRGINS AND THE TALENTS.....45-48
11. THE LAST SUPPER AND CHRIST'S BETRAYAL.....49-52
12. PETER DENIES CHRIST.....53-56
13. TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST.....57-60

SECTION II

OLD TESTAMENT

14. LAWS REGULATING VARIOUS SACRIFICES.....62-65
15. CONSECRATION OF THE PRIESTS.....66-69
16. STRANGE FIRE IN THE TABERNACLE.....70-73
17. SUNDRY LAWS OF PURIFICATION..... 74-77
18. IDENTIFICATION AND CLEANSING OF LEPROSY.....78-81
19. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT.....82-85
20. CLARIFICATION OF MORAL LAWS.....86-89

NEW TESTAMENT

21. RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND THE GREAT COMMISSION.....90-93

22. JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY.....94-98

23. JESUS ORDAINS TWELVE DISCIPLES.....99-102

24. PARABLES OF THE SEEDS.....103-106

25. CHRIST'S POWER OVER DEMONS, DISEASES AND DEATH.....107-110

26. CHRIST REJECTED IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.....111-114

SECTION III

OLD TESTAMENT

27. CALL TO HOLINESS.....116-119

28. DIVINELY APPOINTED FEASTS.....120-123

29. THE YEAR OF JUBILEE.....124-127

30. CONDITIONS FOR BLESSINGS AND CURSES.....128-131

31. LAW OF VOWS AND DEDICATIONS.....132-135

32. CENSUS OF ISRAEL AND DUTIES OF THE LEVITES.....136-139

33. PRESERVATION OF HOLINESS AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE.....140-143

NEW TESTAMENT

34. JESUS' EXPLANATION ON DEFILEMENT.....144-147

35. JESUS WARNS AGAINST HELL.....148-151

36. HEALING OF BLIND BARTIMAEUS.....152-155

37. THE WIDOW'S OFFERING.....156-159

38. BIRTH OF JOHN AND ANNUNCIATION OF CHRIST.....160-163

39. BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS.....164-167

SECTION IV

OLD TESTAMENT

40. THE LAW OF THE NAZARITE.....169-172

41. DEDICATION OF THE TABERNACLE AND CONSECRATION OF THE LEVITES.....173-176

42. COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSOVER AND DIVINE GUIDANCE...177-180

43. MURMURING IN THE CAMP.....181-184

44. THE SPIES' REPORT AND ISRAEL'S REBELLION.....185-188

45. SUNDRY OFFERINGS AND INTENTIONAL SIN.....189-192

46. KORAH'S REBELLION AND APPROVAL OF AARON'S PRIESTHOOD..193-196

NEW TESTAMENT

47. CHRIST'S CALL TO SOUL-WINNING.....197-199

48. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY OVER SICKNESS, DEATH AND SIN.....200-202

49. CHRIST TEACHES AGAINST DIVISION IN THE CHURCH.....203-206

50. MISSION OF THE SEVENTY.....207-209

51. PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN.....210-213

52. JESUS TEACHES ON PRAYER.....214-216

PREFACE

“**Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.**” (John 5:39) This passage of the Bible captures the essence of this new search the scripture series. Searching the scriptures will reveal the secret of how to have eternal life because the scriptures testifies of Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of the world.

The scripture is another name for the Holy Bible. It is the word of God that tells us all that we need to know about God, our Creator. Through the scriptures, God speaks to boys and girls about His plan of salvation and the benefits that come with it.

We relate with God through the study of His word. God's desire for everyone is that we know Him through the revelation of His word to us. No one can become a true child of God without knowing and believing His word.

God's word from Genesis to Revelation is about His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. Therefore, anyone who desires to have a close relationship with God must accept God's word as the final authority on all matters of life.

This is the reason this yearly volume of the search the scriptures has been prepared as study guide to help everyone benefit maximally from the study of God's word. There are two parts to the children search the scriptures vis-a-vis search the scriptures manual and search the scriptures workbook. Both are designed to help children of all ages have a fruitful and beneficial study of the word of God. "**And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**" (2 Timothy 3:15).

This study manual is recommended for teaching and learning God's word in the Sunday Schools, children churches, Bible clubs, children evangelism mission and other Bible based children outreach platforms.

Parents, guardians, caregivers, teachers and instructors are encouraged to get these precious gems for all the children under their tutelage.

From the General Superintendent

From the outset of the Deeper Life Bible Church, I have been very passionate about imparting the knowledge of God's word to members of the congregation. I have striven, by the grace of God, to ensure that the people of God receive a balanced and an indepth teaching of the Word. This is because of my firm conviction that "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works**" (2 Timothy 3:16,17). And, *Search the Scriptures* session has been a veritable and core means of achieving this goal during our Sunday worship sessions.

Over time, I had contemplated the possibility of studying the whole Bible - Genesis to Revelation through the *Search the Scriptures* session such that worshippers who attend church regularly can achieve this feat within a specified period of time. With grateful thanks to God, I am delighted to acknowledge the help of God and of committed members, who have been able to work out an annual version that would come in twelve volumes for this purpose.

Like the Berean Christians who "**...received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so**" (Acts 17:11), my counsel to every reader, group or church who prayerfully use this Bible help is to do, at least, three things in order to derive maximum benefits from each study in the volumes:

One, **Mark it.** As you read through its rich commentaries and references, mark or highlight the portion that applies to your life. Two, **Memorise it.** The Scriptures we remember become ready tools in times of need. Learn to memorise portions of the Bible as part of your commitment to obeying God's word. By memorising it, the "**word of Christ** [will] **dwell in you richly**". Each study comes with a memory passage. Three, **Mention it** (to God). You cannot search the Scriptures as a committed disciple of Christ without realising the need to pray. Therefore, do not hesitate to mention your desires, needs, shortcomings, failures or past disobedience to God with a promise to grow in grace.

Finally, I implore you to arrive early for Sunday worship service so that you do not miss the teaching session.

My prayer for you is that the Holy Spirit, the Author of the Word, will illuminate each study, make it profitable to your life and transform you to a better follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

William F. Kumuyi
General Superintendent
Deeper Christia Life Ministry

SECTION 1

LESSON **PAGE**

OLD TESTAMENT

1. JETHRO'S COUNSEL TO MOSES.....9

2. MOSES RECEIVES THE LAW AT MOUNT SINAI.....13

3. DIVINE INSTRUCTION ON THE PATTERN OF THE TABERNACLE.....17

4. INSTITUTION OF THE PRIESTHOOD.....21

5. ISRAEL DESCENDS INTO IDOLATRY.....25

6. RENEWAL OF THE LAW AND OFFERING FOR THE TABERNACLE.....28

7. CONSTRUCTION AND RAISING OF THE TABERNACLE.....32

NEW TESTAMENT

8. JESUS DENOUNCES THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES.....37

9. SIGNS OF THE END.....41

10. PARABLES OF THE TEN VIRGINS AND THE TALENTS.....45

11. THE LAST SUPPER AND CHRIST'S BETRAYAL.....49

12. PETER DENIES CHRIST.....53

13. TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST.....57

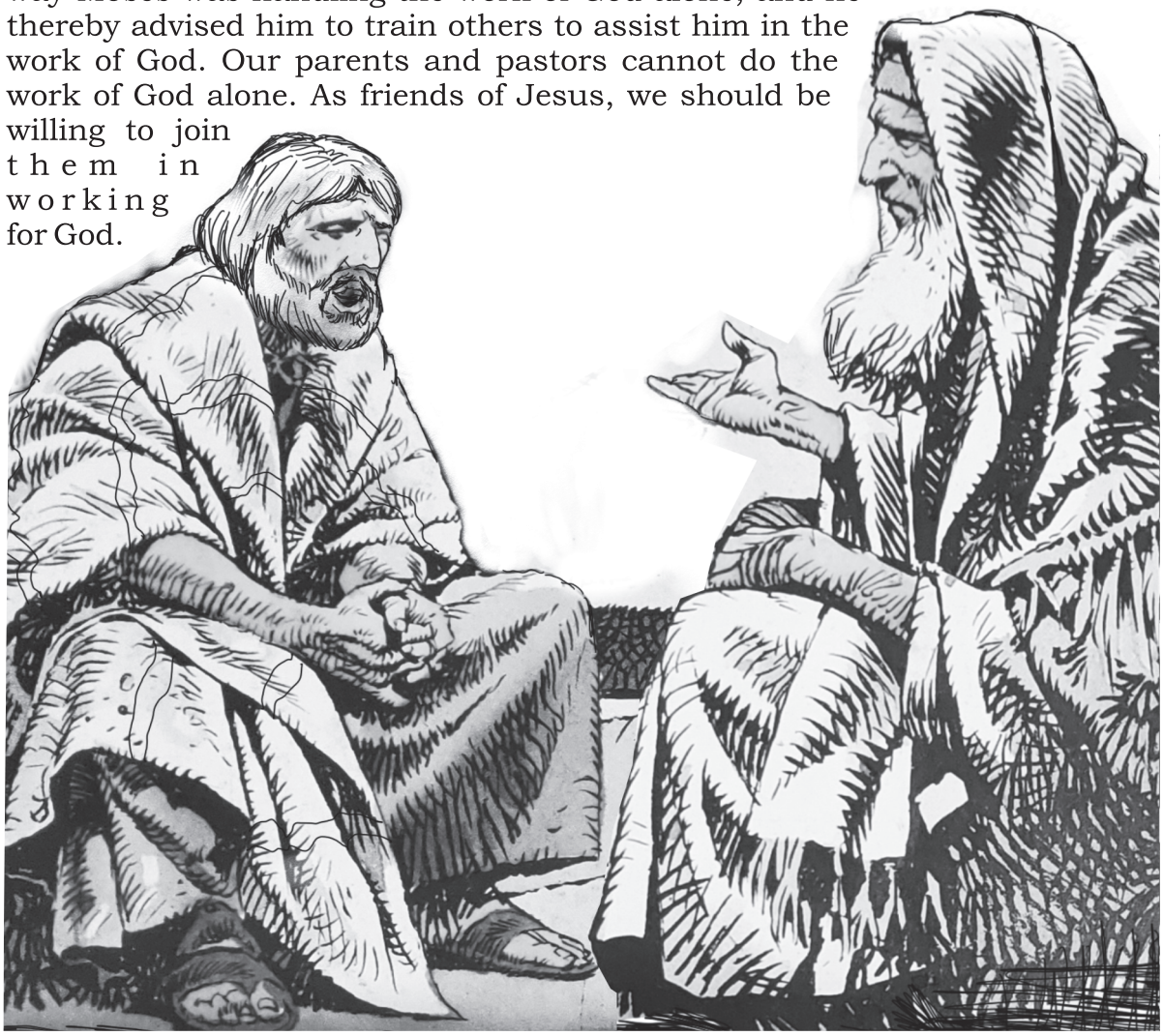
LESSON 1

JETHRO'S COUNSEL TO MOSES

Exodus 18:1-27

Moses was taking care of the sheep of Jethro his father-in-law when he received the call of God to go and deliver the children of Israel from their suffering in Egypt. Then, he went to his father-in-law Jethro, to take permission to go back to his people, the Israelites in Egypt. As friends of Jesus, we must take proper permission from our parents and teachers before going anywhere. Moses then left his father-in-law, his wife, his two children and the sheep he had been caring for to obey the greater call of God.

In our study today, Jethro brought Zipporah – Moses' wife and his two children so that his family would stay together. Moses was very happy and greeted his father-in-law with respect. Saved children should respect elders. The following day when Moses sat down to counsel the people, Jethro saw the way Moses was handling the work of God alone, and he thereby advised him to train others to assist him in the work of God. Our parents and pastors cannot do the work of God alone. As friends of Jesus, we should be willing to join them in working for God.



1. RE-UNION OF MOSES WITH HIS FAMILY:
Exodus 18:1-7; 2:15-22

When God called Moses to deliver the children of Israel from Egypt, he took his wife and children along. Later, he had to take them back to Jethro, his father-in-law so that he could face God's work. Moses knew that his father-in-law would take care of them properly while he did God's business.

After the deliverance from Egypt, the whole earth heard about the great things God had done for Israel. Jethro also heard and was glad. For this reason, he came with Moses' wife and children to rejoice with God's people. Children whose parents are sent on mission work by God, should support their parents with prayers, be of good conduct and obey the word of God. When you are faithful, God will bless the ministry of your parents and make you to enjoy a happy family life.

It was a time of joyful re-union and fellowship for Moses, Zipporah his wife and Gershom and Eliezer, his children. God's desire for us is to have a happy family. Do not do anything that will cause your parents sorrow. Make them happy by obeying them and the word of God.

2. RECALL OF GOD'S GREAT WORKS AMONG HIS PEOPLE:
Exodus 18:8-12; Psalm 92:1-5

Moses shared the testimonies concerning the goodness of God to Israel and Jethro rejoiced and worshipped the God of Israel after listening to the testimonies. As friends of Jesus, it is good to share testimonies in the church and among your friends concerning your salvation, protection of God over you and your family, provision, success in examination and so on.

When you share your testimony with others, you are: (a) Giving glory to God (b) Lifting up the faith of others (c) Encouraging others to put their trust in God (d) Showing gratitude to God, which makes you receive more of His blessings. Always try to share your testimony with others.

3. RIGHT COUNSEL FROM JETHRO TO MOSES:
Exodus 18:13-27; Proverbs 1:5; 15:22

Moses as the leader of God's people sat down the day following Jethro's arrival to do the work of God, unlike many children who will not go to church or house fellowship because their uncles, aunts or other relatives came to visit them. We should not allow any visitor to hinder us from going to church. Such visitors should follow us to worship the Lord.

As Jethro watched Moses' method of doing the work of God, he observed some faults. Moses sat down to judge the people from morning till

night. Jethro saw that the stress was too much for him and if nothing was done urgently, Moses could fall sick and die. He advised Moses to train other elders of Israel to join him in the work. Our leaders in the church cannot do the work of God alone, they need children who will serve as choristers, ushers and evangelists to preach to other children. However, such children must be born again before they can work for God.

Children must prayerfully seek and follow the good advice of godly parents and teachers. Moses did not argue with Jethro. He accepted his good advice and the work was shared among the faithful elders in Israel. Good counsel will lead you to make a right choice. Above all, study God's word at all times because it is the map that leads us to the right path. We should read our Bible and pray to God daily for guidance.

QUESTIONS:

1. Mention the names of Moses' father-in-law, wife and sons?
2. Moses was happy to see his family. Yes/No?
3. Moses recalled God's goodness to Israel. What are the benefits of sharing testimonies with others?
4. Why did Jethro counsel Moses and what was the counsel?
5. What must a sinner do to qualify him/her to work for God?

MEMORY VERSE: "**Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God**" (Exodus 18:19).

LESSON: Godly counsel is the roadmap to making the right choice.

THOUGHT: I will follow the godly counsel of my parents and teachers.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill – Exodus 2:21; Proverbs 15:22; Exodus 4:25

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 52 - COUNT ME

CHORUSES: (1) Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe. (2) I am ready to obey thy word. (3) God is good, He has done me well.

HOMEWORK: Children should find time to visit the children that have been absent from fellowship for a long time and pray with them.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	2:15-17
TUESDAY	EXODUS	2:18-22
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	4:18-20
THURSDAY	PSALM	105:4-8
FRIDAY	PROVERBS	1:1-5
SATURDAY	PROVERBS	8:13-16
SUNDAY	PROVERBS	15:20-23

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Counsel 2. Godly 3. Guidance 4. Attitude 5. Re-union.

LESSON 2

MOSES RECEIVES THE LAW AT MOUNT SINAI

Exodus 19:1-25; 20:1-26; 21:1-36; 22:1-31; 23:1-33; 24:1-18

Imagine a continent, country, state, community, organisation, school or a family where there are no guiding rules. There will definitely be conflicts and troubles. Where there is no law, there is no sin. Evil doings will be the normal way of life and many bad actions of boys and girls will go unchecked. Few months after Israel's departure from Egypt (Exodus), God decided to give them laws that will guide them (Exodus 19:1,4,5) as they journeyed through the wilderness to Canaan, the promise land.

Friends of Jesus today, must not neglect the power of Bible precepts and principles, as they go through the wilderness of the world, where Satan and his demons roar like hungry and wounded lions seeking whom to devour. We all need divine instructions to direct and guide us on our way to heaven. These divine instructions are in the Holy Bible.



1. MOSES LED ISRAEL TO MOUNT SINAI:

Exodus 19:1-25

Moses led the people from Rephidim through the desert to the foot of Mount Sinai. They camped there, and God called Moses to come up to the mountain. The presence of God was accompanied with thunder and lightning and a thick cloud. God appeared on Mount Sinai in a fearful form to: (i) Show His holiness and power (ii) Make the people have faith in Him and respect His servant, Moses. (iii) Put His fear in the hearts of the people so that they will not sin against Him (God). (iv) Teach the people to know that there is punishment for the disobedient (v) Establish His covenant with the children of Israel. (vi) Teach the people His ways so that they can be a peculiar treasure, a kingdom of priest and a holy nation unto Him.

All these was to prepare the people to receive the covenant laws. Moses called the elders of the people and relayed all the words of the Lord unto them. The people responded by saying "**... All that the LORD hath spoken we will do ...**" (Exodus 19:8). As friends of Jesus, we are in a covenant relationship with God. We must live a holy life, obey God's word and serve Him in fear and righteousness all the days of our lives.

2. MOSES RECEIVES THE LAW:

Exodus 20:1-26; 21:1-36; 22:1-3

The handing over of God's law through Moses was one of the most important aspects of the Israelites' experience at Mount Sinai. This law is often referred to as the Mosaic law. It can be divided into three categories.

A. The moral law: This is the ten commandments written by God on two tables of stone and handed over to Moses. They are rules and regulations pertaining to our relationship with God and with one another. The first four commandments concern our relationship with God. They are: (i) Thou shalt have no other gods before me (verse 3). (ii) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image (verse 4). (iii) 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 (verse 7). (iv) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy (verse 8).

The remaining six commandments concern our relationship with other people. These are: (i) Honour thy father and thy mother (verse 12) (ii) Thou shalt not kill (verse 13). (iii) Thou shalt not commit adultery (verse 14). (iv) Thou shalt not steal (verse 15). (v) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour (verse 16). (vi) Thou shalt not covet (verse 17). These commandments are not meant to be memorized alone, they are to be obeyed. The commandments of God to man is in the Holy Bible. This is the only book containing the word of God. Anyone who obeys and lives by the word of God shall live.

B. The social laws which is also known as civil laws. These laws govern the interpersonal relationship of the people. For example - laws about servants,

settling disagreements, properties, justice, restitution, marriage and other things (Exodus 21,22).

C. Spiritual or ceremonial laws: These deal with the system of worship among the children of Israel. The laws given to Moses for Israel was designed to control their behaviour, define what sin is, show Israel the consequences of going against God's will and doing wrong, and to stir up their need for God's mercy, grace and salvation.

The Old Testament law acted as a temporary guardian for God's people until Christ came. This old covenant has now been replaced by the new covenant, where God discloses fully His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Now, a sinner has the freedom to come to Jesus to enjoy salvation, live victoriously and get to heaven at last.

3. THE MEDIATOR AND BEARER OF THE NEW COVENANT:

Exodus 24:1-18

The children of Israel received the law through Moses. They pledged to obey but they could not honour their pledge. They always did wrong things which led to punishment from God. We now have a better covenant through which we can receive forgiveness and cleansing from all sins. The Mediator and bearer of this new covenant is Jesus Christ. The old covenant was sealed with Israel through the sprinkling of the blood of animals, showing that sacrifices of atonement were necessary to maintain their relationship with God.

This was the reason Jesus came into the world. He suffered, died, shed His blood on the cross to establish the new covenant. Therefore, a sinful child must come to Jesus for cleansing by taking these steps: (a) Realise your sinful state and that you cannot save yourself. (b) Confess your sins to God. (c) Ask God for forgiveness and cleansing with the blood of Jesus. (d) Invite Jesus into your heart to be your Saviour and Lord. (e) Believe that you are saved.

The following blessings become yours as you read/keep God's word daily: peace in your heart, God's power and presence, protection from evil, good health, provision and eternity with God in heaven.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Moses receive the law?
2. What are the components of the law that Moses received?
3. Why did God give the laws?
4. (a) What does the blood of the covenant signifies?
   (b) Who is the Bearer of the new covenant?
5. What should: (a) a sinner do to have a covenant relationship with God (b) a friend of Jesus do to maintain a covenant relationship with God.

MEMORY VERSE: "**Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine**" (Exodus 19:5).

LESSON: God's laws are meant to be obeyed.

THOUGHT: I will obey God's law so as to be blessed.

ACTIVITY: Draw the tables of stone and write the ten commandments on it.

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

CHORUSES: (1) For this God is my God ... (2) Obedience is the very best way ... (3) This B I B L E is good enough for me ...

HOMEWORK: Write out at least three people in the Old Testament that God made covenant with.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW	5:17-19
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	5:20-22
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	5:27,28
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	5:29,30
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	5:33-37
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	5:38-42
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	5:43-48

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Pitched 2. Peculiar 3. Covenant 4. Sanctify 5. Guiltless.

LESSON 3

DIVINE INSTRUCTION ON THE PATTERN OF THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 25:1-40; 26:1-37; 27:1-21

After God had given the law at Mount Sinai, He wanted His people to have a special place where He could meet with them for fellowship. Israel had lived for four hundred and thirty years in Egypt but they did not enjoy true fellowship with the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For them to be a nation wholly separated unto God, they needed a place to offer proper worship that is acceptable unto God. This was the reason He instructed Moses to mobilise the people to build a sanctuary which is also known as the tabernacle.

Moses was not to build the house according to his own desire but according to the pattern given to him. This shows that God is interested in the way we pattern our lives and whatever He wants us to do for Him. We must not choose our own way but allow God to guide us by His word in all we do. God also told Moses that all the children of Israel should give willingly for the building of the tabernacle. He expects us also as friends of Jesus, to contribute generously and willingly to the building of proper worship centres in our local churches. As we obey, He will pour His blessings upon us.



1. BASIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR BUILDING THE TABERNACLE:

Exodus 25:1-40; 26:1-37

God gave Moses specific and detailed instruction for the building of the sanctuary. This shows that God loves orderliness. The size, measurement and materials to be used were specified. It must be built according to pattern. Apart from the physical building of the sanctuary, there were other components that were to be prepared and set in the tabernacle. This includes the (a) Ark which was the chest containing the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod. It was placed in the most holy place of the tabernacle and represented the throne of God. (b) Mercy seat, it was set as the covering of the ark. (c) Two cherubims – carvings of angelic beings symbolising God's presence and kingship among His people on earth. (d) Table to hold the shewbread – the bread placed upon the table represents the presence of the Lord who preserved Israel in their wilderness journey. It points to Christ the bread of life. (e) Candle stick which was a lampstand that had seven oil lamps to give light in the tabernacle. The burning lamps represented God's light in the midst of the camp. (f) Altar where sacrifices were made.

The other things included were the furnishing and the priest' garment. Exact instructions were given for building the tabernacle. It had to be constructed according to God's pattern because it was His house and He is the designer. The basic requirement for building up our Christian faith is the word of God. Therefore, listen carefully and read the word of God, think on it day and night; be faithful in keeping the commandments of God, obey them fully and apply them to every area of your life.

2. BLESSINGS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TABERNACLE:

Exodus 26:1-37; Colossians 1:19-23; Hebrews 9:1-15

The tabernacle was first erected in the wilderness about one year after the Passover when the children of Israel were freed from their Egyptian slavery. It was a movable tent with all its components that the people travelled with and set up whenever they put up their camp. The tabernacle would be in the centre of the camp, and the twelve (12) tribes of Israel would set up their tents around it according to their tribes.

God's presence was with His covenant people in the wilderness. He appeared as a pillar of cloud over the tabernacle by day and a pillar of fire by night in the sight of all Israel. The people would not set out on their journey unless the cloud was lifted. The children of Israel needed to be assured by the presence of the tabernacle that God was with them. The tabernacle is significant to friends of Jesus because: (i) It was the place where God provided forgiveness of sins through the blood sacrifice. Thus, it pointed to the eventual sacrifice of Christ on the cross for the sins of the human race (Hebrews 8:1,2; 9:11-14). (ii) It pointed to heaven the eternal home of the saints. The Bible

assures us that there is a heavenly tabernacle where Jesus Christ, our eternal High Priest lives forever praying for us (Hebrews 9:11,12,20-28). (iii) It also pointed toward God's final redemption when a new heaven and new earth will come. Then God will dwell with us and we shall be His people forever (Revelation 21:3).

3. BUILDING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PATTERN:

Exodus 27:1-21; Acts 3:18-26; 4:12; 17:30; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 8:5

The tabernacle was more than just a place of worship. All the components were part of what can be referred to as 'teaching aids' to explain God's relationship with His people. One important aspect of this relationship was God's requirement for complete obedience. God told Moses to build the tabernacle exactly the way He commanded. It was to be built according to God's pattern.

To this end, God gave very specific instructions about the size of each component and the materials to be used. These instructions show God's unquestionable authority and holiness. It emphasised that people could only come to God on His terms. The tabernacle was a prophetic illustration of God's salvation plan for us. Jesus Christ came into the world to dwell among us. He suffered and died for our sins. He has fulfilled all the conditions for the salvation of everyone from sin.

No one can obtain salvation through his own efforts. Salvation and fellowship with God are possible only on His terms and according to His pattern and revelation. Therefore, all that a sinner needs to do is to know and accept that he/she is sinful. Accept God's offer of salvation. Repent of all his/her sins, ask God to forgive and cleanse him/her with the blood of Jesus, invite Jesus into his/her heart as his/her Saviour and Lord. Then, he/she must press forward and pray for the sanctification of his heart. He/she should also strive to live a holy life and serve God in righteousness all the days of his/her life. This is the way to enjoy God's presence here on earth and be qualified to live with Him in heaven forever.

QUESTIONS:

1. _____ was instructed to build a tabernacle.
2. The children of Israel were commanded to give free _____ for the tabernacle.
3. Mention some of the components of the tabernacle.
4. What is the significance of the tabernacle?
5. Why was Moses instructed to follow God's pattern?
6. How can a sinner obtain salvation?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount**" (Exodus 26:30).

LESSON: God desires that His children should live in obedience to His word.

THOUGHT: I will daily live in obedience to God's word so as to enjoy His presence.

ACTIVITY: Children should do a sketch of the tabernacle according to the description in our study.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 47 - JUST OBEY

CHORUSES: (1) Solomon built the temple of God. (2) God must be honoured in my life. (3) Obedience is the very best way.

HOMEWORK: Pray that your body will be a worthy temple for God to dwell in.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	GENESIS	6:13-16
TUESDAY	EXODUS	36:1-3
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	36:4-7
THURSDAY	EXODUS	36:8-10
FRIDAY	ACTS	7:44-46
SATURDAY	ACTS	7:47-49
SUNDAY	HEBREWS	8:5-8

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Mobilize 2. Tabernacle 3. Significant 4. Sanctuary 5. Covenant.

LESSON 4

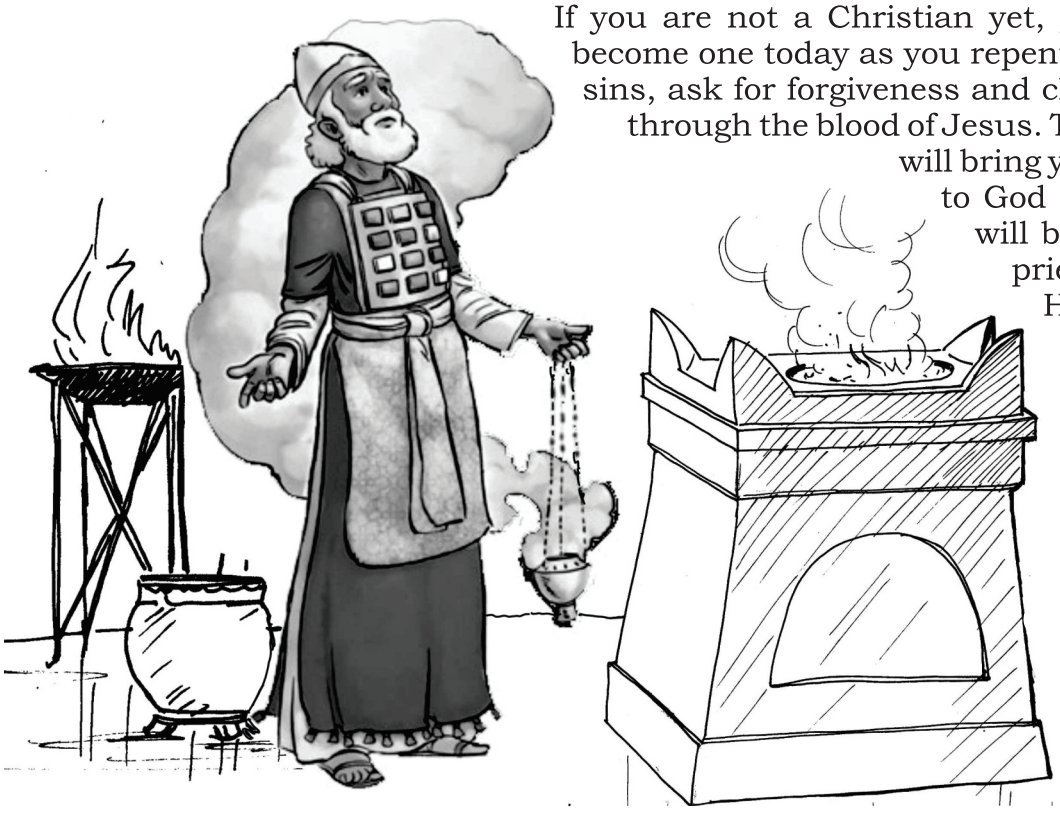
INSTITUTION OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Exodus 28:1-43; 29:1-46; 30:1-38; 31:1-18

Priesthood means the position or office of a priest. Who is a priest? A priest is someone who stands before God as a representative of the people. He acts as mediator between the people and God. The priesthood constituted one of the major characteristics of Old Testament worship and life. God's desire was to have close fellowship with His covenant people. Yet, disobedience was a major hindrance to this desire. In order to have this desired fellowship, God established the priesthood as a way to draw Israel closer to Himself. The priesthood was therefore important for the preservation of Israel's continuing relationship with God. The priest operated between God and the people to preserve the covenant relationship.

To show how important the priesthood is, God gave Moses a detailed instructions concerning the choice, characteristics, duties and even the clothing of the priest. However, it is important to know that all that the Old Testament priesthood represent, points to Jesus Christ our Messiah and eternal High Priest. Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of all the Old Testament laws and prophecies. Through His death on the cross, He paid the price for our redemption once and for all. He is now in heaven praying for us as our interceding Priest. As believers, we are also called to be priest unto God to tell sinners about the love of God and stand in the gap for others.

If you are not a Christian yet, you can become one today as you repent of your sins, ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. This step will bring you close to God and you will become a priest unto Him.



1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIESTHOOD:

Exodus 28:1-43; Numbers 3:2,3; Leviticus 8:1-12

God is awesome, great and holy. He cannot stand or behold sin. He wants to be in a loving relationship with His people; yet, He cannot accept them with their sins. Although Israel had lived in Egypt, for many years they still did not know the way to serve God perfectly. They needed a divine guidance and direction to be able to serve God acceptably.

Therefore, God established the priesthood as a means of having acceptable fellowship with His people. According to divine instructions, Aaron and his sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar were chosen and consecrated as priests by Moses. Since Nadab and Abihu died when they offered strange fire before the Lord, the priesthood was limited to the lineage of Eleazar and Ithamar (Leviticus 10:1,2; Numbers 3:4).

The priesthood included three basic classes namely: (i) The high priest which was Aaron. (ii) The priests who were children of Aaron (iii) The Levites from the family of Levi. They were all consecrated to serve in the tabernacle. The priests were not expected to do any other work outside God's work. They are set apart for God's service only. Today, our pastors, teachers and workers in the church have been called by God to serve Him. You must respect, honour, pray for them and obey the word of God they are teaching you. As you obey and become a friend of Jesus, you too will be enlisted into the workforce as priests unto God.

2. DUTIES OF THE PRIESTS:

Exodus 28:1,40,41; 29:1-46; Hebrews 8:3; Revelation 5:10

The Lord Himself gave instructions concerning the ministry of Aaron, the high priest and the duties of the priests in general. They were consecrated to:

-Stand before God on behalf of the children of Israel.
-Offer sacrifices for the cleansing of personal sin and that of the people.
-Burn incense continually in the tabernacle.
-Serve as judges to resolve disagreement among the people as they journey through the wilderness.
-Teach the people the word of God.
-Supervise the candle stick and the table of the shewbread in the tabernacle.
-Correct misbehaviour.
-Take care of the tabernacle and the altar.
-Lead the people in worship.
-Pray to God on behalf of the people and bring God's message back to them.

Our Lord Jesus is our High Priest who stands before God on our behalf. He defends us against the enemy and fights on our behalf to give us victory. He gives us strength to overcome temptation. He has gone back to heaven to prepare beautiful mansions for us. You must be prepared to get there.

Born again boys and girls today are priests set apart for God's service. Your duties are to **P**reach the gospel and point sinful boys and girls to Jesus. **R**estore backsliders to the Lord, **I**ntercede for others. **E**dify the believers, **S**uccour the weak and discouraged; **T**each new converts and younger ones the word of God and **S**erve God all the days of your life.

3. DEMAND AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRIESTLY SERVICE:

Exodus 28:1,2; 31:1-11; Romans 12:1,2; 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 1:5,6

The priesthood had a place of highest importance in Israel's system of worship. This is why only selected people were qualified to be priests. God gave Moses the conditions that must be fulfilled for a person to be qualified as priest: (i) Must be descendant of Aaron – This means he must be among the chosen generation. Anyone who desires to serve God must become a member of God's family through the new birth. Such a child must have repented and washed clean by the blood of Jesus. (ii) Separation from the world unto God – The priests were specially chosen and set apart for God's service. They were to be different from others in their ways, words, wills and walk with God. They must totally surrender all to God.
(iii) Holy living is a major attribute in the life of the priest. This is why God Himself prescribed the standard of living expected of the priest.

The priest must be holy in his dressing, character, conduct, speech and lifestyle. This is also one of the greatest qualifications for anyone who desires to serve God acceptably because without holiness no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). Although the Old Testament priesthood tried to fulfil the purpose for its establishment, there were many faults in it. For us, the New Testament believers, Jesus is our great High Priest. He established the new covenant through His death, offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 9:15-28). He is in God's presence on our behalf and making it possible for us to draw near to God, our Father. In turn, we are to consecrate our lives to serve God in holiness and righteousness before He comes to take us to heaven.

Sinners, on the other hand must repent from their bad ways and forsake them. Accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, live holy and become priests for Christ.

QUESTIONS:

1. Define priesthood.
2. Who were chosen as priests in our study?
3. Mention the duties of the priests.
4. State the characteristics of a priest.
5. How can a sinful child know God and serve Him acceptably?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons**" (Exodus 28:1).

LESSON: Friends of Jesus are priests of the Lord.

THOUGHT: I must live a holy life to remain a priest of God.

ACTIVITY: Read 1 Timothy 3:2,3 and write out four qualities of a New Testament priest.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 190 - "CALLED UNTO HOLINESS"

CHORUSES: (1) It is a good thing to serve the Lord. (2) Peace, purity, power. (3) Keep me through Lord Jesus keep me through.

HOMEWORK: Write out in your homework book five things you will do as a priest of God.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	HEBREWS 4:14-16
TUESDAY	HEBREWS 5:1-3
WEDNESDAY	HEBREWS 5:4-6
THURSDAY	HEBREWS 5:7-10
FRIDAY	HEBREWS 7:1-3
SATURDAY	HEBREWS 7:4-6
SUNDAY	HEBREWS 5:7-10

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

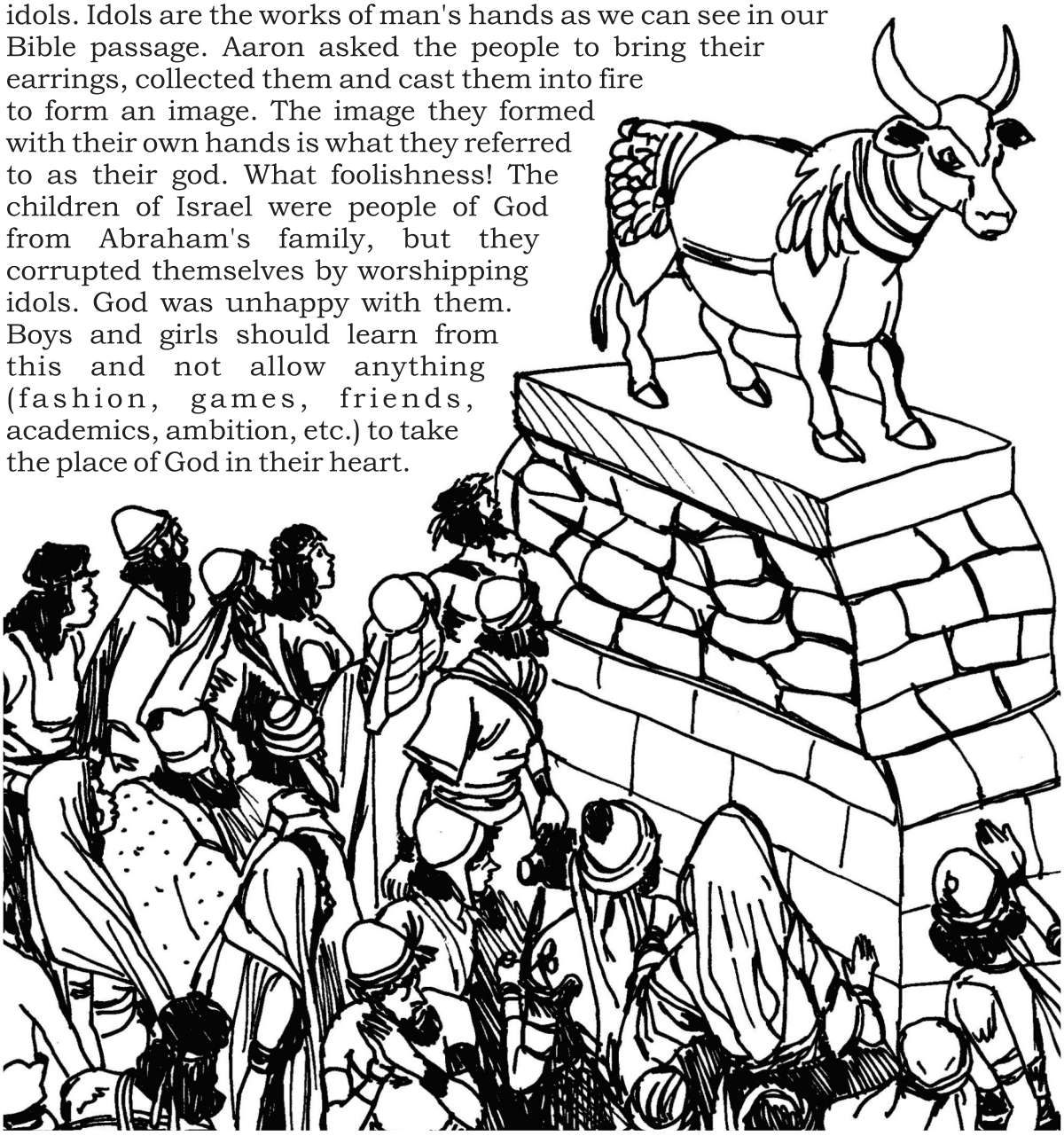
Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Awesome 2. Institution 3. Priesthood 4. Shewbread 5. Succour.

LESSON 5

ISRAEL DESCENDS INTO IDOLATRY

Exodus 32:1-35; 33:1-23

Idolatry is loving any other person or thing above or beside God. It also means showing adoration, praise or worship of any other person or thing other than God almighty. In the olden days, out of foolishness or spiritual blindness, people gathered sticks, designed them in human form and bowed down to worship them. Can sticks or stones hear, speak or move? The answer is NO! The Bible expressed in Psalm 115:4-8, the foolishness of worshipping idols. Idols are the works of man's hands as we can see in our Bible passage. Aaron asked the people to bring their earrings, collected them and cast them into fire to form an image. The image they formed with their own hands is what they referred to as their god. What foolishness! The children of Israel were people of God from Abraham's family, but they corrupted themselves by worshipping idols. God was unhappy with them. Boys and girls should learn from this and not allow anything (fashion, games, friends, academics, ambition, etc.) to take the place of God in their heart.



1. PAINFUL DESCENT INTO THE SIN OF IDOLATRY
Exodus 32:1-6,15-25; Psalm 115:4-8

Descent means the act of going down from top to bottom. In this study, descent is used to describe the shameful action of the children of Israel whereby they quickly forgot their privilege position as God's people. They forsook God's way and made idols to be their god. Moses, the leader of the Israelites had gone to the mountain to meet with God. The people expected his return and felt that he had delayed. As a result, they forgot about God and Moses who brought them out of Egypt and asked Aaron to make them gods (Exodus 32:1).

The people of God fell from grace to grass. Imagine somebody on a high mountain falling down from the top to the ground. What a disaster! This was the situation of the children of Israel; they brought themselves so low by worshipping a lifeless idol, the work of their own hands. What a shame! (Exodus 32:25). This was very painful to God and to Moses, their leader. Boys and girls who are friends of Jesus should not do anything that will bring shame to the name of God or to their leaders and parents.

Today, we must avoid anything that can bring pain to the heart of God and our leaders. The action of the children of Israel was an outright disobedience to the first of the Ten Commandments that God gave them (Exodus 20: 3-5). Children should not in any way disobey the word of God so as not to come under God's divine judgment.

2. PUNISHMENT FOR THE SIN OF IDOLATRY:
Exodus 32:7-10, 19-28, 33-35; 33:1-5

God was not happy with the children of Israel because they made an idol to worship. Because of this He pronounced judgment on them. One, God planned to destroy them completely. Two, Moses was unhappy with them; he burnt the molten calf, ground it to powder, mixed it with water and forced them to drink it. Three, Moses instructed the Levites who volunteered to be on the side of the Lord to go through the camp with their swords, killing about three thousand men. The sin of idolatry brought God's displeasure, plagues and death upon the people of God. Boys and girls should understand that sin brings destruction on the sinners. Therefore, you must not yield to any temptation to sin against God. Even though God is merciful, He is a consuming fire and He is angry with the sinner (Hebrews 12:29).

3. PLEA OF A TRUE LEADER AND PARDON FROM A LOVING GOD:
Exodus 32:11-14,31,32; 33:13-17

Moses demonstrated that he is a true leader as he pleaded with God to forgive the children of Israel their sins. God promised to forgive for the sake of Moses; therefore, they were not completely destroyed. However, children should understand that God demands personal repentance from the sinner for individual salvation. Even if your parent or leader prays for you, you need to go

to God personally, have sorrow for your sins, sincerely confess them to God, repent from all sins and forsake them in order to receive forgiveness and mercy from the Lord. Also, born-again children should pray for sinful children so that they can repent and receive forgiveness and salvation.

QUESTIONS:

1. _____ was the leader of the children of Israel.
2. What did the children of Israel do when Moses went up to the mountain to meet with God?
3. Anything that we love above God is an idol. Yes or No?
4. God is unhappy with every sinner. True or False?
5. Who pleaded with God to forgive the children of Israel?
6. God demands personal repentance from the sinner. True or False?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves**" (Exodus 32:7).

LESSON: Idolatry is a sin that leads to eternal death.

THOUGHT: I will never serve idols.

ACTIVITY: Prayer session – children should be led in prayers of repentance and consecration.

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

CHORUSES: (1) From east to west, no other God. (2) I will not serve man-made gods. (3) I will never, never, go back to the world.

HOMEWORK: Search your life, identify whatever is standing as an idol and prayerfully do away with such.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	20:1-3
TUESDAY	EXODUS	20:4-7
WEDNESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	4:15-19
THURSDAY	DEUTERONOMY	4:23,24
FRIDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	6:14-18
SATURDAY	1 THESSALONIANS	1:8-10
SUNDAY	1 JOHN	5:19-21

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Descent 2. Idolatry 3. Design 4. Adoration 5. Disaster.

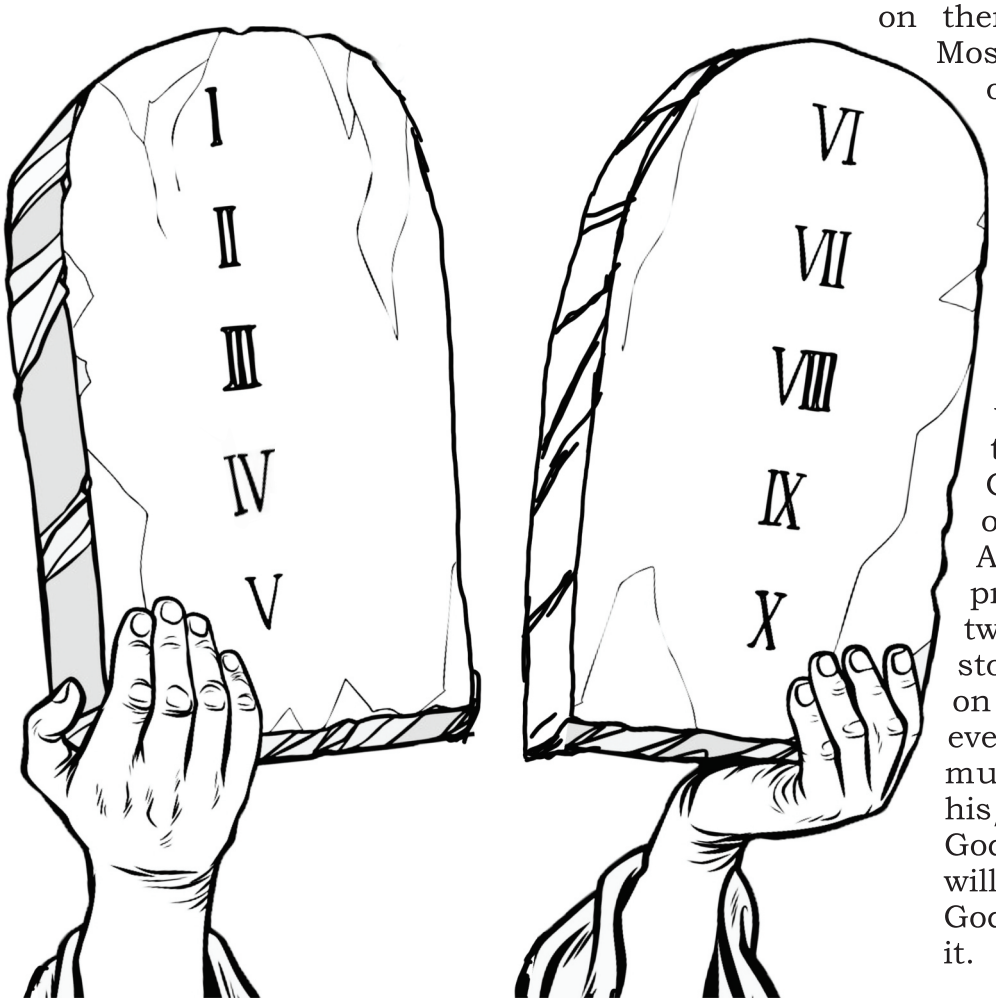
LESSON 6

RENEWAL OF THE LAW AND OFFERING FOR THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 34:1-35; 35:1-35; 36:1-38

To renew something is to do it again. Moses had broken the two tables of stone that contained the Ten Commandments because of Israel's sin in worshipping the golden calf. God needed to renew the law and so He instructed Moses: "**Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest**" (Exodus 34:1). Besides renewing the law, God directed Moses to make collections for the building of the tabernacle so that Israel could have a place to meet with and worship Him. God expects every child who has gone away from the Lord to come back to Him and then use his talents and gifts for the work of God.

God instructed Moses to come to Mount Sinai in the morning and bring two tables of stone along with him. At first, God provided the tables and wrote on them but now Moses must hew out the tables and God would write on them. The evidence of pardon of our sins and peace with God is the writing of God's laws in our hearts. As Moses presented the two tables of stone to God on the mount, every boy or girl must present his/her heart to God. Only then will the law of God be written it.



1. GOD PROCLAIMS HIS NAME AND REWRITES THE LAW:
Exodus 34:1-28

Moses obeyed the Lord by going to the mountain very early in the morning with the two tables of stone in his hands and presented himself before God. As soon as Moses got to the top of the mount, God descended there to meet him and proclaimed Himself as (i) The Great God (ii) The Good God and (iii) A Just and Holy God. As the Great God, His mercies are sure and endure forever. Being a good God, He is merciful, gracious, longsuffering and forgives sins. As a just and holy God, He will punish the guilty and forgive those who repent. When God finished proclaiming His name, Moses responded by saying, "It is enough" and then made haste and bowed his head in worship. By this action, Moses demonstrated humility, reverence and adoration to God.

After this, he prayed for the presence of God and pardon for the sins of his people, Israel. At this point, God rewrote the law on the two tables of stone Moses brought to the mount and Israel's relationship with God was restored. Sinners and backsliders must return to God in true repentance. This will restore them to a loving relationship with God.

2. GOD'S MESSAGE TO ISRAEL THROUGH THE LAW:
Exodus 34:29-35; 35:1-19

On the mountain, God miraculously sustained Moses throughout the forty days and forty nights. By the time he came down from the mount, his face shone, so that the people could not look upon him till he put a veil on his face. Only then were the Israelites able to listen to him as he delivered God's message to them. Covenant with God was renewed on the basis of Israel's return and restoration to God. In the covenant, God explained what He would do for Israel on one hand and then on the other hand, He listed what Israel must do as follows: One, observe and do all that He commanded them. God has always required obedience from His children. Two, observe three feasts in a year. Three, observe the Sabbath by resting one day in a week. The three feasts Israel were to observe were: (i) the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread in remembrance of their deliverance out of Egypt; (ii) the Feast of Weeks, which is the Pentecost, seven weeks after the Passover and; (iii) the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, which was the feast of tabernacles.

Having repeated these laws, God also gave Moses the pattern of the tabernacle. It must be noted that Moses stayed forty days on the mount just like he did the first time. God did not reduce the number of days for the fear that Israel might go into idolatry again. This teaches that as children, we must obey God always and in all things; He will never alter His standards for us hence the Bible says, "**He changeth not.**"

3. GOD'S INSTRUCTION ON OFFERING, DESIGN AND BUILDING OF THE TABERNACLE:

Exodus 35:20-35; 36:1-38

God commanded that a tabernacle be set up in the wilderness. In building the tabernacle, God instructed Moses as follows: (i) Whosoever was of a willing heart must contribute his substance(s) for the building of the tabernacle and; (ii) Those who were skilful must work. There are lessons we must learn from the response of the children of Israel: (a) they brought their offerings immediately; (b) they gave willingly; (c) the offerings were of different kinds – gold, precious stones, goats' hair, rams' skins, ornaments and so on; (d) everybody was involved in the work of God (e) contributions for the tabernacle continued until the people were told to stop giving; (f) Bezaleel and Aholiab surrendered their skills and time to God and; (g) they built the tabernacle according to God's instructions.

The tabernacle was made of embroidered curtains coupled together without timber or stone. Curtains were used for doors and veils for partitions. The tabernacle consisted of three parts: (i) the outer court; (ii) the Holy Place and; (iii) the Most Holy Place. There was a veil made for the door of the tabernacle. The people of Israel were forbidden to go into the tabernacle, but they always assembled at the door to receive messages from God. In the New Testament dispensation, children of God can come before the Lord at any time as Christ has broken the wall of partition. In fact, God expects every child to draw close to Him, live a holy life and have constant victory over sin.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did God ask Moses to bring with him to the mountain?
2. What must every boy or girl bring to the Lord for God to write on today?
3. (a) Did God reduce the number of days Moses spent on the Mount when he went up the second time to receive the law from Him? Yes or No?
   (b) What does that teach us as children of God?
4. Why were the Israelites not able to look at Moses' face by the time he came down from the mountain?
5. (a) Only adults can give their money and talents as offering to the Lord. Yes/No?
   (b) Every child should be happy when giving his offering or using his talent for God. True/False?
6. How can a sinful boy or girl come to God?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest**" (Exodus 34:1).

LESSON: God is happy when His people are in constant fellowship with Him.

THOUGHT: I will daily renew my walk with the Lord and use my gifts and talents for Him.

ACTIVITY: Draw two tables of stone and write the Ten Commandments on them.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 47 - JUST OBEY

CHORUSES: (1) Make me a good child like Samuel (2) Your word is life (3) I will give to God.

HOMEWORK: Visit children who have been absent from fellowship for a long time. Encourage and bring them to the church.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	31:16-18
TUESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	10:2,4
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	19:20
THURSDAY	EXODUS	31:1-6
FRIDAY	EXODUS	31:7-11
SATURDAY	EXODUS	32:15-19
SUNDAY	1 KINGS	5:2-7

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Renewal 2. Offering 3. Design 4. Reverence 5. Pentecost.

LESSON 7

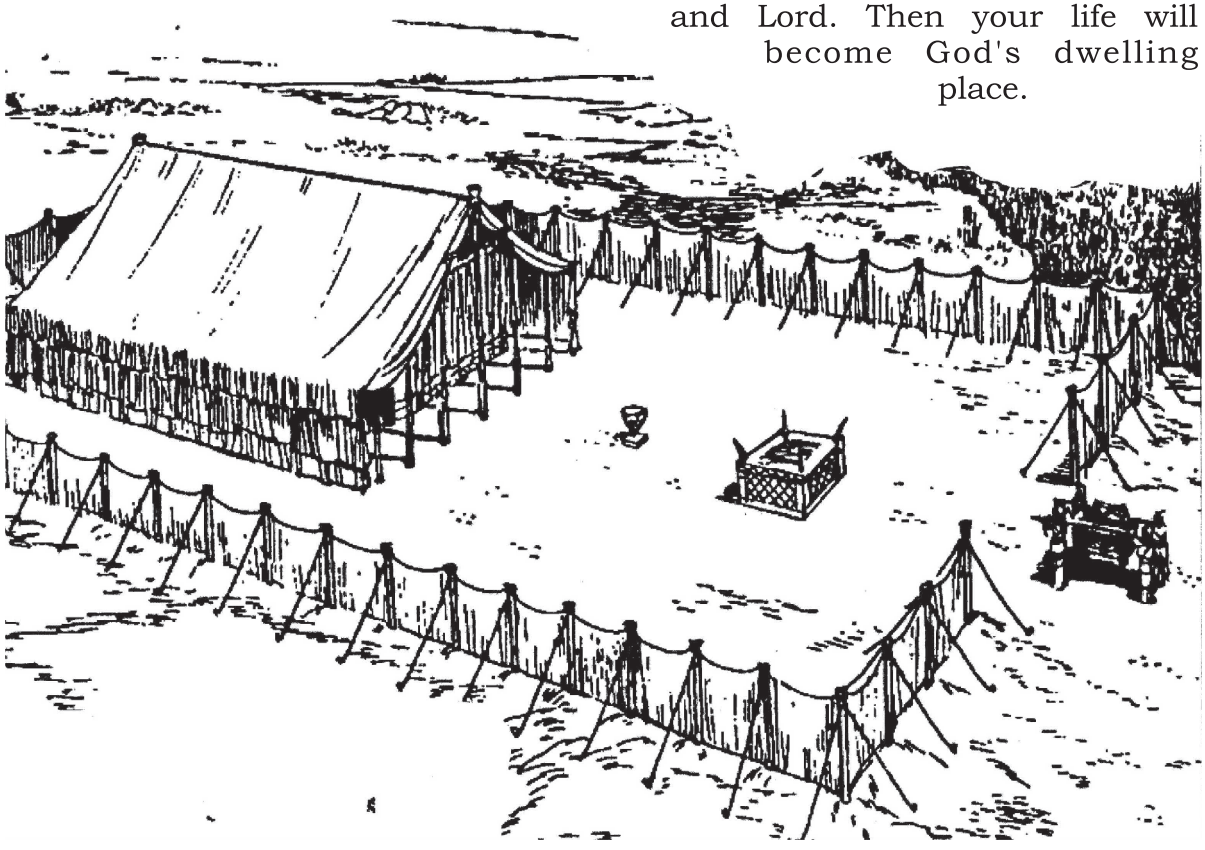
CONSTRUCTION AND RAISING OF THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 37:1-29; 38:1-31; 39:1-43; 40:1-38

God told Moses to build the tabernacle in a special way. It was to be the place where God would fellowship with His people. The tabernacle would be the centre for worship, for Israel as a nation. Moses did as the Lord commanded and the tabernacle was built according to divine instruction.

When God created Adam and Eve, He usually had fellowship with them. He often walked in the garden "**in the cool of the day**" to commune with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8). The fellowship was cut short when Adam sinned by disobeying God. The purpose of the tabernacle was to restore the lost fellowship in the Garden of Eden. The tabernacle was a moveable tent that God commanded Moses to build after the Israelites were freed from Egyptian slavery and were in the wilderness on their journey to Canaan. It was a place where the presence of God dwelt, and the high priest offered sacrifices on behalf of the people.

Today, God dwells in the hearts of saved children who are living a holy life. If you are still a sinner, repent and turn from your sin, ask Jesus to come into your heart to be your personal Saviour and Lord. Then your life will become God's dwelling place.



1. CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS:

Exodus 37:1–29; 38:1-31; 39:32,42, 43; John 17:4

The building of the tabernacle was handled by Bezaleel, Aholiab and other workers. The workers were very careful to follow the specific instructions for the building of the tabernacle which the Lord gave to Moses. The people that were involved in the building of the tabernacle were many. As a result, Moses shared the work among them. Athough the work was shared, the people remained united in mind and purpose.

Bezaleel made the Ark of the Covenant, the Mercy seat, the Table for shewbread and its utensils. He also made the Candlestick or Lampstand, the Altar of incense, the Holy anointing oil and the Pure incense; all according to divine instruction.

Doing the work of God requires total obedience to the will of God as Moses, Bezaleel, Aholiab and other workers did. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is our perfect example of obedience to God the Father. When He was carrying out His earthly ministry, He said, "**My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work**" (John 4:34). As He was rounding off His ministry, He said "**I have finished the work which thou gaveth me to do**" (John 17:4).

The tabernacle workers showed certain qualities that friends of Jesus should copy. These qualities helped them to be successful in the work. (i) They showed total obedience to God. (ii) They did not delay nor procrastinate in carrying out the work of God. (iii) They were careful in the use of the resources provided for the work. (iv) The work was shared so that each person would give proper attention to the area they were gifted. (v) The workers were all united and determined to work.

There are many areas of work in which friends of Jesus can be engaged in the church. These include: evangelism, follow-up and visitation, serving one another, contributing to the physical building of worship centres and many more. As a child of God, the Lord demands your personal contributions that will promote love and unity in the body of Christ.

2. CONTENTS OF THE TABERNACLE AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE:

Exodus 38:1–8; 27:1-8; 40:7,9,30-33

All the items kept in the tabernacle had spiritual significance.

(i) **The Altar of Sacrifice:** This is where sacrifices were offered for the sins of the people. The priests were to teach the children of Israel to know that sin brings separation from God. It is only through their sacrifices that sin can be atoned for and fellowship with God restored. Today, sin cannot be removed by animal sacrifice but through the shed blood of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. He came as a Man and He was sinless, perfect and spotless. He died and shed His blood for the sins of mankind.

(ii) **The brazen laver:** This was filled with water. The Priests were required to wash their hands and feet before entering the Holy place. This shows that cleanliness and holiness of life are essential in our fellowship with God.
(iii) **The Table of Shewbread:** This table was on the right side of the Holy place. Every Sabbath day, twelve fresh loaves of bread would be put on the table for the priests. The twelve loaves of bread represented the twelve tribes of Israel dwelling in God's presence. The bread points to Jesus as "**the bread of life**" (John 6:33,35). Just like the aroma of fresh bread spreads everywhere in a room, so should the life of a child of God be. It also indicates the complete dependence of Israel on God for their physical and spiritual needs.
(iv) **The Golden Altar of incense:** The priests were to burn incense every morning and evening. The incense was burnt continually, day and night. It was a symbol of prayers and intercession of the people going up to God. God wants His dwelling to be a place where people could approach and pray to Him. The Bible says "**... for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people**" (Isaiah 56:7). It also represented Christ who is our Intercessor before God the Father. During His earthly ministry, Jesus prayed for His friends, and is still praying for us; He also taught us to pray.
(v) **The Lampstand (or candlestick):** The priests were to ensure the continuous burning of the lamps (Leviticus 24:1-3). Without the lampstand as the only source of light in the Holy place, it would be difficult for the priests to perform their duties. In the same way, the Bible says that Jesus is the true light that gives light to every man (John 1:9). Jesus came to the world so that sinful boys and girls can be saved and translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Jesus therefore called all His friends "**the light of the world**" and commands them to let their light shine before men, so that as they see their good works, God will be glorified (Matthew 5:14,16).
(vi) **The Holy of Holies and the Vail:** Within the Holy place of the tabernacle, there was an inner room called the Holy of Holies or the most Holy or sacred place where ordinary people could not enter. It was God's special dwelling place where He usually appeared as a pillar of fire or cloud. A curtain known as Vail was used to separate the Holy place from the Holy of Holies. The vail was a barrier preventing sinful man from the Holy God. Even before the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, he had to wash himself, put on special clothing, burn incense and bring blood to atone for his own and others' sins (Hebrews 9:7). When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the temple was torn into two, from top to bottom exposing the Holy of Holies. Jesus' death has opened the way for everyone to come to God without hindrance. He had completed God's redemptive plan for mankind when He said, "**it is finished.**" We can now boldly enter into God's presence (Hebrews 6:19,20).
(vii) **The Ark of Covenant:** The Ark of Covenant contains the Ten Commandments, a pot filled with manna, and Aaron's rod which had budded. The ark of covenant which was kept in the Holy of Holies represents the presence of God.

We can have access to the Holy of Holies only through the blood of Jesus which was shed on the cross at Calvary. His death has finally removed the barrier that existed between God and man. This means that any child who comes to Jesus, and is washed and purified by His blood will be given access to live with Him eternally in heaven. It is true that God wants to live in your heart right now. He wants to stay with you and go everywhere with you. But as a sinful child, you cannot enjoy God's presence except you repent from your sins and the Lord saves you. Only then will you have access to Him.

3. CONSECRATION OF THE TABERNACLE AND THE GLORY OF GOD:
Exodus 40:1-38; Leviticus 9:6,7

When the tabernacle was completed, Moses set it up and consecrated it. Then, God commanded Moses that Aaron and his sons should wash their bodies, wear their holy garments and be anointed. The anointing oil represented the Holy Spirit which would empower them for service. Moses obeyed God's command and anointed the priests. God's approval for the entire work was manifested with the sign of His presence which were the cloud of glory and the pillar of fire. The lesson here is that God will accept our service only when we obey His word. On the other hand, God frowns at sin. His presence or glory will never be attracted to anything sinful or abominable.

The cloud of glory, apart from leading the children of Israel, provided divine presence, guidance and protection for God's people. The glory of God remained with them except when they committed sin. In the same way, any child who allows sin in his life will lose the presence of God. Therefore, boys and girls who are saved must reject and resist sin in order to continually enjoy God's presence in their life and fellowship.

QUESTIONS:
1. To whom did God reveal the pattern of the tabernacle?
2. Mention three qualities that helped the tabernacle workers to be successful in their work.
3. Mention four things kept in the tabernacle and their spiritual significance.
4. What will a child of God do to enjoy God's presence in his/her life?
5. What must a sinner do to be saved?

MEMORY VERSE: "**According to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work**" (Exodus 39:42).

LESSON: God desires to dwell in a holy temple.

THOUGHT: My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, so I will keep it holy.

ACTIVITY: With the help of the teacher, draw the Ark of the Covenant and the things that are kept inside.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 87 - TAKE MY LIFE

CHORUSES: (1) My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (2) Solomon built the temple of God. (3) Let the dew of heaven fall upon my thirsting soul.

HOMEWORK: Children should write out all the things in the tabernacle and their significance.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	34:20-22
TUESDAY	EXODUS	34:23-26
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	34:27-29
THURSDAY	EXODUS	34:30-33
FRIDAY	EXODUS	34:34,35
SATURDAY	EXODUS	37:1-5
SUNDAY	HAGGAI	5:1-5

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Significance 2. Procrastinate 3. Emulate 4. Consecration 5. Symbolised.

LESSON 8

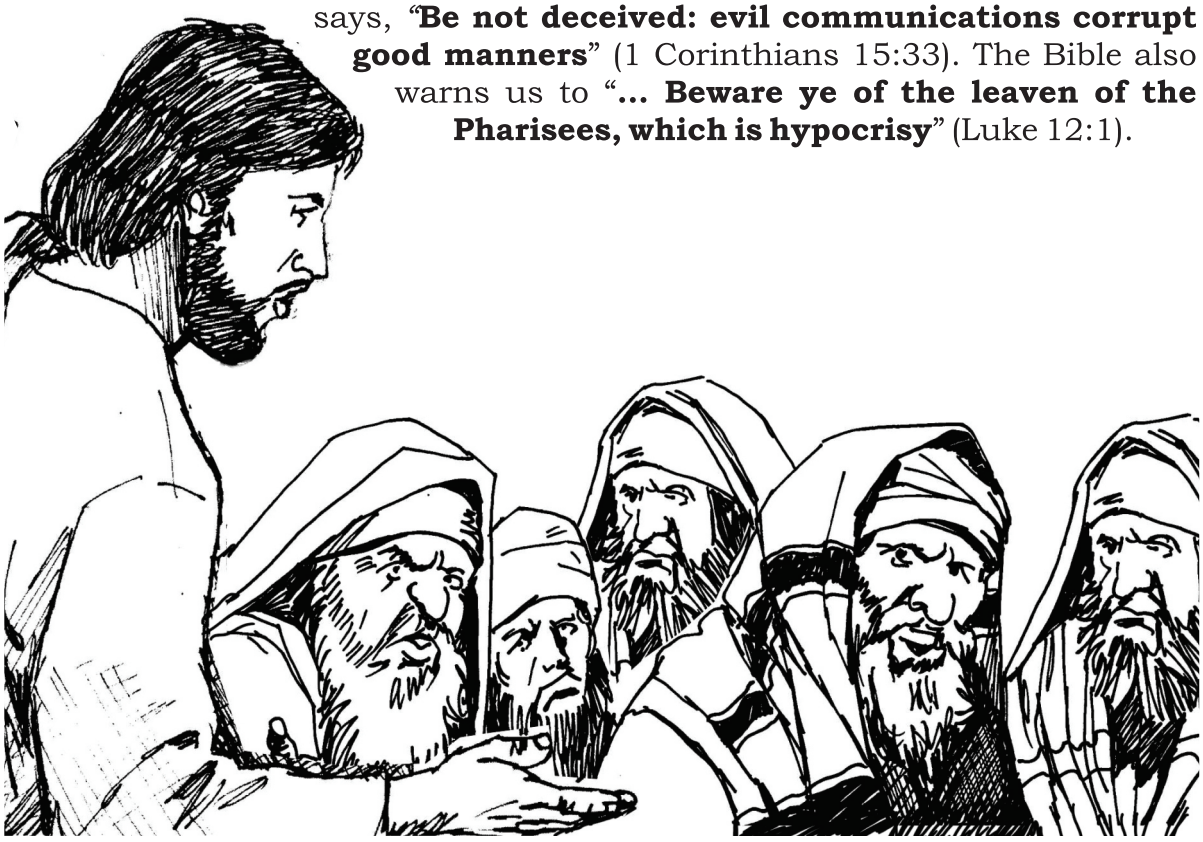
JESUS DENOUNCES THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES

Matthew 23:1-39; Luke 11:37-54; 13:31-35

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, He had encounters with some religious leaders known as scribes, Sadducees and Pharisees. They were against Christ's preaching, teaching and the good things He was doing among the people. As a result, Jesus denounced them. To denounce means to speak against or condemn. Christ preached the true gospel of salvation to them and condemned their hypocritical lifestyle. Hypocrisy means to pretend or claim to be what one is not.

A number of children behave like the Pharisees today. They behave well at home and in the school because their parents and teachers are with them. But whenever they have opportunity to be away from their parents and teachers, they behave like sinners by telling lies, cheating during exams, stealing, fighting and abusing others. Such children are hypocrites and if they don't repent, they will go to hell.

Christian children should follow the example of Christ by telling sinners the good news of salvation. We should also condemn and avoid the sinful practices of other children in our schools and neighbourhood. The word of God says, "**Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners**" (1 Corinthians 15:33). The Bible also warns us to "**... Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy**" (Luke 12:1).



1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES:

Matthew 23:1-7,13-16,37-39; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 11:37-44

"**Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat**" (Matthew 23:1,2). The scribes and the Pharisees are the religious leaders who never believed Christ and His message of salvation. They rebelled against Him and sought opportunity to catch Him by His word in order to accuse Him (Luke 11:53,54).

The scribes and Pharisees:

(i) Are proud and deceptive.
(ii) Love the praise of men (eye service).
(iii) Sit in "Moses' seat" i.e., they like high positions.
(iv) Say and do not; thus, making serving God difficult for others.
(v) Make others do what they cannot do.
(vi) Like to be called master (Rabbi) even when they are not right.
(vii) Perform religious activities like paying tithe, fasting and praying but neglect holy living.
(viii) Pretend to be good but they are corrupt and wicked.
(ix) Persecute God's people and reject God's word. Their character hinders others from becoming children of God.

True children of God should avoid the lifestyle of the scribes and Pharisees. Today, those who have not accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour are like the scribes and Pharisees. We are to preach the gospel to them in our schools and neighbourhood so that they will be saved before it is too late. If your character is like that of the Pharisees, you must repent and turn from your bad ways to avoid God's judgment.

2. CONDEMNATION OF THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES:

Matthew 23:13-16; 23-39; Luke 11:39-52

"**But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in**" (Matthew 23:13). Jesus condemned the sinful lifestyles of the religious leaders. They rejected the warnings of Jesus; therefore, He pronounced curses on them. The Bible says: "**He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy**" (Proverbs 29:1). "**The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God**" (Psalm 9:17).

These Scriptures will be fulfilled in the lives of those who refuse to repent of their sins and accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Be careful! God is merciful but He is also a consuming fire. Surrender your life to Jesus today to escape the damnation of hell-fire. Accept you are a sinner, confess your sins

and tell Jesus to wash away your sins with His blood. Accept Him as your personal Lord and Saviour and continue to live a life of obedience always.

3. CHARACTER OF GOD'S CHILDREN:
Matthew 23:8-12; Ephesians 5:7-11; Philippians 2:2-8;
Colossians 3:12-15

Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour is the Prince of peace. As God's children, our conduct, that is, our way of life, character and behaviour should be like that of Christ who humbled Himself and was obedient to death on the cross at Calvary. Our lifestyle should be different from those of the scribes and Pharisees in everything we do.

The characteristics of God's children therefore include:
Humility, Patience, Obedience, Love, Goodness, Honesty, Gentleness, Longsuffering, as outlined in Galatians 5:22,23.

To bear the fruit of the Spirit, you must thirst for and pray for the sanctification of your heart. Love the word of God, read it every day, believe what it teaches, pray on the message, meditate on it day and night and obey all its commands. When you do all these, you will be prosperous and have good success in all areas of your life.

QUESTIONS:
1. How can we identify children who are hypocrites?
2. Mention five characteristics of the Pharisees.
3. Do Pharisees fast and pray?
4. Is it good to fast and pray without obeying God's word?
5. List five characteristics of children of God.
6. How can a sinful child become a child of God and escape hell-fire?

MEMORY VERSE: "**All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not**" (Matthew 23:3).

LESSON: God will bless those who obey the word of God without pretending.

THOUGHT: I will not be an hypocrite but an example of God's children.

ACTIVITY: Children should discuss practical ways to avoid sinful practices in their schools and neighbourhood.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 47 – JUST OBEY

CHORUSES: (1) Follow, follow (2) Lord I want to be like Jesus inner my heart. (3) I live for Jesus, day after day.

HOMEWORK: Read and explain the following passages to a friend (Matthew 23:11,12; Ephesians 5:7-11).

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	LUKE	6:39-42
TUESDAY	LUKE	6:43-45
WEDNESDAY	MARK	12:38-40
THURSDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	11:12-15
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	7:15-20
SATURDAY	LUKE	20:45-47
SUNDAY	EPHESIANS	5:5-8

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

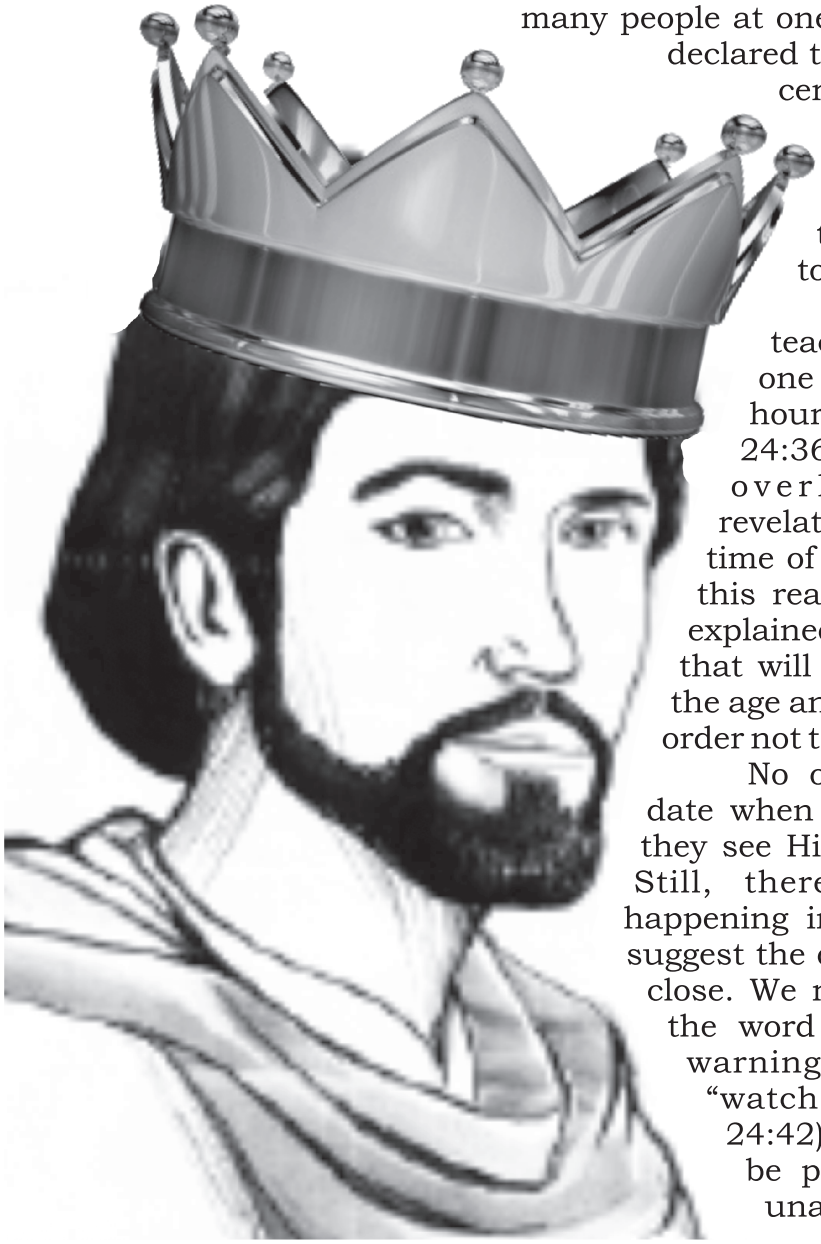
Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Hypocrite 2. Denounce 3. Persecute 4. Conduct 5. Ministry.

LESSON 9

SIGNS OF THE END

Matthew 24:1-51; Mark 13:1-37; Luke 17:20-37; 21:5-38

A story was told of a group of religious people who said they received revelation that Jesus will come on a particular Saturday. That day, they all gathered at an Island to await Christ's return. They waited all through the night till day break and nothing happened. They realised then that they had been deceived. Therefore, they went back to their various homes disappointed.



Over the centuries since Jesus ascended to heaven, many people at one time or the other have declared that Jesus will come at a certain date. Such dates would come and go and nothing would happen. These are false teachings manufactured to deceive people.

Despite the clear teaching of Jesus that no one knows the "day and hour" of His return (Matthew 24:36), many religious sects overlook this biblical revelation and give dates to the time of Christ's return. It is for this reason that Jesus Himself explained in detail, the events that will characterise the end of the age and signs to look out for in order not to be deceived.

No one will ever know the date when Jesus will return until they see Him coming in the cloud. Still, there are certain things happening in our world today that suggest the day of His return is very close. We must be careful to obey the word of God, heed Christ's warning and admonition to "watch therefore" (Matthew 24:42). It is only then we can be prepared and not taken unawares.

1. SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND END TIME EVENTS:

Matthew 24:1-51; Mark 13:1-32; Luke 17:20-37; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

In His teaching on the mount of Olives, Jesus reveals to us that His second coming will be according to God's end-time programme. However, it is important for us to understand that the second coming of Christ will be in two phases.

(i) The rapture. This will occur before the great tribulation. It is going to be sudden and Jesus will appear in the sky as the arch-angel blows the trumpet. In a twinkle of an eye, the saints of God both dead and alive will fly up to meet Jesus in the sky. Therefore, you must live righteously and holily so as to be raptured with the saints. The raptured saints will then be taken to heaven for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

(ii) Second coming after the great tribulation. Seven years is the period of the great tribulation. During this time, the Antichrist (someone who is against Christ) will rule the world. At the end of the seven years, Jesus will come to reward faithful tribulation saints, pour out His judgment upon the sinners, overthrow the antichrist and false prophets, bind Satan and throw him into the bottomless pit, destroy this corrupt and dirty world and set up His millennial reign.

These are great events that will surely come to pass. Therefore, you must not be careless like the people of the world. Surrender your life to Jesus now. Obey His word and be ready for His coming.

2. SIGNS OF THE END:

Matthew 24:1-14,27-35; Mark 13:28-32; Luke 21:5-33; 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Jesus made His disciples to know that the end-time is near. If it was near at that time, then it is nearer now and even at the door. Through His parables and other teachings, Jesus had spoken a number of times of His going away and His return in glory which would bring in the end of the age, the triumph of His kingdom and final judgment. His disciples then came to Him privately to ask Him for clarification "**saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**" (Matthew 24:3).

To comfort His friends and also help them to escape the great suffering, Christ gave them the signs to watch out for. Though the signs are not meant to give them specific dates for the end of the world, but they will help them to know that the time is short. Therefore, we ought to prepare and be ready. These are the signs:

(I) Multiplication of false prophets and false teachings. Many deceivers will rise up to teach wrong and corrupted doctrines. They will make sinners to

believe and accept “easy-life-gospel” rather than the truth of God's word. The only acceptable gospel is the gospel of repentance, total cleansing from sin and acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Be warned, there are many false teachers out there who perform 'miracles, signs and wonders' but they are not of God. They have sweet tongue with which they boast, tell lies and claim to be what they are not. Run away from such!

(ii) The increase of wars, famines, earthquakes, pestilences, strange diseases such as COVID-19, AIDS, cancer, etc. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

(iii) Persecution of God's people will become more severe as we can see in terrorist activities and increase in false religion.

(iv) Backsliding among friends of Jesus with the love of many waxing cold.

(v) Increase in violence, crime, wickedness, ungodly behaviour and disregard for God's righteous standard.

(vi) Disobedience to parents and constituted authorities.

(vii) Worldliness, immoral behaviour even among children, shamelessness, rebellion against God, bad games and music, pornography, drug abuse, will characterise the last days. In fact, Jesus compares it to the time of Noah when the thoughts of human heart were evil continually (Genesis 6:5). It will also be as “in the days of Lot” when the people continued in their abominations till they were consumed with fire and brimstone” (Luke 17:28,30).

All these signs and more are visible all around us. This is to make us know that the end is near. Do not be careless with your soul. Jesus is calling you to come. The people of Noah's time refused to listen to Noah's plea for them to enter the ark. Animals were taken in to replace them. The door of God's mercy is still open, do not delay. Surrender your life to Jesus now and He will save you from the wrath to come.

3. SPECIAL PREPARATION FOR CHRIST’S COMING:

Matthew 24:42-51; 25:1-29; Mark 13:33-37; Luke 17:31-37; 21:12-19,36

Jesus is coming very soon to take His friends in the rapture. Anyone who misses the rapture will face the terror of the antichrist during the great tribulation. To escape the suffering of the great tribulation and eternal suffering in hell, you must specially prepare to meet the Lord. There are two parts to this special preparation. (i) Sinners' preparation – Sinners must repent now without delay. Confess all sins to God. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Forsake all sins and accept Jesus as personal Lord and Saviour. Share your testimony by telling your friends, family members and neighbours about your new life.

(ii) Believers' preparation – As a new creature, you must remain a friend of Jesus in order to qualify for the rapture. This you can do by thirsting for and praying to be sanctified and living a holy life every day.

In addition, you must have regular fellowship with God through prayers, reading and meditating on His word. Furthermore, you need to separate from

bad association and worldly affairs, hold fast to God's word, trust and obey Him and never yield to temptation. God will keep, prepare and make us ready for His coming.

QUESTIONS:
1. Mention the two phases of Jesus' second coming.
2. What are the events that will occur before and after the second coming of Christ?
3. Mention the signs of the end-time that we can see all around us today.
4. How should a (i) sinner (ii) believer prepare for Christ's coming?

MEMORY VERSE: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (Matthew 24:6).

LESSON: Jesus is coming very soon.

THOUGHT: I will prepare and get ready for the second coming of the Lord.

ACTIVITY: Read Luke 21:34-36; Mark 13:35,36; Matthew 24:42. Identify and write out two important things Jesus ask His friends to do in preparation for His second coming.

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

CHORUSES: (1) I'm thinking when my Lord shall come again. (2) Will you be ready when the Lord shall come? (3) Are you in the number?

HOMEWORK: Search the Scripture and write out five passages; two in the Old Testament and three in the New Testament that speak of Jesus' second coming.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	DANIEL	12:1-4
TUESDAY	1 TIMOTHY	4:1-3
WEDNESDAY	2 TIMOTHY	3:1-3
THURSDAY	2 TIMOTHY	3:4-7
FRIDAY	2 TIMOTHY	3:8-14
SATURDAY	2 PETER	3:1-4
SUNDAY	2 PETER	3:5-10

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Centuries 2. Rapture 3. Triumph 4. Doctrines 5. Persecution.

LESSON 10

PARABLES OF THE TEN VIRGINS AND THE TALENTS

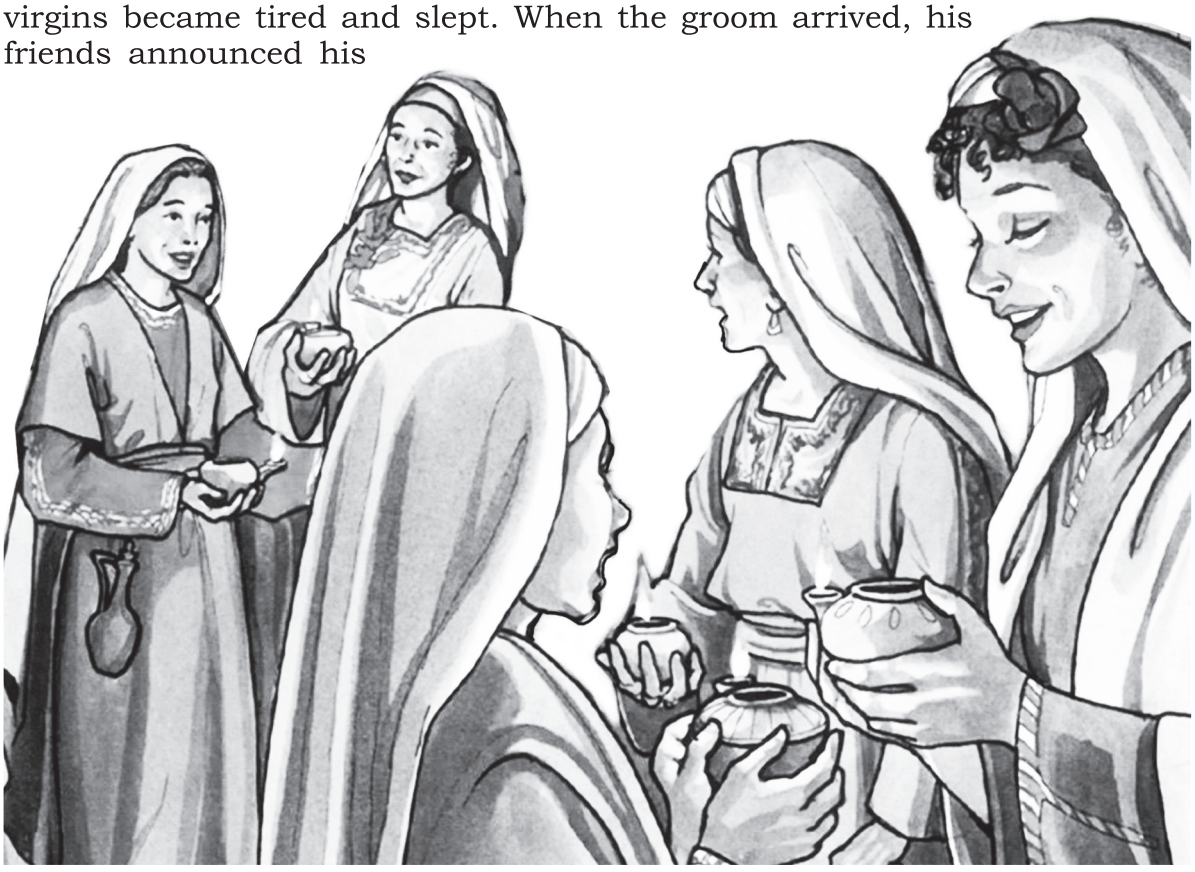
Matthew 25:1-46; Luke 19:11-27

A parable is a comparison drawn from nature or daily life experiences and designed to explain some spiritual truths. During the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, He used series of methods to teach His audience. His methods include: illustrations, parables, storytelling and use of symbols. In our lesson today, we are considering the parables that teach us about the attitudes of the different categories of people in the church. God wants us to learn important lessons that will help us to do the right thing so as to be qualified to live with Him in His kingdom at last.

1. PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS:

Matthew 25:1-13

This parable has its background from the manner of celebrating wedding ceremonies during the New Testament period. It is usually conducted in the evening, but in our passage, it was delayed because the groom and his friends arrived at midnight. The ten virgins came as guests. At midnight, all the ten virgins became tired and slept. When the groom arrived, his friends announced his



arrival and alerted everyone to wake up to meet the bridegroom.

All the ten virgins had burning lamps when they went to sleep but their lamps were almost burnt out when the bridegroom arrived. Then the foolish who did not take along extra oil said to the wise "**... Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out**".

From this parable, we can learn the following lessons:

(i) The foolish virgins were denied access into the venue of the ceremony because they did not take with them extra oil in separate vessels to replenish the supply in their lamps. Similarly, boys and girls that approach spiritual issues with unserious and careless conduct will face similar fate when the Lord Jesus comes.

(ii) The wise virgins were called 'wise' because they took extra oil in separate vessels beside what they had in their lamps. Boys and girls are expected to jealously guard their spiritual experiences such as salvation, sanctification and Holy Ghost baptism, so that they will not lose them because of carelessness and compromise.

(iii) The coming of Jesus at the rapture can happen any moment. Boys and girls need to be watchful and vigilant. There will be no time for emergency repentance and restitution.

The oil in the parable represents true faith, righteousness and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. This parable therefore stresses the necessity of perseverance in the faith and spiritual preparedness because Jesus will come at an unexpected time. You must be watchful, prayerful and live a holy life.

2. PARABLE OF THE TALENTS:

Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-29

Jesus told another parable to His audience that the kingdom of God was like a honourable and rich man that went on a journey. Before his journey, he "**... called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods**" (Matthew 25:14). To one he gave five talents, to another he gave two and to the last, he gave one. He gave these to them based on their different abilities. After the man had departed, the first and the second servants made useful and sensible use of the gifts received. They gained additional talents but the third servant went and hid his own. At the appointed time, the rich man returned and called the servants to give account of how they had used the resources given to them.

After listening to them, he commended the two profitable servants "**... well done, thou good and faithful servant ...**" and condemned the attitude of the last servant: "**... thou wicked and slothful servant ...**" The master collected the goods from the third servant and gave it to the first servant that had five. He further punished the last servant "**... Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**".

This parable illustrates the relationship between Jesus and His friends. (i) The noble man is Jesus Christ. (ii) The servants are boys and girls who profess to be friends of Jesus. (iii) The two faithful servants are boys and girls

who surrender their talents to God as choristers, ushers, cleaners in the church, and those that get involved in other work areas in the church. (iv) The last servant symbolises lazy boys and girls who refuse to work for God. (v) The arrival of the noble man symbolises when Jesus will come to reward boys and girls that work for Him and reject those that refuse to work for Him.

A talent represents our abilities, time, resources and opportunities to serve God while on earth. This parable therefore warns us that our place and service in heaven will depend on how faithful we are in the use of our God-given talents. Everyone has been given one talent or another. You must endeavour to use your own talent to profit the kingdom of God here on earth. Then when Christ returns, He will recognize your faithfulness and reward you.

3. THE PEOPLE CATEGORISED AS SHEEP AND GOATS:
Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus Christ concluded His parable with a powerful illustration of how the judgment will be. This illustration shows that people can be categorised into two groups, namely, saints and sinners. Sheep are known to be simple and controllable. On the other hand, goats are known for their stubbornness and naughtiness. According to the illustration in our text, sheep and goats are allowed to feed together but will be separated later. Similarly, at the end of time, there will be a clear separation of saints from the sinners. God will determine who will enter His kingdom and those that will be denied entry. The question is, to which group do you belong?

If you are still doing naughty things like a goat, then you must be ready to face God's judgment. However, God is loving and merciful. He is not willing that any child should perish. Therefore, a sinful boy or girl must urgently take these steps so as to be saved from the judgment to come.

(i) Realise and accept that you are a sinner.
(ii) Repent and confess all your sins to God.
(iii) Forsake all sins.
(iv) Ask for forgiveness and cleansing with the blood of Jesus.
(v) Ask Jesus to come into your heart to reign as your Saviour and Lord.
(vi) Continue to follow Jesus as you live a holy life and obey His word.

QUESTIONS:

1. Mention three methods Jesus used in teaching His hearers.
2. List five lessons learnt from the parable of the ten virgins.
3. Five symbols used in the parable of the talents are: (i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii)_____ (iv) _____ (v) _____.
4. Mention three important lessons in the parable of the talents.
5. (a) In the illustration of sheep and goat, who are the goats and the sheep?
   (b) How can a sinful child be saved from the coming judgment?

MEMORY VERSE: "**Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh**" (Matthew 25:13).

LESSON: God's desire is that boys and girls should be saved and serve Him acceptably.

THOUGHT: I will be saved and also serve God faithfully so as to enjoy God's reward.

ACTIVITY: Discuss and plan on evangelism outreach to the sinners in your neighbourhood.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 87 - TAKE MY LIFE

CHORUSES: (1) I' m thinking when my Lord shall come again. (2) Give me oil in my lamp. (3) He is coming back again.

HOMEWORK: Everyone should go and preach to sinners in the community.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	LUKE	12:35-37
TUESDAY	LUKE	12:38-40
WEDNESDAY	LUKE	12:41-44
THURSDAY	LUKE	12:45-48
FRIDAY	REVELATION	19:7-9
SATURDAY	REVELATION	21:1-4
SUNDAY	REVELATION	21:6-8

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Parable 2. Replenish 3. Vigilant 4. Symbolise 5. Illustrate.

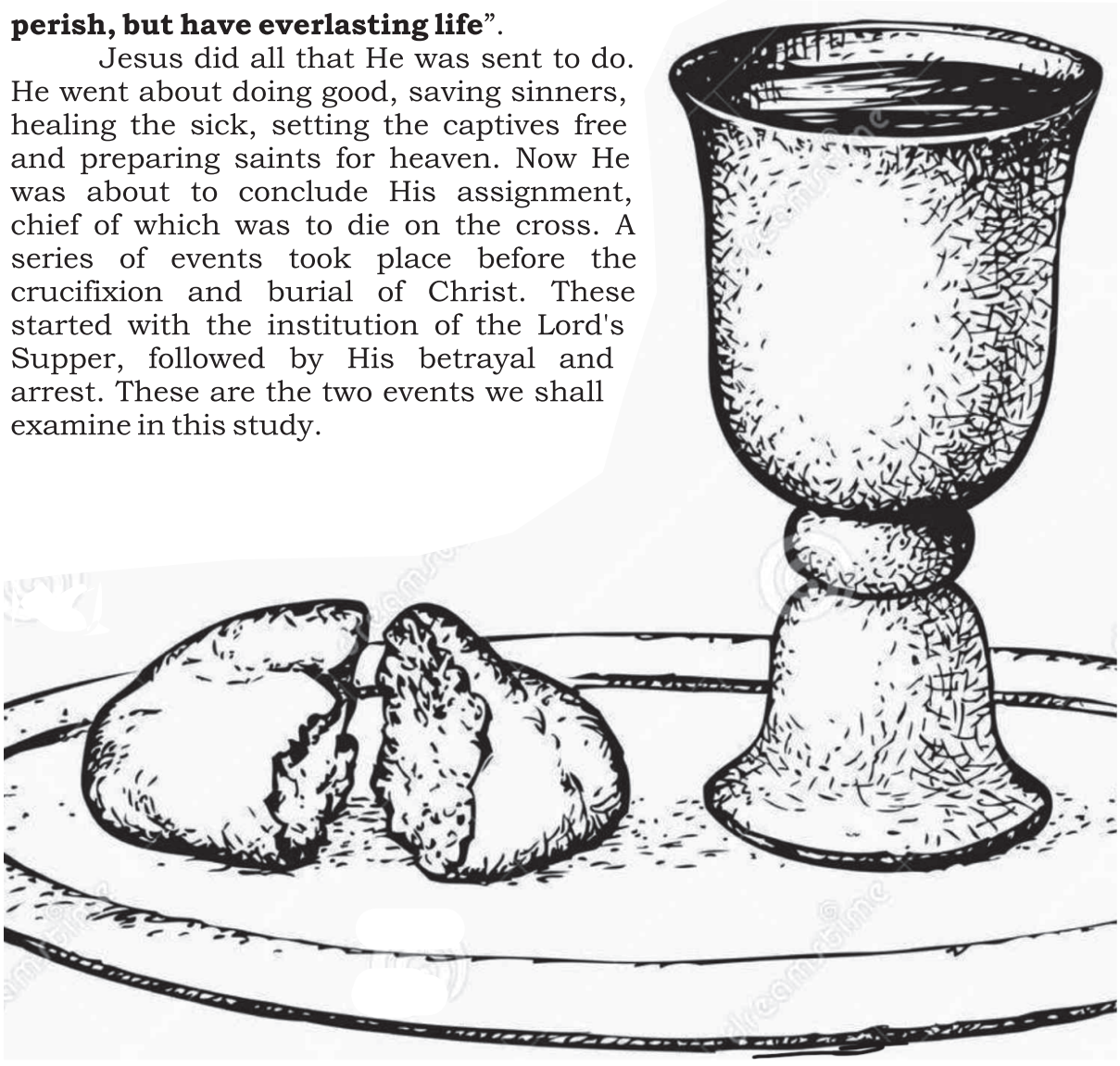
LESSON 11

THE LAST SUPPER AND CHRIST'S BETRAYAL

Matthew 26:1-30,36-68; Mark 14:1-26,32-65; Luke 22:1-30,35-53,63-71

"**And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified**" (Matthew 26:1). This passage of the Bible is a prophecy by Christ Himself about His coming suffering and death on the cross. Jesus came into the world to do the will of His heavenly Father, which was to die on the cross and shed His blood for the remission of the sins of the world. This 'will' is summed up in John 3:16 "**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life**".

Jesus did all that He was sent to do. He went about doing good, saving sinners, healing the sick, setting the captives free and preparing saints for heaven. Now He was about to conclude His assignment, chief of which was to die on the cross. A series of events took place before the crucifixion and burial of Christ. These started with the institution of the Lord's Supper, followed by His betrayal and arrest. These are the two events we shall examine in this study.



1. INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-30;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Jesus spent the last days of His assignment on earth to teach His friends about the end-time events, the coming judgment on the sinners and life in God's heavenly kingdom. When He finished His teaching, He knew that the time for His crucifixion was at hand. In preparation for this, He instructed His friends to prepare a place where they will observe the Passover. It was a deliberate plan by Christ to relate His death to the celebration of the Passover. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). This Passover meal was to be the last supper He would have with His disciples.

Before the meal, the religious rulers had gathered in the house of Caiaphas the high priest to plan how to arrest Jesus. Then by divine arrangement, a woman came to anoint Jesus with oil to prepare Him for His coming death and burial. All these events worked together to fulfil the purpose of God for sending His only begotten Son to the earth. As they were taking the last meal, Jesus established what is now known as the Lord's Supper. During the meal, Jesus introduced the new symbols of (i) Unleavened bread, representing His body that would be broken on the cross (ii) Wine. This is the fruit of the vine which also symbolises His blood that was shed for the remission of our sins.

Jesus then commanded that the Church observe this fellowship of sharing until He comes. Jesus is coming again to take His friends to heaven where they will be in fellowship with Him forever. Regular participation in the Lord's Supper will help us to put in remembrance all that Christ suffered for us. It will also help us to serve Him faithfully until He comes to take us home.

2. IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS' BETRAYAL AND ARREST:

Matthew 26:14-16,36-56; Mark 14:18-21,32-52;
Luke 22:1-6,21-23,39-53

During the last meal with His disciples, Jesus revealed the person that would betray Him. Judas Iscariot who was one of the twelve disciples had earlier agreed with the religious rulers to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. The eleven others were not aware of his plan but Christ knew. He is the Omniscient God who knows and sees all that we plan. He told His friends that one of them would betray Him. They all became sorrowful and confused until Jesus identified the person. After the meal, Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray in agony. It was at this garden that Judas Iscariot led a large crowd with sword and clubs to arrest Jesus Christ. This was the beginning of Jesus' suffering, trial and eventual crucifixion.

Judas Iscariot betrayed His Master because of greed and he later regretted his action. Therefore, he went and killed himself and went to hell. He had opportunity to repent but he did not. Jesus in His love wanted to help Judas

Iscariot to realise his mistake and avoid hell, but he would not listen because the word of God must be fulfilled. Although his name was not attached to that prophecy, it was because of covetousness and greed that he made himself available to fulfil the prophecy.

As a sinner, you must repent while the door of God's mercy is still open. Do not delay or waste the opportunity you have. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour. Stay with Jesus and obey His word. Do not betray Him but rather honour Him through your word, ways and work of faith.

3. INSTRUCTIVE LESSONS FOR FRIENDS OF JESUS:
Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:63-71; 1 Peter 2:21-25

From our Bible passages, we learnt that Jesus Christ was nearing the end of His earthly ministry. All that He did was in fulfilment of God's plan and purpose for mankind. Have you accepted Jesus as your Saviour and Lord? Do not allow His suffering to be in vain. Therefore, as a sinner, you must realise your sinful state. Repent and confess all your sins to God. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing through His shed blood. Ask Him to be your Saviour, Lord and Friend.

Now as a friend of Jesus, there are important lessons for you to take to heart in this study.

(i) There should be absolute obedience to Christ's command on the Lord's Supper. Be a worthy partaker at every opportunity. Anything that will hinder you from being qualified for the Lord's Supper can also hinder you from going with Jesus at the rapture. Therefore, live a holy life every day.

(ii) Beware of covetousness and greed. These bad traits sent Judas Iscariot to hell. Do not follow his example and never you betray Jesus by your actions and activities. Rather honour Him through your lifestyle.

(iii) Be a prayerful Christian. When Christ was in agony, He went to Gethsemane to pray while His disciples slept off. Prayer is the key that can solve all problems of life and draw you nearer to God.

(iv) Jesus was quiet and calm while He was being arrested and taken away to Caiapha's court. He did not pay back evil for evil but rather showed compassion to those that hurt Him. This is a great virtue that we must have. Always leave judgment or revenge to God. Do not fight your accusers or persecutors. God will fight for you.

(v) As Jesus submitted to the will of His heavenly Father, so must we submit and obey the word of God at all times. There are great blessings for children who are obedient to God's word.

QUESTIONS:

1. Jesus established the Lord's Supper to replace the Passover feast. Yes/No?
2. Who can partake of the Lord's Supper?
3. Mention the events that took place as Jesus was about to conclude His

earthly work.
4. Who betrayed Jesus?
5. What are the important lessons you have learnt from this study?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom**" (Matthew 26:27-29).

LESSON: Jesus suffered and died to set sinners free.

THOUGHT: I surrender all to Jesus, my Saviour.

ACTIVITY: Children should spend time to pray for grace to follow Christ's example and live a life pleasing to God.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 224 - OH, THE BITTER SHAME AND SORROW

CHORUSES: (1) There is power mighty in the blood. (2) He loves me I cannot tell why. (3) I believe in Jesus (3ce) He is the Son of God.

HOMEWORK: Draw a picture of Christ with His disciples observing the Lord's Supper.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	12:1-6
TUESDAY	EXODUS	12:7-11
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	12:12-14
THURSDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	11:23-26
FRIDAY	JOHN	3:14-16
SATURDAY	1 PETER	2:21-23
SUNDAY	1 PETER	2:24,25

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Institution 2. Passover 3. Symbols 4. Betrayal 5. Divine.

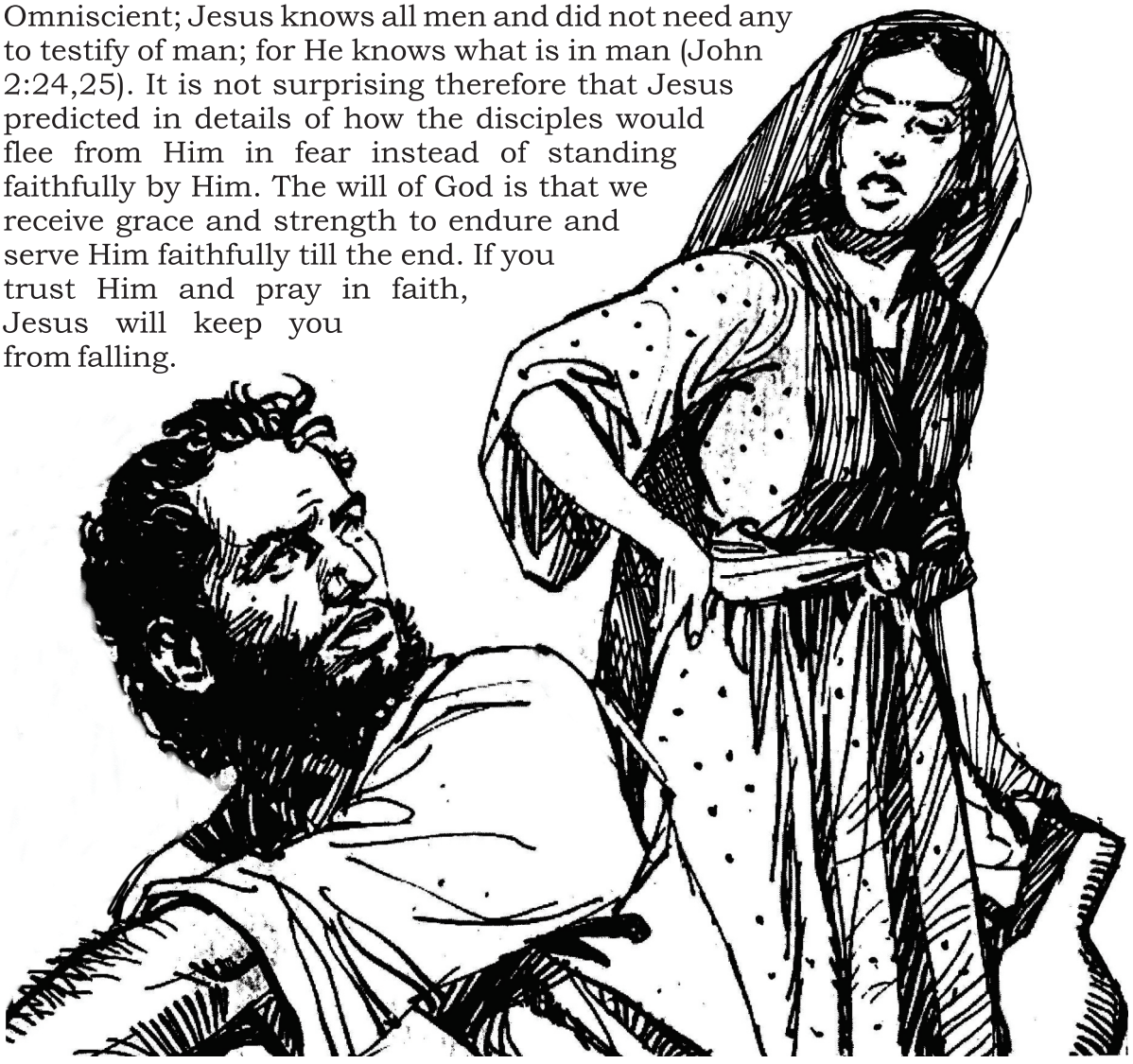
LESSON 12

PETER DENIES CHRIST

Matthew 26:31-35,69-75; Mark 14:27-31,66-72; Luke 22:31-34,54-62

Jesus spoke about His arrest and also how His disciples would forsake Him. They will not have the courage to stand with Him in His trial. This was to fulfil Zechariah's prophecy: "**... smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones**" (Zechariah 13:7). The Bible is filled with prophecies about Jesus' birth (Isaiah 9:6,7; 7:14), suffering, death and resurrection (Isaiah 53:1-12). That Jesus referred to the prophecy about His death shows that His suffering and crucifixion was not by chance but was part of God's redemptive plan for man.

The details in Jesus' prediction of the coming trial, nature and implication of His arrest confirm the fact that He is God and Omniscient; Jesus knows all men and did not need any to testify of man; for He knows what is in man (John 2:24,25). It is not surprising therefore that Jesus predicted in details of how the disciples would flee from Him in fear instead of standing faithfully by Him. The will of God is that we receive grace and strength to endure and serve Him faithfully till the end. If you trust Him and pray in faith, Jesus will keep you from falling.



1. PREDICTION ABOUT PETER'S DENIAL OF CHRIST:

Matthew 26:31-34; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34

Jesus clearly told His disciples that His arrest will make them to abandon Him. Every believer is daily kept by the power and the grace of God. We all need to constantly look unto Jesus for grace, spiritual strength and power to be victorious over temptation and all challenges of life.

All the disciples including Peter responded by declaring their ever-willing loyalty and love for Jesus. Apostle Peter even went as far as binding himself with a promise that he would never deny Christ. Jesus specifically warned Peter of the approaching test of faith and temptation to which he (Peter) would fall. Peter neglected Jesus' warning. Instead of taking heed to Jesus' warnings, he boasted; "**... Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended**" (Matthew 26:33).

He should not have overlooked Jesus' repeated warnings about his fall. He was completely ignorant of his insufficiency without Christ. What lessons can Christian boys and girls learn from this? (i) As Christians, we should rely on the grace of God and not on the arm of flesh. (ii) We should never disregard the word of God and its warnings as we walk with Christ. (iii) We must be watchful and prayerful so as not to fall into temptation.

2. PETER DENIES CHRIST:

Matthew 26:58,69-74; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-60

The fulfilment of the prediction about Peter's denial began to manifest when Jesus was arrested. His disciples forsook Him and fled. However, Peter followed from afar off. Children of God who keep a distance from the word of God and the fellowship of God's people are definitely on their way to backsliding.

Apostle Peter in order to hide his identity got mixed up with the enemies of Christ. This was a second step that led to his denial of Christ. Children of God should beware of the company and friends they keep. Christian boys and girls easily lose their spiritual strength if they walk very closely with unsaved boys and girls. A little cold water poured into a very hot water will definitely reduce its hotness. Hence, every unequal yoke is dangerous to our Christian life and belief.

Apostle Peter, a devoted friend of Jesus denied his Master three times as Jesus predicted. This clearly shows that our closeness to God or how long we have been a Christian, does not automatically prevent us from backsliding. Peter while denying Christ told lies, took false oath and cursed himself. This shows how far one can go into sin at careless moments. It shows that we need to be watchful and prayerful. Children of God should never tell lies or swear for any reason. The word of God does not permit any form of lie because all liars

shall be judged. In what ways have you denied Christ? Examine yourself and repent to avoid rejection on the last day.

3. PETER'S REPENTANCE AND RESTORATION:
Matthew 26:75; Mark 14:72; Luke 22:61,62

Peter failed at the hour of temptation because he was not careful to heed the Master's warning. He denied Jesus, His Lord and Saviour and forsook Him when He (Christ) needed him most. However, Peter quickly realised his error, broke down in repentance and wept bitterly. Peter's action was different from that of Judas Iscariot who refused to repent and went to hell.

There is still room for sinners and backsliders to come back to God in genuine repentance. God is not interested in the death of any sinner no matter the depth or weight of his sins. His desire is that all should repent. Are you still a sinner or are you a backslider? Jesus is pleading with you to come back to Him like Peter did. After his repentance, Peter was restored so much that he became bold to witness and endured great persecution for Christ's sake.

You too can be like Peter. As a sinner or backslider come to Christ now as you: (i) Realise and accept that you have done wrong. (ii) Confess all the bad things you have done. (iii) Sincerely pray for forgiveness and cleansing of your sins through the blood of Jesus. (iv) Repent of all your sins. (v) Ask Jesus to restore you into fellowship and make you His friend.

Continue to follow and serve Jesus as you read your Bible daily, meditate on its words, obey its instructions and share with others. Also, you must attend fellowship regularly, live a holy life and be separate from all worldly influences.

QUESTIONS:
1. What do you learn from Jesus' prediction that His disciples would abandon Him after His arrest?
2. Mention the lessons you learn from Peter's refusal to take heed to Jesus' warning that he, Peter would deny Him three times.
3. How did Peter deny Christ?
4. What did Peter do to be restored?
5. How can sinful and backsliding boys and girls retrace their way back to God?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly**" (Matthew 26:75).

LESSON: We must rely on God's grace to overcome temptation as we journey to heaven.

THOUGHT: I will stand with Christ till the end.

ACTIVITY: Prayer of consecration.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 6 - YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

CHORUSES: (1) I will never, never, go back to the world. (2) Satan will never, never conquer me. (3) Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus.

HOMEWORK: Write down in your homework book two passages that show that God wants us to depend on Him.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	JOHN	18:15-17
TUESDAY	JOHN	18:25-27
WEDNESDAY	JOHN	13:36-38
THURSDAY	JOHN	21:1-4
FRIDAY	JOHN	21:14-16
SATURDAY	JOHN	21:17-19
SUNDAY	JOHN	17:12-15

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Restoration 2. Conviction 3. Ignorant 4. Prediction 5. Loyalty.

LESSON 13

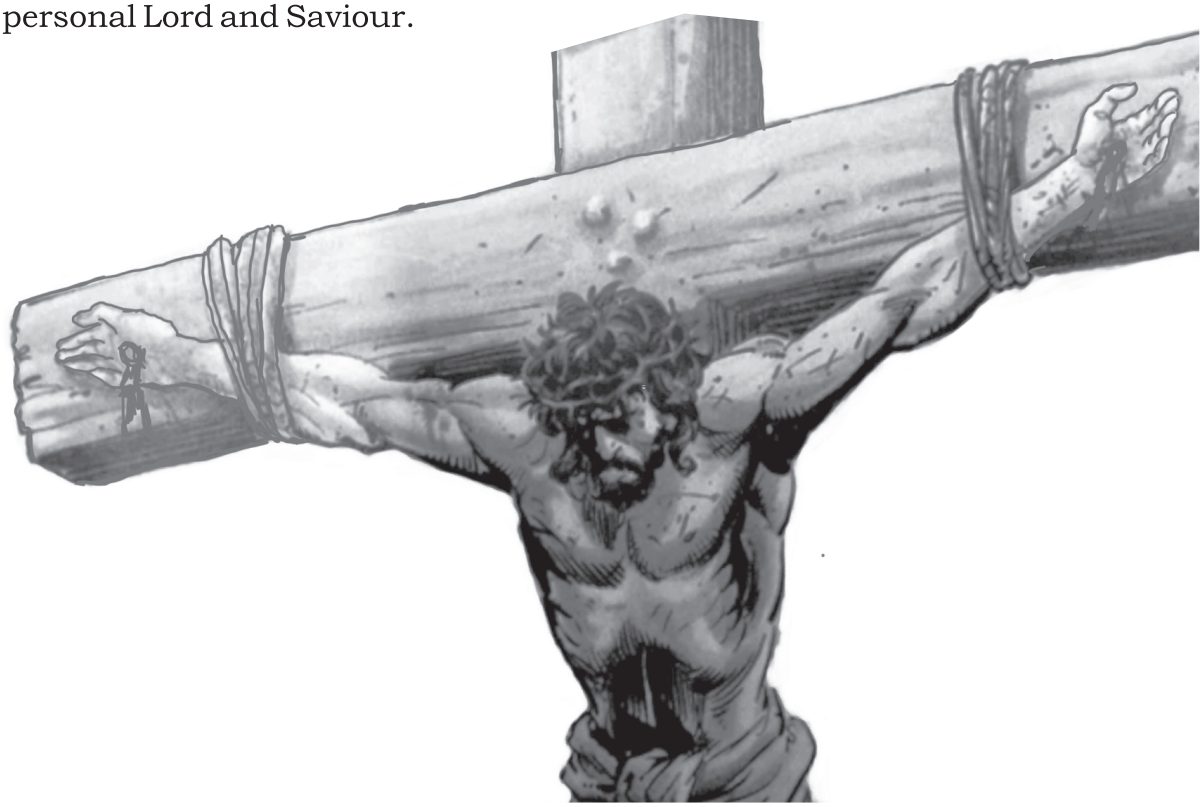
TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST

Matthew 27:1-66; Mark 15:1-47; Luke 23:1-56

"**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). This Bible verse was literally fulfilled when Christ was tried and nailed to the cross at Calvary. It is the first promise of God's plan of redemption for the world. It predicts the final victory for man over Satan and all his works. It is a prophecy about the spiritual conflict between the "seed" of the woman (i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ) and the "seed" of the serpent (i.e. Satan and his followers).

After the fall of man, God in His love and mercy promised to send His only begotten Son, who would be "bruised" through His crucifixion. Yet, He would rise from the dead to completely destroy ("bruise") Satan, sin and death for the sake of the salvation of the human race. Prophets also spoke about the suffering and death of Christ on the cross. It was the only sacrifice needed to take away our sins. Jesus was crucified because we have sinned and are guilty before God (Romans 3:23).

As our Substitute, He took the punishment due us and paid the penalty for our sins – the penalty of death. Therefore, we can be forgiven and have peace with God. Do not allow the suffering and death of Christ to be in vain. Surrender your life to Him and accept Him as your personal Lord and Saviour.



1. THE TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST:

Matthew 27:11-66; Mark 15:1-47; Luke 23:1-56

Jesus' trial started after He was betrayed and arrested by great multitude of people. He was first taken to Caiaphas the high priest. Here, He was falsely accused and questioned by the religious leaders. He was blindfolded, mocked, spat on and struck in the face. In the morning of the next day, Jesus was taken as a prisoner to the governor's palace in Jerusalem to be judged by Pilate.

Having examined Jesus, Pilate discovered that Jesus was innocent and does not deserve to die. However, because of position and personal gain, Pilate condemned Jesus and released Him to His enemies. He was beaten, made jest of, stripped of His clothes, made to wear a crown of thorns and to carry His cross. It was a great suffering. At Golgotha, Jesus was nailed to the cross between two thieves. They pierced His sides with a sword, gave Him bitter drink and continued to mock Him. In all His sufferings, Jesus was quiet and did not fight back.

On the cross, Jesus cried out to God who has separated from Him because of the load of sins He was bearing. He spoke His final words with a loud voice saying "**It is finished**" (John 19:30). This cry signified the end of His sufferings and the completion of the work of redemption. The debt for our sin had been paid in full and the plan of salvation established. Only then did Jesus offer a final prayer thus, "**Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost**" (Luke 23:46).

As soon as Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was torn into two from top to bottom. This means that the way is now open into the presence of God for all who believe in Jesus and the sacrifice He has made for us. No sinner has excuse to remain in sin and continue to suffer in the hands of Satan. The way is clear for everyone to come to Jesus, believe in Him and accept Him as Lord and Saviour.

Do not reject Christ like the scribes, pharisees, high priest, the multitude of people that arrested Him and Pilate. One day is coming that the crucified Christ will sit to judge all those who conspired to kill Him. If you do not want to be a partaker in their suffering, you must believe the truth about Christ's redemptive work and repent of your sins.

2. TIMELESS TRUTHS CONCERNING CHRIST'S DEATH:

Matthew 27:50-61; Mark 15:22-41; Luke 23:26-49; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1 Timothy 2:5,6

The Bible reveals important truths concerning Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

(i) It was a sacrificial death that is better, more powerful and permanent than the Old Testament sacrifices (1 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 5:2).

(ii) Jesus died as our Substitute. He suffered death as the penalty for our sin. Therefore, a sinner who repents and accepts Him will be free from eternal

death (Romans 6:23).

(iii) Christ's death satisfied God's righteous nature, thereby, removing His judgment against the repentant sinner (2 Corinthians 5:19; John 3:16).

(iv) It was a sacrifice needed for the removal of our sins and its consequences (Hebrews 9:22).

(v) It is the only sacrifice that can receive and make sinners become new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17).

(vi) Christ's death brought reconciliation between our holy God and His sinful and wicked creatures.

(vii) It was a victorious death. On the cross, Christ fought against and became triumphant over the power of sin, Satan and his demonic host that held people captive.

By the ransom of His own life, Jesus liberated us from the enemies that hold the human race in bondage (i.e. sin, death and Satan), setting us free to serve God acceptably. All these benefits are only for boys and girls who through faith accept Jesus Christ and believe that He died for them on the cross of Calvary.

3. TRUSTING IN CHRIST'S SACRIFICE FOR FULL SALVATION:

Matthew 27:54-61; Luke 23: 38-43; John 3:14-18

The crucifixion of Christ is the central theme and foundation of God's plan of redemption for all sinners. Jesus who is sinless and harmless died on behalf of and in place of sinful boys and girls. What then should a sinner do to benefit from what Christ has done for us? It is as simple as ABC. First, the sinner must trust God for his salvation by taking these steps.

Recognise your sinful state, knowing that you have no power to save yourself.

Repent and confess all your sins to God (fighting, stealing, quarrelling, stubbornness, disobedience, cheating, lying, etc.).

Request for pardon and cleansing of your heart with the blood that Jesus shed on the cross.

Remove or do away with every object of sin.

Renew your life by asking Jesus to come into your heart to be your Saviour, Lord and Friend.

Remain with Jesus through regular attendance at fellowship, reading and meditating on God's word and prayers.

These steps will make you to be qualified to be a Christian and a friend of Jesus. Secondly, as a believer now, you must believe and trust God for your final salvation. The reason why Christ suffered and shed His blood is to reconcile sinners to God and take them to heaven at last. Making it to heaven, our eternal destination is known as final salvation. To live for Christ and also get to heaven, the believer must be made holy through the sanctification experience. This is often referred to as the second work of grace. Christ suffered and died, in order to sanctify and make us holy.

Therefore, you must have strong desire for the experience. Then pray and believe God to remove all the roots of sin from your heart. Living a holy and righteous life every day will qualify you to go with Jesus in the rapture. Be

prepared now for your final salvation. God will keep you.

QUESTIONS:

1. The trial of Jesus started immediately after His betrayal and _____
2. Who were the people that accused Jesus?
3. _____ was the governor who released Jesus to be crucified.
4. Mention some of the things the people did to Jesus during His trial and crucifixion.
5. Enumerate the important truths about Christ's suffering and death as revealed in the Bible.
6. What should a (i) sinner (ii) believer do to benefit from Christ's death?

MEMORY VERSE: "And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots" (Matthew 27:35).

LESSON: Jesus died to set us free from sin.

THOUGHT: I believe and accept what Jesus has done for me on the cross.

ACTIVITY: Draw Jesus on the cross and yourself kneeling at the foot of the cross. Colour the drawing and make it beautiful.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 64 - THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

CHORUSES: (1) All the way to Calvary He went for me. (2) Jesus loves me, He died for me. (3) The blood of Jesus has set me free.

HOMEWORK: Write out in your homework book, five benefits of Christ's death on the cross. Share the love of Jesus with one sinner and bring him/her to fellowship.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ISAIAH	53:1-3
TUESDAY	ISAIAH	53:4-6
WEDNESDAY	ISAIAH	53:7-9
THURSDAY	ISAIAH	53:10-12
FRIDAY	PSALM	22:10-19
SATURDAY	1 PETER	2:21-25
SUNDAY	JOHN	3:14-17

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Crucifixion 2. Salvation 3. Condemned 4. Golgotha 5. Penalty.

SECTION 2

LESSON **PAGE**

OLD TESTAMENT

14. LAWS REGULATING VARIOUS SACRIFICES.....62

15. CONSECRATION OF THE PRIESTS.....66

16. STRANGE FIRE IN THE TABERNACLE.....70

17. SUNDRY LAWS OF PURIFICATION.....74

18. IDENTIFICATION AND CLEANSING OF LEPROSY.....78

19. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT.....82

20. CLARIFICATION OF MORAL LAWS.....86

NEW TESTAMENT

21. RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND THE GREAT COMMISSION.....90

22. JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY.....94

23. JESUS ORDAINS TWELVE DISCIPLES.....99

24. PARABLES OF THE SEEDS.....103

25. CHRIST'S POWER OVER DEMONS, DISEASES AND DEATH.....107

26. CHRIST REJECTED IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.....111

LESSON 14

LAWS REGULATING VARIOUS SACRIFICES

Leviticus 1:1–17; 2:1-16; 3:1-17; 4:1-35; 5:1-19; 6:1-30; 7:1-38

While the children of Israel journeyed to the "Promised Land", God gave them some laws to observe, through their leader, Moses. Some of these laws concern various sacrifices they had to offer to God. These sacrifices are also known as offerings. (i) Burnt offering; (ii) Meat offering; (iii) Peace offering; (iv) sin offering and (v) Trespass offering.

God demands absolute obedience from boys and girls as they pass through life's journey. Going against the commandments of God will attract punishment from God (Romans 6:23). The punishment can be removed if sinners will turn to God for forgiveness and cleansing of their sins.

1. PRINCIPLES GUIDING VARIOUS SACRIFICES:

Leviticus 1:1-4; 2:1,2; 3:1-6; 4:1-5; 6:8-30; 7:1-13

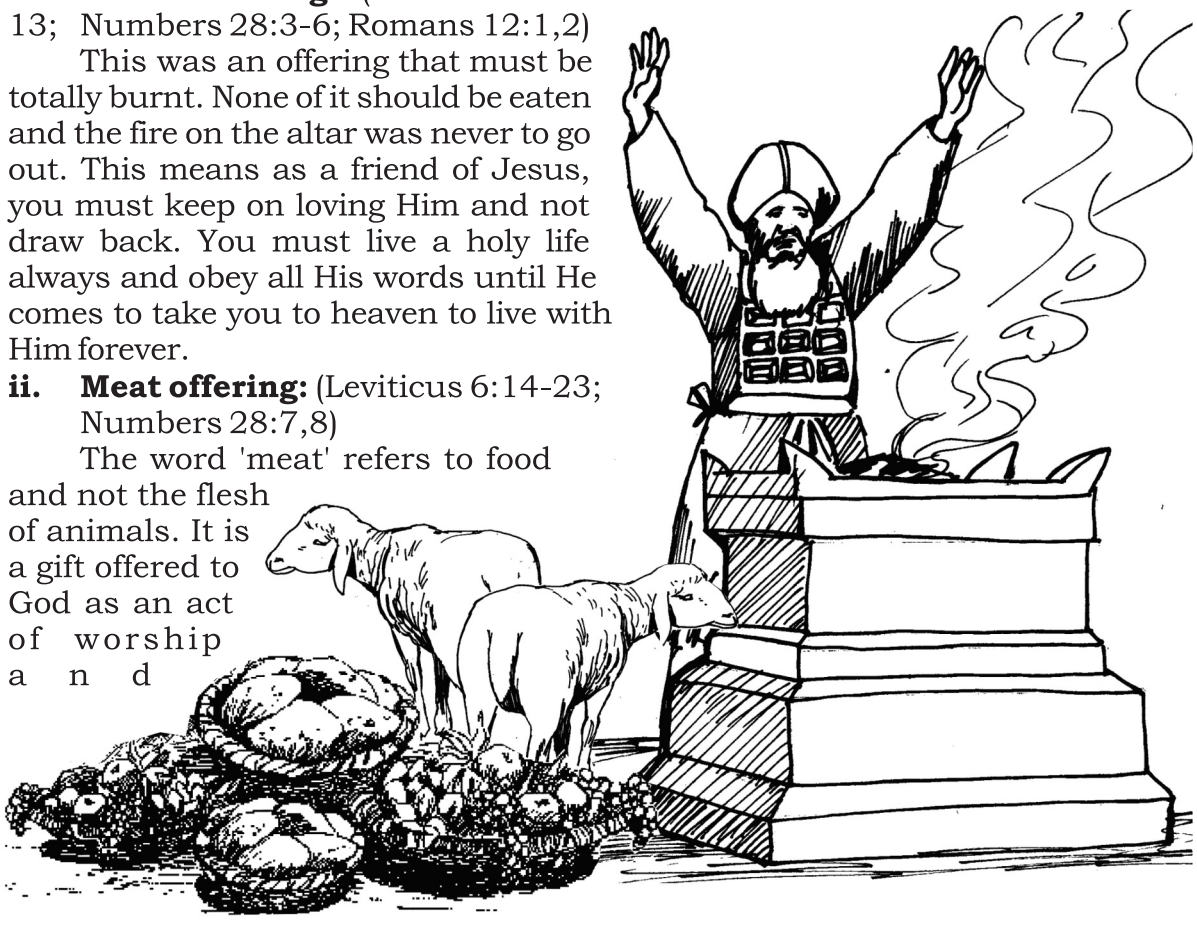
A sacrifice is an offering or present willingly offered to God. These sacrifices are:

I. Burnt offering: (Leviticus 6:8-13; Numbers 28:3-6; Romans 12:1,2)

This was an offering that must be totally burnt. None of it should be eaten and the fire on the altar was never to go out. This means as a friend of Jesus, you must keep on loving Him and not draw back. You must live a holy life always and obey all His words until He comes to take you to heaven to live with Him forever.

ii. Meat offering: (Leviticus 6:14-23; Numbers 28:7,8)

The word 'meat' refers to food and not the flesh of animals. It is a gift offered to God as an act of worship and



thanksgiving for His divine provision. God expects everyone to bring the best part of what he has harvested from his farm. When it is done, it shows that the person appreciates what God has done in bringing rain and sunshine to make the seeds to grow. All boys and girls are expected to show gratitude to God for the gift of life, the provision of food and other good things of life.

iii. Peace offering (Leviticus 7:11-21; Colossians 1:20; 1 John 1:3)

Male or female lambs or goats that were without blemish were to be used for the peace offering. It was to be offered so as to have fellowship with God and to express thanksgiving to Him for the restoration of fellowship. Today, God expects children to offer peace offering by repenting and turning away from sin to make peace with God.

iv. Sin offering (Leviticus 6:24-30)

Sin is anything you say, think or do which does not please God. It is the breaking of the law of God. Sin includes speaking bad words, fighting, stealing, cheating in examinations, lying, witchcraft, cultism, disobedience to parents and others. God hates sin and He is angry with boys and girls who commit sin. All sins committed knowingly or unknowingly attract God's punishment and children who commit sin will suffer here on earth and in hell. God however, provided the solution for sin. In our text, the solution for sin was the killing and shedding of the blood of animals and burning them outside the gate. This is the sin offering. Today, Jesus has paid for our sin. We only need to surrender to Him and receive pardon and salvation.

v. Trespass offering (Leviticus 7:1-10)

Trespass means wrongdoing. It is going against the commandments of the Lord (1 John 3:4). The following trespasses were mentioned in our Bible passage. (i) Covering up other people's wrongdoings. (ii) Swearing an oath (Leviticus 5:4). (iii) Robbery (stealing) or lying (Leviticus 6:2). (iv) Dishonesty in any matter (Leviticus 6:3). (v) Unjust gain (Leviticus 6:4). (vi) Unfaithfulness (Leviticus 6:4).

The trespass offering is the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins committed. Anyone who commits a trespass would confess his sin and then bring animals before the priest for sacrifice. The priest would kill the animals and sprinkle their blood around the altar.

2. PURPOSE OF THE OFFERINGS:

Leviticus 4:1-35; Romans 15:4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 12:1

The laws concerning the various offerings were given to the children of Israel by God. He has important reasons for giving them these laws. The reasons were to help the people to worship God in a proper and acceptable way. The term offering means that which is brought near to God. Therefore, an offering was a gift that the children of Israel brought near to God in order to approach Him and enjoy His fellowship and blessing.

To the children of Israel and to us today, our offerings serve to (i) Express thanksgiving and faith in God. (ii) Renew fellowship and commitment to God and His work (iii) Show honour to God because of His holiness and willingness

to save us. (iv) Express our surrenderedness to His will. God desires to forgive and to have fellowship with men, women and children. In order to make our offering acceptable to God, there must be genuine repentance and sincere desire to walk in holiness and righteousness every day of our life.

This is why the Bible commands us to offer our bodies as living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. To do this, you must surrender your heart, life, talents, gifts, time, will, desire, values and everything about you to God. Show Him that you love Him and are willing to serve Him faithfully and acceptably. Then He will accept your sacrifice and bless you abundantly.

3. PERFECT SACRIFICE THROUGH CHRIST'S DEATH

Leviticus 1:1-5; 17:11; John 1:29; Hebrews 9:22-28; 10:1-12

As God provided solution for the sins of the children of Israel, so has He also provided for us a means of making peace with Him. The Omniscient God knows that animal sacrifice was not sufficient to take away sins; He then provided the perfect sin offering through His only Son, Jesus Christ. God sent Jesus to die on the cross at Calvary. He shed His blood to remove our sins. Just like Moses provided a brazen serpent on the pole in the wilderness, so must Jesus also be lifted up and anyone who believes in Him would not perish (John 3:14,15). Jesus is perfect and sinless. He was born of a virgin and lives a holy life. He lives forever. Instead of many sacrifices, He was crucified once and this is the final sacrifice.

You must take the following steps to receive forgiveness through the sin offering of Jesus Christ. Accept that you are a sinner and that you need Jesus. Willingly come to Jesus and tell Him all the bad things you have done. Tell Him you are sorry and promise that you will not do them again. Ask Jesus to forgive and wash your sins with His blood. Ask Him to come and live in your heart forever. Believe you are saved and continue to follow Jesus. Make your way right with those you have offended. Only then will you be happy and free before God and man.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the meaning of sin offering?
2. Who commanded the children of Israel to make offerings?
3. The command was given to ____, the leader of the children of ____
4. Who is our Perfect and Final Sacrifice for sin?
5. How can a sinful boy or girl benefit from Christ's sacrifice?

MEMORY VERSE: "And the LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the

LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock." (Leviticus 1:1,2)

LESSON: Through the blood of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we enjoy God's love.

THOUGHT: I accept the sacrifice of Jesus for my sins.

ACTIVITY: Read Hebrews 9:27,28 and write in your notebook the significance of Christ's sacrifice.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 23 - NO OTHER PLEA

CHORUSES: (1) Lord, how I adore Thee (2) Lift Him up higher. (3) Jesus died on the cross.

HOMEWORK: Prayer of consecration.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	HEBREWS	9:8-10
TUESDAY	HEBREWS	9:11-14
WEDNESDAY	HEBREWS	9:15-18
THURSDAY	HEBREWS	9:19-22
FRIDAY	HEBREWS	10:1-3
SATURDAY	HEBREWS	10:4-9
SUNDAY	HEBREWS	10:10-14

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Sacrifices 2. Trespass 3. Righteousness 4. Perfect 5. Omniscient.

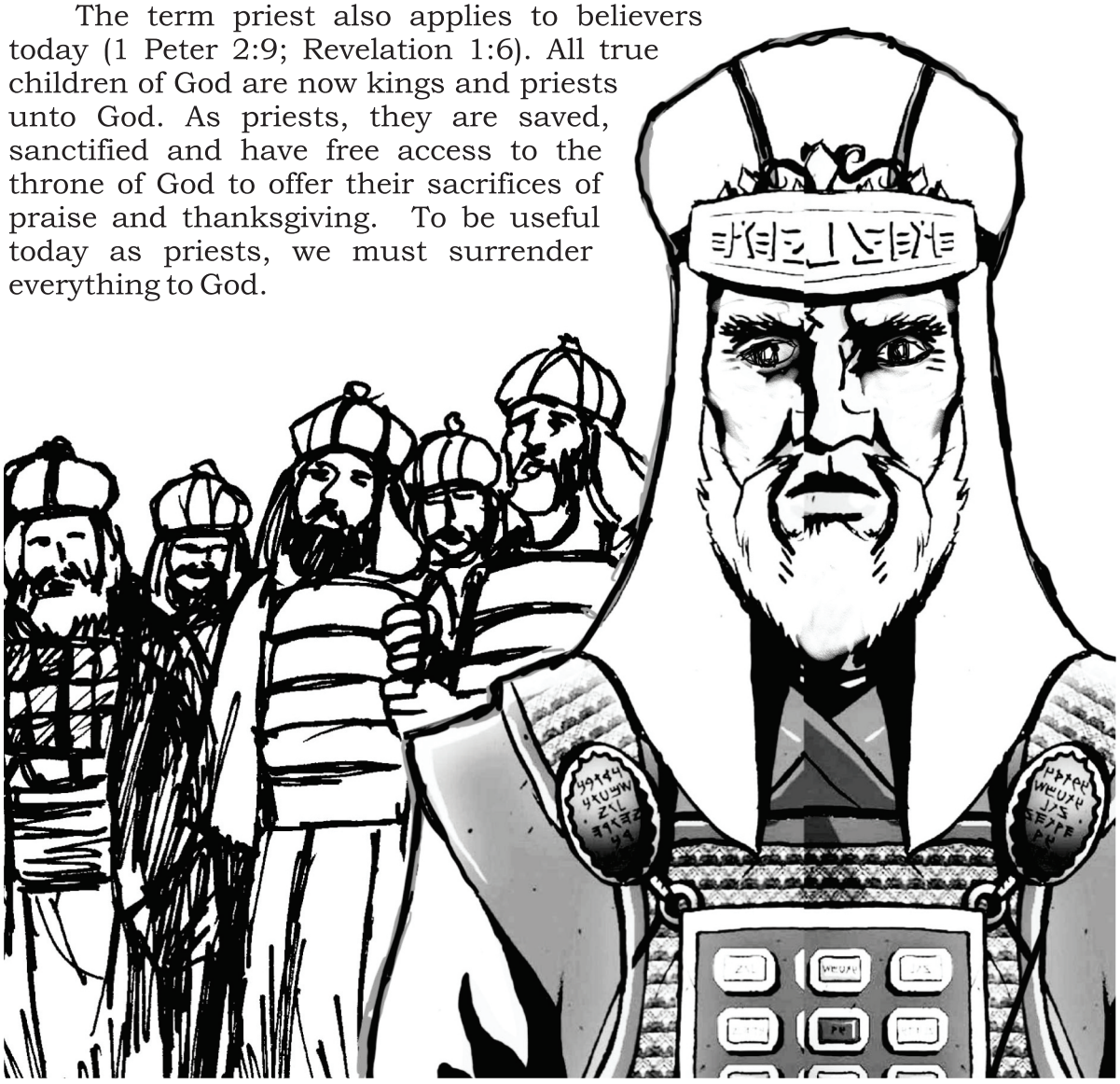
LESSON 15

CONSECRATION OF THE PRIESTS

Leviticus 8:1-36; 9:1-24

Priests were the people chosen to offer sacrifices to God in the Old Testament. They represented the people before God and offered sacrifices according to the Law of Moses. Consecration is the process of setting apart someone for God's use. Priests were called by God and they were consecrated before they perform their duties. The Lord ordained some specific ceremonies and sacrifices for the consecration of the priests which lasted seven days. The priestly system of the Jews was a picture of Christ who was to come. The priesthood symbolised our great High Priest (Jesus Christ) who offered Himself as the final sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 10:10-12).

The term priest also applies to believers today (1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6). All true children of God are now kings and priests unto God. As priests, they are saved, sanctified and have free access to the throne of God to offer their sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. To be useful today as priests, we must surrender everything to God.



1. THE CALL OF AARON AND HIS SONS:

Leviticus 8:1-6; Exodus 29:4

Aaron and his sons were divinely appointed by God to serve as priests. They were the first people to be consecrated as priest in Israel. They were not called by man. Even so, our calling and election as priests came not from anyone but by divine grace as it is written, "**And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron**" (Hebrews 5:4).

As priests, Aaron and his sons surrendered their lives to God. Having been chosen, Aaron and his sons were at God's command and that brought them near to God. No child can come to Christ except God draws him. We are drawn near to God by the blood of Jesus who paid the price for our salvation. He is inviting you to come to Him today.

2. THE CONSECRATION OF THE PRIESTS:

Leviticus 8:6-36; Exodus 29:1-37

The Lord gave instructions concerning the ceremonies that were needed to qualify Aaron and his sons as priests and by extension the priests of today, that is, the children of God. Although the actual ceremonies have been abolished, their spiritual implications remain. There were three steps in the ceremony: Firstly, the Priests were to be washed. God commanded Moses that Aaron and his sons be washed with water. To be a priest of God, we must be saved through the washing of our sins by the blood of Jesus, "...**be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD**" (Isaiah 52:11). Secondly, after been washed, the priests were clothed. They were to put away their own garments and be dressed in new ones which were appropriate for their new assignment. They were to put on what was given them by God through Moses. This clothing of the priest represents the garment of righteousness of the saints. Children are to "**...put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him**" (Colossians 3:10). This is because no child can serve God acceptably in his own righteousness as such righteousness is as filthy rags before God. The special clothes were absolutely necessary because no priest was allowed to offer sacrifices without the appointed garment (Exodus 28:3,4).

Lastly, the priests were anointed with oil to set them apart for God's use. This anointing represents the power of the Holy Spirit upon the children of God today. We cannot serve God effectively without the power of the Holy Spirit. To be baptized with the Holy Spirit, a sinful child must repent, turn from his bad ways, receive forgiveness and accept Jesus as his personal Lord and Saviour. After this, he will press further to pray for the sanctification of his heart. When he is sanctified, it will be easy for him to pray and receive the Holy Ghost power.

3. COMMITMENT AND SERVICE OF THE PRIESTS:

Leviticus 9:1-24

God gave instructions concerning the work of Aaron as the high priest and the duties of the priesthood in general. A priest was someone who stood before God as a representative of the people. (i) They were to burn incense, supervise the candlestick and the table of the shewbread, offer sacrifices on the altar, bless the people and teach them the law. (ii) The priest acted as intercessors before God on behalf of the people. They teach the people the will of God and take the people's sinfulness before God. In doing this, they will make sacrifices for the cleansing of their sins and that of the people (Hebrews 9:6-8). Aaron and his children were committed to what God has called them to do.

Today, believers do not have to make sacrifices anymore. Jesus is our great High Priest. He has offered Himself as the perfect Sacrifice for us (Hebrews 9:23-26). He sympathises with our weakness (Hebrews 4:15), appears in God's presence on our behalf (Hebrews 9:24), brings us complete salvation (Hebrews 10:14) and makes it possible for us to draw near to God, our heavenly Father (Hebrews 4:16; 6:19,20).

We need no other sacrifice; Jesus has paid it and has opened the door for everyone to come in and become priests unto God. Do not delay. Surrender your life to Christ now and serve Him faithfully till the end.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is a priest in the Old Testament?
2. Who is our High Priest today?
3. List the duties of the priests.
4. What were the steps involved in the consecration of the priests?
5. What should a sinner do to become a priest in God's kingdom?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And ye shall not go out of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation in seven days, until the days of your consecration be at an end: for seven days shall he consecrate you**" (Leviticus 8:33).

LESSON: God demands that every child should surrender his/her heart, time and talents for His use.

THOUGHT: I have surrendered myself completely to serve God all the days of my life.

ACTIVITY: Children should discuss the ways they can consecrate their lives and time to serve God.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 87 – TAKE MY LIFE

CHORUSES: (1) When He calls me, I will answer (2) I have decided to follow Jesus (3) Open my eyes oh Lord!

HOMEWORK: As priests in God's vineyard, children should go out and preach to sinners in their neighbourhood this week.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	29:1-4
TUESDAY	EXODUS	29:5-9
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	29:27-30
THURSDAY	HEBREWS	9:11-14
FRIDAY	HEBREWS	9:23-26
SATURDAY	HEBREWS	10:19-22
SUNDAY	1 PETER	2:9,10

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Consecration 2. Priesthood 3. Intercessors 4. Sympathize 5. Anointed.

LESSON 16

STRANGE FIRE IN THE TABERNACLE

Leviticus 10:1-20

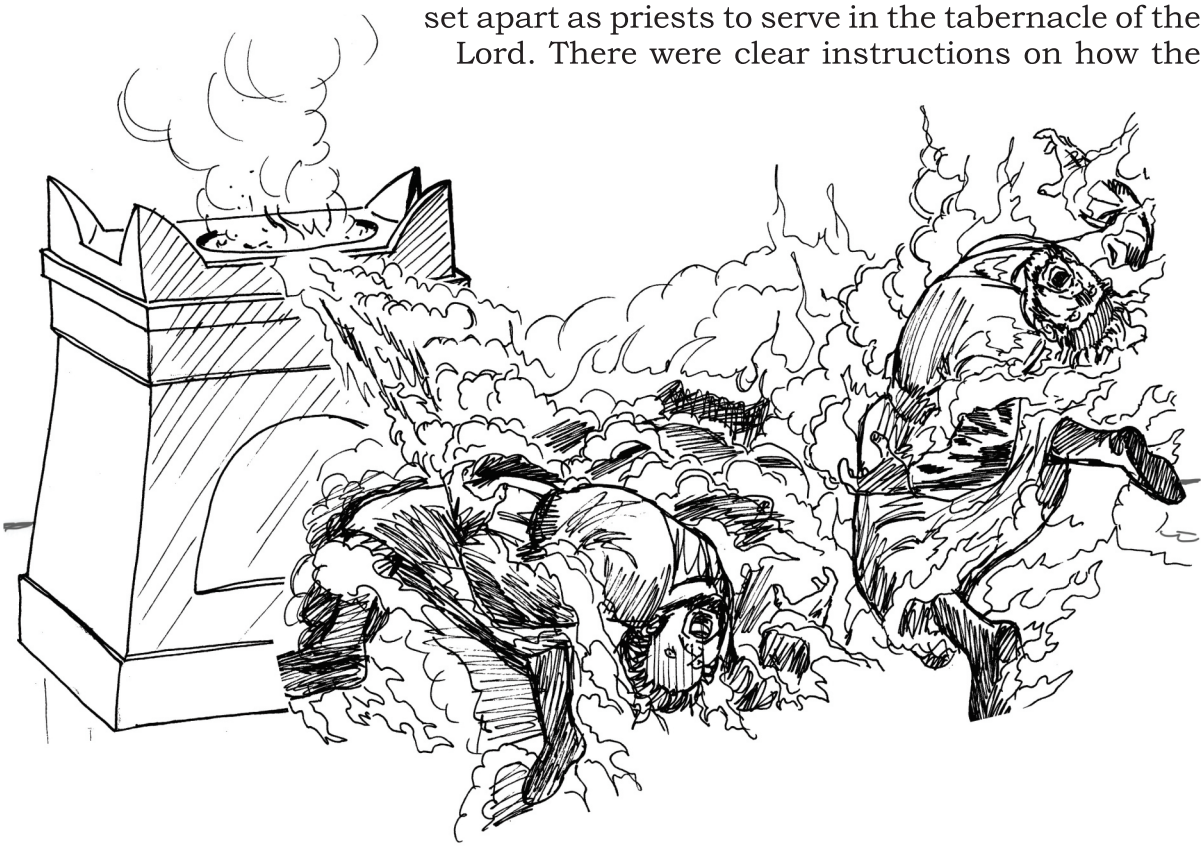
Strange fire and Tabernacle are two important words in our topic that we need to understand. (i) Strange fire - the word strange means something unusual, odd, unfamiliar, or not normal. Strange fire in this study is strange because the fire meant for sacred purpose was obtained elsewhere other than the altar of God. (ii) Tabernacle means the movable tent or Temple which Moses erected according to the pattern God Himself showed him on the Mount.

Our God is a holy God and demands we serve Him in truth and holiness. He wants us to have a worthy walk with Him, worship Him with reverence and serve Him faithfully. Unsaved boys and girls cannot serve God acceptably because God hates their naughty behaviour and sins. God is unhappy with them and will punish them. Therefore, they must repent now and turn away from all sins.

1. SOURCE OF STRANGE FIRE IN THE TABERNACLE:

Leviticus 10:1; 16:12,13; Exodus 24:1,9-11; Numbers 3:2,3

Nadab and Abihu were sons of Aaron the Priest. They were anointed and set apart as priests to serve in the tabernacle of the Lord. There were clear instructions on how the



service should be carried out. Offering of strange fire implies that they did not take the fire from the altar of burnt offering to burn the incense; rather, they took fire of their own making, to burn the incense. This is disobedience. They burnt the incense when they were not asked to do it.

There is need to be orderly, wait for appointment and not force yourself into doing God's service. Do not copy what is done in other places that are not commanded by the Bible. For example, their prayer and worship patterns. God is not pleased with such because they do not glorify Him. It is also wrong for children to run around or play on the altar or with the instruments used for worship purposes. The altar, church premises and fellowship centres are holy places for worship. There should be quietness, respect and honour for such centres. Do not litter with wastes, neither handle the gadgets with carelessness. God is watching everything that we do when we gather to worship Him.

2. SEVERE PUNISHMENT FOR DISOBEDIENCE:
Leviticus 10:1-6; Exodus 30:9, 37, 38; Numbers 3:4; 26:61

The sin of Nadab and Abihu received immediate judgment. The Lord had warned them that making or burning strange fire on the altar would attract death penalty, but they refused to listen. So fire from the Lord devoured them and they died. God maintains a standard and is not a respecter of persons. In the last verse of the previous chapter (Leviticus 9:24) the fire from the Lord gave approval to the sacrifice made but in our text the reverse is the case. The fire from the Lord brought judgment which was instant death. Nadab and Abihu died. Other occasions in the Bible where judgment on sin and sinners was instant are:

(i) Korah, Dathan and Abiram – They rebelled against Moses the servant of God - (Numbers 16:1-33).
(ii) Saul the first anointed king of Israel offered the sacrifice he was not expected to offer and was rejected by God – (1 Samuel 13:9-14).
(iii) Uzzah – Looked into and touched the ark of the covenant and he was struck dead (2 Samuel 6:7).
(iv) Uzziah the king - He became proud as a king and went to offer sacrifice at the altar. Then he became leprous (2 Chronicles 26:16-21).
(v) Ananias and Sapphira – They told lies against the Holy Ghost and died immediately (Acts 5:1-11).
(vi) King Herod – He was lifted up in his heart against God and was smitten by an angel and eaten up by worms (Acts 12:21-23). God demands our obedience in all He has commanded. Therefore, our service to Him must show obedience, love and respect.

3. SALVATION – THE WAY OF ESCAPE FROM GOD'S JUDGMENT:
Leviticus 10:6-20; Hebrews 2:3; 9:11-15; 2 Timothy 2:19

Aaron and his remaining sons Eleazar and Ithamar received special

instructions. They were not to show sign of mourning for Nadab and Abihu but to remain in the tabernacle. They were told not to drink wine or strong drink, and to put a difference between holy and unholy things, between clean and unclean things. Finally, they were to teach the children of Israel all the statutes of God as commanded by Moses.

God cannot accept a standard other than His own. The standard for anyone who desire to serve God is genuine salvation and holiness of life. "**How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation ...**" (Hebrews 2:3a). The punishment for sin is eternal separation from God and eternity in hell-fire. The question is why would you die in sin when Jesus paid for your salvation on the cross? Today Jesus is calling you to come unto Him. Accept you are a sinner, confess your sins and ask Jesus for pardon and cleansing of all your sins. Ask Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour. Believe you are now a child of God. You are expected to:

(a) Pray, read and meditate on the word of God.
(b) Have clean hands and a pure heart.
(c) Be honest and tell the truth always.
(d) Separate from bad friends and do not join those who have no regard for holiness of life.
(e) Tell sinners about the love of Jesus.
(f) Desire to grow spiritually and promote God's righteous standard. God's grace is enough to keep and help you to serve Him faithfully.

QUESTIONS:

1. _____ and _____ offered strange fire in the tabernacle.
2. What was their punishment?
3. Mention four people in the Bible who were punished because they disobeyed God or His servant.
4. How can you escape God's judgment?
5. Mention six things friends of Jesus must do to make God happy.

MEMORY VERSE: "**And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.**" (Leviticus 10:1)

LESSON: Obedience is better than sacrifice.

THOUGHT: I will honour, respect and obey God always

ACTIVITY: Write out under each column what a friend of Jesus **must do** and **must not do** in God's house.

	TO DO	NOT TO DO
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS: 47- JUST OBEY

CHORUSES: (1) Holy, holy, holy is the Lord (2) Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe. (3) Give me grace to follow, abundant grace t o follow.

HOMEWORK: Pray for grace to always obey God's commandments.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	30:7-9
TUESDAY	EXODUS	19:21-25
WEDNESDAY	NUMBERS	3:1-3
THURSDAY	NUMBERS	3:4-7
FRIDAY	1 CHRONICLES	24:1-3
SATURDAY	2 CHRONICLES	26:17-20
SUNDAY	HEBREWS	12:25-29

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Incense 2. Generation 3. Devour 4. Diligence 5. Atonement.

LESSON 17

SUNDRY LAWS OF PURIFICATION

Leviticus 11:1-47; 12:1-8

Purification means to make clean and pure. It involves total cleansing of a thing or person. In this case, the laws refer to the total sum of instruction given directly by God to help His people to live a clean and holy life. God is holy and anyone that would serve Him acceptably must be holy. The demand for holiness in our life runs through the Bible.

Right from the time of creation, God made man in His own image (Holiness) and expects him to remain in that state. However, when sin entered, corruption set in and man became separated from the holy God. Notwithstanding, God still made provision for man to possess His image of holiness. Therefore, He sought for a people, who would serve Him and show forth His holiness. For this He called Abraham and promised to make out of him a great nation and a people separated unto Him.

Having redeemed Israel who were descendants of Abraham from Egypt, God gave them many laws to guide and build them up to be a holy nation and peculiar people unto Him. This was the reason for all the laws given to Israel through Moses. Today, we have the complete Bible as the word of God to guide and help us to serve God acceptably and also become a holy and peculiar generation unto Him (God).

In this study we shall examine the various laws in relation to physical and spiritual purification of Israel and all God's children.



1. SUNDRY LAWS OF PURIFICATION:

Leviticus 11:1-47; 12:1-8

Sundry means different or various. In this case we are looking at various laws about purification. The laws given in our Bible passage concern both physical cleanliness and spiritual cleansing. This shows that our outward appearance is closely related to our inward cleansing especially our heart. The laws of purification are in two parts. Dietary and ceremonial cleansing after child birth.

Dietary laws help to identify clean or healthy food and unclean or unhealthy food. God who is the Creator of all things knows those things that are fit for human consumption and those that are not good for our physical wellbeing.

God gave those laws in order to (i) Keep the children of Israel healthy physically. (ii) Help them to exercise control over their appetite. (iii) Set them apart from other nations that were worshipping idols. (iv) Prevent them from eating animals used for sacrifice to those idols. (v) Show that He is interested in both our physical and spiritual wellbeing.

Daniel and his friends were guided by these laws when they were taken as captives to Babylon. Their parents were not with them. Yet, because they loved to obey God's word, they separated themselves from food sacrificed to idols. Children must learn to control their appetite. Eat moderately and do not beg for food or take alcohol and dangerous drugs. Eat balanced diet so as to maintain healthy lifestyle. In whatever you do, let God be glorified. Remember, "**the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost**" (Romans 14:17).

2. SIGNIFICANT LESSONS FROM THE LAWS OF PURIFICATION:

Leviticus 11:44,45; 12:1-8; 18:1-5; Luke 2:21-24; 1 Peter 1:14-16

The second set of laws concern cleansing of mothers after child birth. These laws involve ceremonial cleansing of both the mother and the newborn baby. Observance of these laws is also important for both physical and spiritual health of the mother and the new baby. Separation after child birth will enable the mother to regain her strength and energy and also help her to have enough time to care for the baby. These specific laws are no longer binding upon friends of Jesus today, since Christ fulfilled their significance and purpose. However, there are still some principles in those laws that are still relevant to us today.

(i) Friends of Jesus must be different from the world in their eating, drinking and dressing so as to glorify God with their body (1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31).

(ii) We are to also reject and run away from all ungodly social customs of the world so as to remain holy in all manner of conversation (1 Peter 1:15).

(iii) All aspects of our lives must be regulated and controlled by the will and

word of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).
(iv) The uncleanness associated with labour and childbirth symbolised the result of the fall of man. Children therefore are born with sinful nature (Psalm 51:5).

This truth shows that every child born into the world needs the Saviour. Today, a mother does not need to make sacrifices to purify her new born child. Jesus has fulfilled the condition for our salvation and purification. All a child needs do is to humbly come to Jesus, repent and receive forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus.

3. SANCTIFY YOURSELF AND BE HOLY:
Leviticus 11:43-45; 19:2; 20:7,26; Exodus 19:6; Matthew 5:48; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:14-16

"**For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth**" (Leviticus 11:44). The above passage is the key verse and central message of this study. All the laws about clean, unclean animals and ceremonial cleansing were to make the people of God clean, holy and fit for heaven.

This same message is to all believers today as expressed in 1 Peter 1:15,16. "**But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy**." The call to holy living is a special call from God unto His children. For a Christian to reflect the image of God, he must be holy. To be holy therefore, a believer must:
Humble himself before God and develop strong desire to be sanctified.
Obey God's command by sincerely seeking and praying to experience the second work of grace.
Lean on God's promise, believing that He will sanctify and make him holy.
Yield himself completely to God's will, pray and wait patiently until he is sanctified and made holy.

Sanctification will produce in a Christian the following Christian virtues. **H**umility, **O**bedience, **L**ove, **I**ntegrity, **N**ew nature, **E**ndurance, **S**aintliness and **S**ubmission. Are you sanctified? If no, do not remain at the same level. Pray now so that you will be sanctified, made holy and fit for heaven.

QUESTIONS:
1. What is purification?
2. Mention the two parts in the laws of purification.
3. What are the reasons for dietary laws?

4. Mention the significant lessons from the laws of purification.
5. What should (i) a sinner (ii) a friend of Jesus do to be sanctified and made holy?

MEMORY VERSE: "**For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth**" (Leviticus 11:44).

LESSON: Holiness of life sets a believer apart for God's use.

THOUGHT: I will pray earnestly to be sanctified and made holy.

ACTIVITY: Search your Bible and write out ten (10) verses that reveal God's desire for His children to be made holy.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 190 - "CALLED UNTO HOLINESS"

CHORUSES: (1) Holiness, holiness, the kingdom of God is holy. (2) I want t o be more holy as the day goes by. (3) There is power mighty in the blood.

HOMEWORK: Read John 17:1-26, then pray sincerely until you receive assurance that you are sanctified.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	19:4-6
TUESDAY	LEVITICUS	15:1-4
WEDNESDAY	LEVITICUS	15:30-32
THURSDAY	LEVITICUS	20:7,8
FRIDAY	1 THESSALONIANS	4:1-3
SATURDAY	1 THESSALONIANS	4:4-7
SUNDAY	REVELATION	22:11-14

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Purification 2. Significance 3. Dietary 4. Sanctification 5. Ceremonial.

LESSON 18

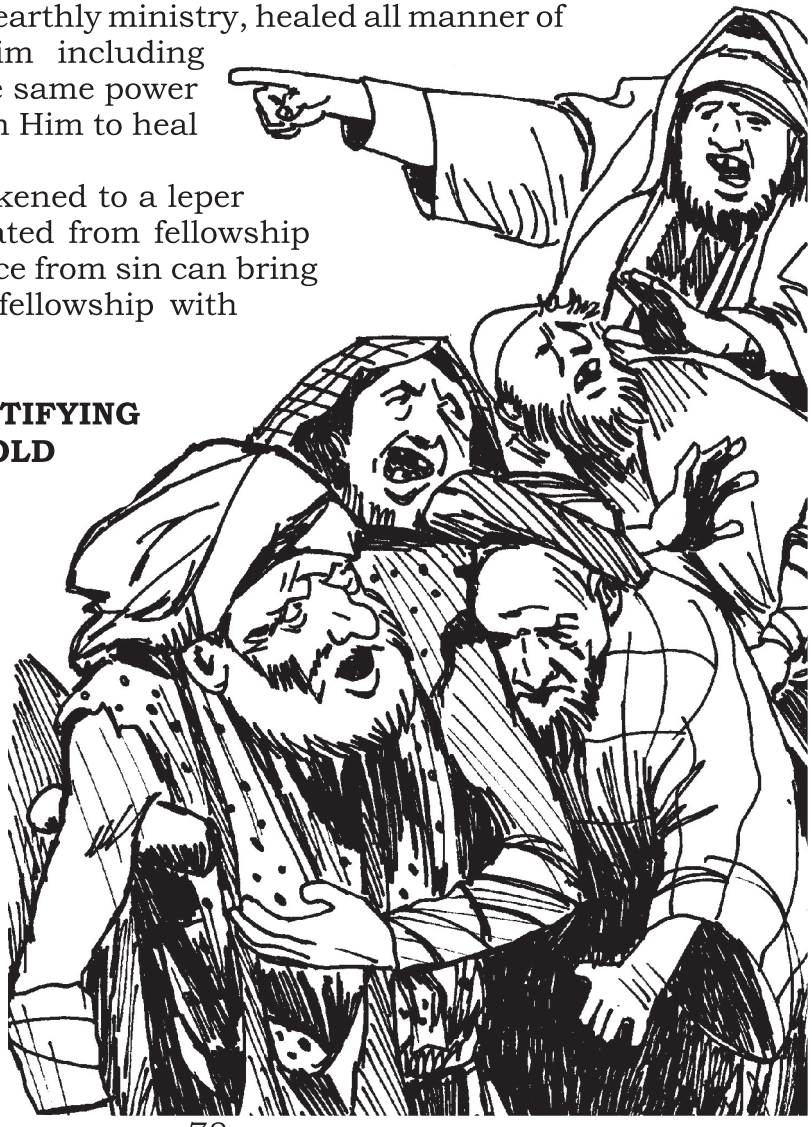
IDENTIFICATION AND CLEANSING OF LEPROSY

Leviticus 13:1-59; 14:1-57; 15:1-33

Leprosy is an infectious disease that affects the nerves, the skin and deforms the body of the victim. In the Old Testament, anyone suffering from leprosy was considered an unclean person. Such a person would not be allowed to live with others who were not infected. He was regarded as an outcast. God, through Moses and Aaron, gave the children of Israel some rules to be observed in identifying those suffering from leprosy. He also gave them guidelines to follow in cleansing those who have been cured of the disease.

In the New Testament, God did not specifically give His children any law that has to do with physical isolation or treatment of lepers. However, Jesus Christ, during His earthly ministry, healed all manner of diseases brought to Him including leprosy. He has given the same power to all those who believe in Him to heal the sick.

Today, a sinner is likened to a leper who is spiritually separated from fellowship with God. Only repentance from sin can bring such a child back into fellowship with God.



1. PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING LEPROSY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Leviticus 13:1-59; 14:33-57; 15:1-33

In the Old Testament, guidelines were given to the priests on how to identify those who were suffering from leprosy. The reason was because there were other diseases which looked like leprosy but were not. Such similar illnesses include a scab or a bright spot on the skin. So, God instructed that the priests should

take time to differentiate those other symptoms that look like leprosy from the real disease. God did not want them to make the mistake of treating a person who has no leprosy as a leper. Similarly, in our relationship with other people, whether they are children of God or not, God wants us to be fair and just in the way we treat them. A person was to be declared clean if upon examination, the disease is not leprosy. However, if after proper examination, the person is found to be suffering from leprosy, he was to be declared unclean. Thereafter, he would be separated from the rest of the people. Similarly, there were situations when leprosy could be found in a house. In such cases, God equally gave Moses and Aaron guidelines on how to cleanse the house of the plague.

There are important lessons for believers to note in the laws concerning the identification and cleansing of leprosy.

(i) All diseases and sicknesses are proof of the corruption that is in the world as a result of the fall of man. Physical decay is an outward sign of the spiritual corruption that is rampant in the world. Decay like diseases and death were not part of God's original purpose for His creatures. These laws remind us that God is still concerned about the fallen nature of man and desire that we should be saved.

(ii) Public health had to be protected by separating infected people from the camp and destroying anything that might transmit the disease to others. These laws serve as guide to the management of our present-day public health. There are certain diseases like tuberculosis, whooping cough, yellow fever, COVID-19, Ebola, etc., that are deadly and highly contagious. Anyone infected with any of these would be isolated so as not to infect others.

(iii) The law also details the extent to which holiness was to extend into all the areas of the life of God's people. Even building, garments and vessels had to be cleansed. This shows that some things people consider to be unimportant has great importance to God. Sin is the source of all contamination in the world. The ceremony related to the cleansing of polluted items is related to the holiness of God who owns all that a believer has.

God expects friends of Jesus to be completely pure and free from worldly contamination and to serve Him holily and faithfully.

2. PROCEDURES FOR CLEANSING OF LEPROSY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Leviticus 14:1-32; Isaiah 55:6,7

The law requires a person who suffered from leprosy to undergo certain procedures for his cleansing. For a leper who was healed of his leprosy to be allowed to join the rest of the congregation, the priest was to look at him properly and be satisfied that such a person had been healed. The priest would then perform the ceremonies for his cleansing. A lengthy ceremony or ritual was prescribed for the cleansing and restoration of a healed leper and anyone who had infectious diseases. The ritual lasted more than a week, and began at the place where the person was temporarily living outside the camp.

The cleansed person was considered to be previously "dead" because of the leprosy. In the process of cleansing, the killing of the bird symbolised his "death", while the draining of the blood into a bowl of pure water symbolised his cleansing. Also, his new life of freedom is symbolised by releasing a second bird which had been stained with the blood of the first. The priest then sprinkled some of the blood seven times on the cleansed person.

Washing and shaving completed the cleansing ritual for the first day. The person was then allowed to return to the camp. After a week, the cleansed person will then offer sacrifices at the tabernacle before he is re-admitted into full fellowship with God and the congregation.

Today, God in His love and mercy had made a perfect provision for our healing and total cleansing from sin. He sent Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son to die on the cross. He shed His blood once and for all. No other sacrifice or ritual is required to cleanse a sinner and make him fit for heaven. What the blood of animals could not do, the blood of Jesus is available to do for us. All a sinner needs do is to believe in what God has done, repent and receive cleansing through the blood of the Lamb.

3. PROVISION FOR OUR CLEANSING AND DELIVERANCE FROM SPIRITUAL LEPROSY:

Leviticus 13:6; Isaiah 1:12-19; Matthew 11:28,29; 1 John 1:7-9

Just as physical leprosy disqualifies a person from having fellowship with the rest of the Israelites in the Old Testament, so does sin hinder a sinner from having true fellowship with God. However, as God made provision for cleansing of those who were healed of leprosy in the Old Testament, He has equally made provision for spiritual cleansing for those who would come to Christ in repentance. His provision is for all boys and girls. The Bible says, "**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life**" (John 3:16). What God requires of sinners is genuine repentance because He is "**... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**" (2 Peter 3:9b).

The steps to obtaining this cleansing is for the sinful child to acknowledge his sins, confess them to God with sincere sorrow. He should then ask God to cleanse him with the blood of Jesus Christ and believe that he has been cleansed. Thereafter, such a child will enjoy true fellowship with God and His people. God is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Because of this, He expects all His children to live a life free from defilement at all times. We have been commanded to "**abstain from all appearance of evil**" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Anything that you say, wear, watch on TV/internet or read in the books, music you listen to or places you go, which can bring defilement to your

spiritual life must be avoided. It is by living a holy life that a child will be qualified to stand in God's presence continually and make it to heaven at last (Psalm 24:3-5).

QUESTIONS:

1. What is leprosy?
2. How were lepers treated in the Old Testament?
3. Leprosy symbolises _____
4. _____ is God's provision for our perfect healing and cleansing from spiritual leprosy.
5. Mention five important lessons to note in the law concerning the identification and cleansing of leprosy.
6. What should a sinner do to be cleansed from his sins?

MEMORY VERSE: "This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought unto the priest" (Leviticus 14:2).

LESSON: God's desire for sinners is that they repent and receive cleansing from all sins.

THOUGHT: I surrender to God for total cleansing of all my sins.

ACTIVITY: Search and write out three Bible passages that speak about repentance from sin and faith in the cleansing power in the blood of Jesus.

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

CHORUSES: (1) The Blood of Jesus has made me clean (2) Peace, purity, power (3) All the way to Calvary He went for me.

HOMEWORK: Pray for grace to overcome sin and remain with Jesus Christ till the end.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	NUMBERS	12:10-12
TUESDAY	NUMBERS	12:13-16
WEDNESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	24:8,9
THURSDAY	2 KINGS	5:9-15
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	8:1-4
SATURDAY	MARK	1:40-45
SUNDAY	HEBREWS	9:19-22

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Cleansing 2. Infectious 3. Disqualify 4. Symptoms 5. Contagious.

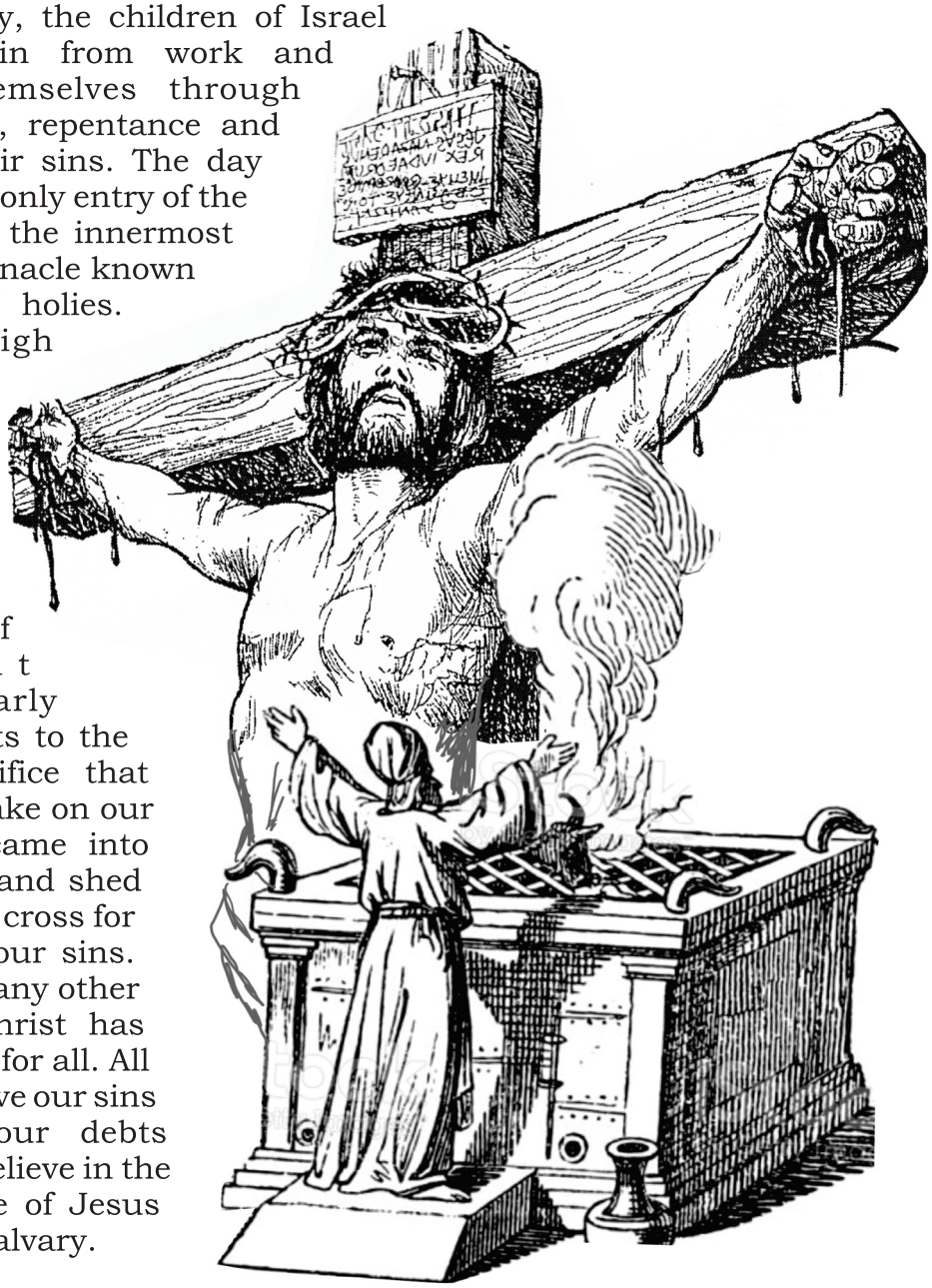
LESSON 19

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

Leviticus 16:1-34

Atonement is the satisfactory payment for an offense or injury. It is a process that produces reconciliation (Exodus 30:16). In the Bible, atonement means the covering of man's sins through the shedding of blood. In the Old Testament, God instructed the children of Israel through Moses to set a day apart during each year as the day of atonement. It was held on the tenth day of the seventh month.

On this day, the children of Israel were to abstain from work and consecrate themselves through prayers, fasting, repentance and sacrifice for their sins. The day also marked the only entry of the high priest into the innermost part of the tabernacle known as the holy of holies. There, the high priest will use the blood of the sacrificial animal to plead for mercy on behalf of the people.



The day of atonement became a yearly ritual that points to the work and sacrifice that Christ would make on our behalf. Jesus came into the world, died and shed His blood on the cross for the removal of our sins. We do not need any other sacrifice, for Christ has paid it once and for all. All we need do to have our sins forgiven and our debts cancelled is to believe in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary.

1. AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE DAY OF ATONEMENT:

Leviticus 16:1-34; 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11

The day of atonement was the most important holy day for the children of Israel. On this day, the high priest, wearing his sacred garments first prepared himself by bathing with water. Then before making atonement for the sins of the people, he had to offer a young bullock for his own sins. Next, he took two goats and cast lots. One of the goats became the sacrifice, the other became the scape goat. He killed the first goat, took its blood, entered the most holy place behind the curtain and sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat thus, making atonement for the sins of the whole nation (Leviticus 16:15,16).

As a final step, he took the live goat, laid his hands on its head, confessed over it all the sins of the people and sent it away into the wilderness (Leviticus 16:21,22). The scape goat carried away the sins of the people to the wilderness. This process of atonement had to be repeated every year because it cannot permanently remove sin. The priest who offered the sacrifices were sinners too; and had to make atonement for themselves before they could make it on behalf of others (Hebrews 9:7).

This was the reason Christ came to the world, suffered, shed His blood and died on the cross for us. Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse and remove sin from the heart of men. As the day of atonement was special to the children of Israel, so there is always a special day that every believer turns from sin to the Saviour. Today can be that day for you. If you have not been cleansed from your sins, repent now and surrender to Christ for the cleansing of your heart.

2. ATONEMENT THROUGH THE PERFECT SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST:

Leviticus 16:1-10,15,16; Hebrews 9:11-28; 10:1-12

When the Old Covenant high priest entered the most holy place, he took the blood of the sacrificial animal with him. This was a sign that an innocent substitute had died for the guilty sinners, so that the barrier to God's presence through sin might be removed. Jesus Christ, the great High Priest offered Himself as the sacrifice, and through His shed blood, obtained eternal salvation from sin for us all. It is this sacrificial death that cleanses a repentant sinner's guilty conscience.

Ceremonial cleansing through animal sacrifices has been replaced by actual cleansing through Christ's sacrifice. Jesus Christ entered into God's presence on account of His own blood, and He did so only once. His death is sufficient to remove completely the sins of the whole world, past, present and future (Hebrews 9:24-26).

God's plan was not that animal sacrifices be offered forever, but that they prepare the way for Jesus Christ. As the man who came from God, Jesus spent His life doing God's will, even though it led Him to offer His life as sacrifice for sin. His death puts an end to all the old sacrifices. Christ died once and gained eternal salvation for those who trust Him.

By His death, repentant sinners are forgiven and their sins are taken away. They will enjoy the fullness of their salvation when Christ comes to take them to be with Him in heaven forever. To be a partaker of His heavenly kingdom, you must be washed clean in the blood of Jesus. Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

3. ABUNDANT BENEFITS THROUGH CHRIST'S ATONING SACRIFICE: Leviticus 16:33,34; Hebrews 10:1-22

Access to God's presence was limited under the old covenant. Only the high priest could pass through the curtain that closed the entrance to the holy of holies, only at specific periods and under strict conditions. But now that Jesus Christ, by His death, has atoned for our sins and opened the way to God, we are able to come before Him, to enjoy all the benefits that His sacrifice provides.

These benefits include:

(i) **S**alvation and freedom from sin. A sinner who hears the word of God, accepts that he is a sinner, repents and asks for forgiveness and cleansing of his sins, becomes free. This is the greatest benefit that Christ's sacrifice on the cross has brought to mankind. If you are still a sinner, do not delay. Pray and ask for forgiveness and cleansing of your sins with the precious blood of Jesus.

(ii) **S**anctification and holiness of life. "**Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate**." (Hebrews 13:12) Jesus' blood is the only means by which a saved child can be sanctified. You must therefore develop strong desire for the experience, pray in faith and you will receive.

(iii) **S**pirit Baptism. With a sanctified heart, the Christian child must press on to also thirst for and pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is a free gift that Jesus has promised and also made available through His resurrection power.

(iv) **S**ound health, healing and deliverance from the powers of darkness.

(v) **S**uccess, prosperity, victory over Satan and his host, and abundant life.

As you continue to follow Jesus and serve Him, He will keep and preserve you till you make it to heaven at last.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the meaning of atonement?
2. How did the Old Testament priest perform the sacrifices on the day of atonement?
3. Was the Old Testament sacrifice able to permanently remove the sins of the people?
4. Who made the perfect sacrifice for our sins?
5. How can a sinful child receive cleansing through Christ's atoning blood?
6. Mention the benefits of Christ's atoning sacrifice.

MEMORY VERSE: "And he shall make an atonement for the holy

sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation. And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses" (Leviticus 16:33,34).

LESSON: Jesus Christ shed His blood once and for all to atone for our sins.

THOUGHT: I am cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

ACTIVITY: Read Leviticus 16:3-6 and Hebrews 9:12-15 and write out in your notebook the similarities and differences of the old and new covenants.

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

CHORUSES: (1) The Blood of Jesus, the blood of Jesus sets me free. (2) There is power mighty in the blood. (3) All the way to Calvary.

HOMEWORK: Tell a sinner in your neighbourhood what Christ has done for him/her on the cross.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	LEVITICUS 23:26-28
TUESDAY	LEVITICUS 23:29-32
WEDNESDAY	NUMBERS 29:7-11
THURSDAY	HEBREWS 9:23-25
FRIDAY	HEBREWS 9: 26-28
SATURDAY	HEBREWS 10:1-4
SUNDAY	HEBREWS 10:10-13

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Atonement 2. Consecrate 3. Sacred 4. Scapegoat 5. Substitute.

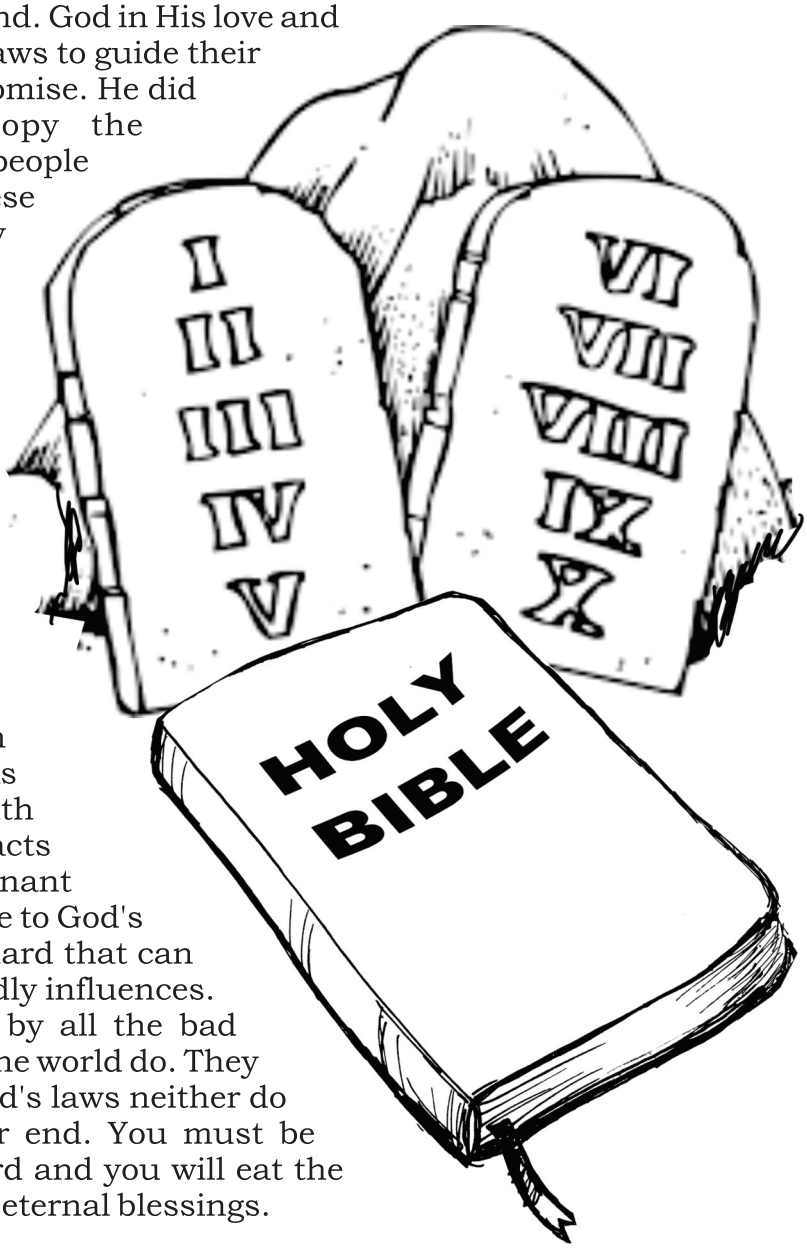
LESSON 20

CLARIFICATION OF MORAL LAWS

Leviticus 17:1-16; 18:1-30; 19:1-37

To clarify means to make something clear or to explain a matter in a way that people will understand. Moral laws are divine instructions given by God to regulate the behaviour of His people. This will then ensure the preservation of holiness and maintenance of intimate relationship with God.

The children of Israel lived in Egypt as slaves for about four hundred years. Then God, in fulfilment of His promise to Abraham, brought them out through miraculous signs and wonders. Now they were on their way to Canaan, the Promised Land. God in His love and wisdom gave His people laws to guide their conduct in the land of promise. He did not want them to copy the idolatrous lifestyle of the people of the land. Some of these laws applied specifically to Israel under the old covenant, while others are still very relevant and applicable to us under the new covenant. Many of these laws are repeated and emphasised in the New Testament. This is to show us that God's word is perfect and stands forever.



The world in which we live now is still as wicked, dirty and filled with all sorts of abominable acts as it was in the old covenant period. It is only obedience to God's laws and righteous standard that can set us apart from all worldly influences. Do not be carried away by all the bad things that the people of the world do. They do not have regard for God's laws neither do they consider their latter end. You must be different. Obey God's word and you will eat the fruit of the land and enjoy eternal blessings.

1. DIFFERENT KINDS OF MORAL LAWS:

Leviticus 17:1-16; 18:1-30; 19:1-37

God is love and He desires to be in fellowship with His people. This was the reason He gave a detailed instruction and moral laws to the children of Israel while on their way to Canaan. These laws were to guide their conduct and relationship with one another. Obedience to these laws will enhance their relationship with God, preserve them as a holy nation and make them separate from the ways of the idol-worshipping nations that surround them. The moral laws prescribed in our Bible passage are in two categories.

(i) Laws about sacrifices – (Leviticus 17:1-16) These laws specify the proper ways of offering animal sacrifices and handling the blood of such animals. When animals are killed either for sacrifice or meat, the blood must be drained and disposed off. God forbids the consumption of the blood of animals. This law shows the importance of blood in God's sight. He gave us animal flesh as food, but in taking animal life, we have to acknowledge God as the rightful owner of life.

Believers must recognise that only God has the right to the life of all flesh. The blood as a symbol of life and redemption must be treated as holy by us, the people of God. This law again points to Christ's atonement. Since Christ gave His life a ransom for many, one must not trample under foot the blood of Christ by worshipping anything else other than the true God.

(ii) Laws concerning interpersonal relationship – (Leviticus 18:1-30; 19:1-37). These laws specify the Do's and Don'ts of our relationship within the family setting, neighbours and others. The law forbids:

- Immoral relationship among family members which include parents/children, brothers/sisters, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, any other boy and girl within or outside your family. Such relationship is known as incest and it is an abomination before God. Children are forbidding from any form of immoral acts. Such will attract curses and God's judgment on the family.
- Homosexual behaviour (immoral relationship between a man and a man or boy, a woman and a woman or girl, a boy and a boy, or a girl and a girl). These also includes pornography i.e., watching pictures of naked people on the television or smart phones. All these are abominations before God.
- Others are sinful acts like relating with animals in an immoral way, idol worship, witchcraft, sorcery, tattooing etc. All these evil and wicked behaviour lead to loss of favour from God, destruction, death and eternal damnation.

The Bible confirms that though we are in the world, we are not of the world (John 17:14-16). Therefore, we are encouraged to abstain from all appearance of evil and be separate so as to serve God in holiness and righteousness.

2. DANGER OF DISOBEYING GOD'S LAW:

Leviticus 18:24-30; Deuteronomy 28:15-68; Psalm 89:30-32

The moral laws given to Israel are not just meant to be memorised and recited at a particular time. They are to be obeyed. Obedience to all these Do's

and Don'ts of the law will attract God's favour and blessings into your life. However, there are serious consequences for disobeying God's laws.

The punishment prescribed for disobeying these laws in the Old Testament include stoning, separation from fellowship with God and congregation of the people, oppression from the enemies, going into captivity, slavery in strange lands and eternal damnation.

Today most of these laws have been incorporated into the constitution of many nations. There are also prescribed punishment for disobeying such laws. More than this, God Himself has vowed to punish all children who disobey His word. If they refuse to repent, such children will be thrown into hell to suffer with Satan forever.

To escape such terrible punishment, sinners must repent, ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Turn away from all abominable practices and ask Jesus to be their Saviour, Friend and Lord.

3. DEMAND FOR HOLY LIVING:

Leviticus 19:1-37; 44:11; 1 Peter 1:15,16

"**And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy**" (Leviticus 19:1,2). This passage expresses the desire and call of God to friends of Jesus. Because God's children must be like Him. He calls them to manifest and express His divine nature by being separate from the ungodly customs and sins of the surrounding nations and by serving Him in love and righteousness. This call to holiness was first given to Adam and Eve who were created in God's image in order to reflect God's character.

Every generation of believers are also called to be "**followers of God**" (Ephesians 5:1) and "**be holy for I the LORD your God am holy**" (Leviticus 19:2b). To be holy therefore, a friend of Jesus must desire and pray to be sanctified. This experience will root out the adamic nature from him and he will become holy. A sanctified life will produce these results spelt out in the HOLINESS acronym.

Humility and absolute surrender to God. The holy child will honour God and his parents.

Obedience to God's command concerning the holy day. For New Testament believers, Sunday is our holy day set aside to worship and serve God only.

Love for your neighbours and you will not defraud him/her.

Inquire after others' welfare as you are concerned for them. You must make it a point of duty to intercede for others too.

Never put a stumbling block before those with special needs, but rather be their 'eyes' to lead them aright.

Encourage the needy and poor by sharing what you have with them.

Sow love, kindness and mercy into the lives of your neighbours.

Separate from all the pollutions of the world and uphold God's righteous standard.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are moral laws?
2. Explain the two aspects of the moral laws.
3. Mention specific laws concerning our interpersonal relationship.
4. What are the dangers of disobeying God's laws?
5. Describe the life of a holy child using the "holiness acronym."
6. How can a (i) sinful child (ii) saved child become holy?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy**" (Leviticus 19:1,2).

LESSON: God's laws are given for us to obey and enjoy His divine presence and blessings.

THOUGHT: I will obey God's word.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill – Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 28:1; Joshua 1:8; Ezekiel 36:25; 1 Peter 1:15; Isaiah 1:19

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

CHORUSES: (1) I am ready to obey Thy word. (2) It is Thy word that sets me free. (3) Believe, it shall be well with you.

HOMEWORK: Read and memorize Joshua 1:8. Then in capital letters, write it out neatly on A4 size paper. Colour it, make it beautiful and hang it up as a banner to remind you of what you must do with God's word.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	DEUTERONOMY	28:1,2
TUESDAY	EZEKIEL	36:25-28
WEDNESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	27:1-3
THURSDAY	DEUTERONOMY	6:1-3
FRIDAY	DEUTERONOMY	6:4-9
SATURDAY	JOSHUA	1:8,9
SUNDAY	EXODUS	20:1-5

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Clarification 2. Moral 3. Laws 4. Divine 5. Regulate.

LESSON 21

RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-53

Resurrection means to bring to life, something or somebody that was dead. The resurrection of Jesus is special and unique, it is the first of its kind. Jesus Christ came into the world purposely to suffer and die for our sins. He accomplished that purpose when He was nailed to the cross and later buried. Then the third day, He rose up triumphantly from death just as He has promised. Even before Jesus was born, the Old Testament prophets spoke about His death, burial and resurrection. God is true and whatever He has said will surely come to pass. Jesus is alive forever.



The resurrection of Christ guarantees victory over sin, Satan and death for those who believe in Him (Romans 6:5-11; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57). With the many facts that we have in the Bible, Christian boys and girls today have no reason to be confused about the reality of the resurrection of Christ. They should therefore go to the world and bear witness of His resurrection so that sinners will turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.

1. PROPHECIES AND PROOFS OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION:

Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:6-14; Luke 24:1-8; Psalm 16:9,10; Acts 3:15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8,20; Revelation 1:17,18

The Old Testament prophets spoke about every aspect of the life of Christ. Jesus Himself confirmed that He was going to die and rise up the third day. His virgin birth, ministry, death, burial and resurrection were prophesied and they all came to pass. This should assure believers of the reality of Christ's resurrection and give them hope of His second coming and their own resurrection.

There are many events recorded in the Bible which confirm that Jesus rose from the dead. (i) The angel declared unto Mary Magdalene and other women that went to the tomb to anoint the body of Christ that "**... he is not here: behold the place where they laid him**" (Mark 16:6). They were surprised as they met an empty tomb. (ii) Peter and John ran to the tomb, and what they saw was the burial clothes of Christ. He had risen in bodily form (John 20:7). (iii) Jesus appeared unto several of His disciples after His resurrection (Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:13-31,36-51). Christ showed them the evidence of His crucifixion: the marks in His hands and feet that were pierced. Jesus said, "**Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have**" (Luke 24:39). (iv) The outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost was a proof of the reality that Christ is risen from the dead and exalted at the right hand of God (Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-3).

After Christ rose from the dead, He showed Himself alive "**... by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God**" (Acts 1:3). Christ's resurrection from the dead proves that He is the Son of God (John 10:17,18) and gives us assurance of His power to save. If you are not saved yet, you have no reason to remain in your sins. Repent now and accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour. Then at the time of rapture, you will also rise to meet Him in the air.

2. PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION:

Matthew 28:16-19; Mark 16:9-20; Luke 24:36-53; Romans 6:1-23

The resurrection of Christ has always been the joyous, encouraging and motivating truth for the church. Christ's resurrection proved that He is the true Prophet, Messiah and Lord (Acts 2:36). The resurrection of Christ is of great importance to the believer and the church at large because it (i) proves that Jesus is the Son of God (John 10:17,18; Romans 1:4). (ii) shows the power of His death to save sinners (Romans 6:4). (iii) confirms the truth of the Bible, the word of God (Psalm 16:10; Luke 24:44-47; Acts 2:31). (iv) is the proof of coming judgment on the wicked (Acts 17:30,31). (v) is the foundation for Christ's gift of the Holy Ghost and spiritual life to His people (John 20:22; Romans 5:10; 1 Corinthians 15:45). (vi) assures friends of Jesus of their future

heavenly inheritance (1 Peter 1:3,4). (vii) gives us hope that Jesus will come back to take us to heaven as He has promised (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11). (viii) makes us to enjoy the presence and power of Christ even in times of trials and temptations (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus rose from the dead to give us life. You have nothing to fear, you must, therefore, believe in Him and surrender your life to His Lordship.

3. POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION AND THE GREAT COMMISSION:

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:1-8; 2 Timothy 4:2

When Christ called His disciples, He declared "**... Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men**" (Matthew 4:19). That was the original reason for calling them. But the period of the arrest, crucifixion and death of Christ left the disciples discouraged and confused. To some of them, the ministry had ended. However, the surprising news of Christ's resurrection broke out. The risen Lord met with them at Galilee. At that meeting, Christ gave them a commission to go and preach the gospel to every creature in all nations. That charge is what is now known as 'The Great Commission'.

The Great Commission was given on the basis of Christ's victory over death. The Scripture says, "**And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth**" (Matthew 28:18). Christ's declaration of His authority and power represents the Christians' privilege in executing the same authority on Christ's behalf. All the authority and might of the risen Christ, back up the Great Commission. As obedient Christians, we are to go and preach the gospel.

The Lord assures saved boys and girls who would 'GO' of His presence when He said: "**... and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen**" (Matthew 28:20b). This assurance guarantees our success, security and safety as we obey the Great Commission and preach the gospel to every creature.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is resurrection?
2. Mention the circumstances which show that Christ rose from the dead.
3. What is the importance of resurrection of Christ to believers and sinners?
4. What is the Great Commission?
5. What is the most important assignment given to Christians by Christ?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay**" (Matthew 28:5,6).

LESSON: The resurrection of Jesus is the basis for our salvation.

THOUGHT: I will preach the gospel of Christ and the power of His resurrection everywhere I go.

ACTIVITY: Children should discuss practical ways to share the gospel of Christ with sinners.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 223 - I GAVE MY LIFE FOR THEE

CHORUSES: (1) Jesus Christ the Son of God. (2) The resurrection power, do wonders in my life. (3) Go and tell them.

HOMEWORK: Spend at least 5 minutes each day of the week to pray for sinners in your school.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	JOHN 19:40-42
TUESDAY	JOHN 20:1-5
WEDNESDAY	JOHN 20:6-10
THURSDAY	JOHN 20:11-13
FRIDAY	JOHN 20:14-17
SATURDAY	JOHN 20:19-23
SUNDAY	ACTS 1:4-8

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Prophecy 2. Proof 3. Infallible 4. Evidence 5. Pierced.

LESSON 22

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

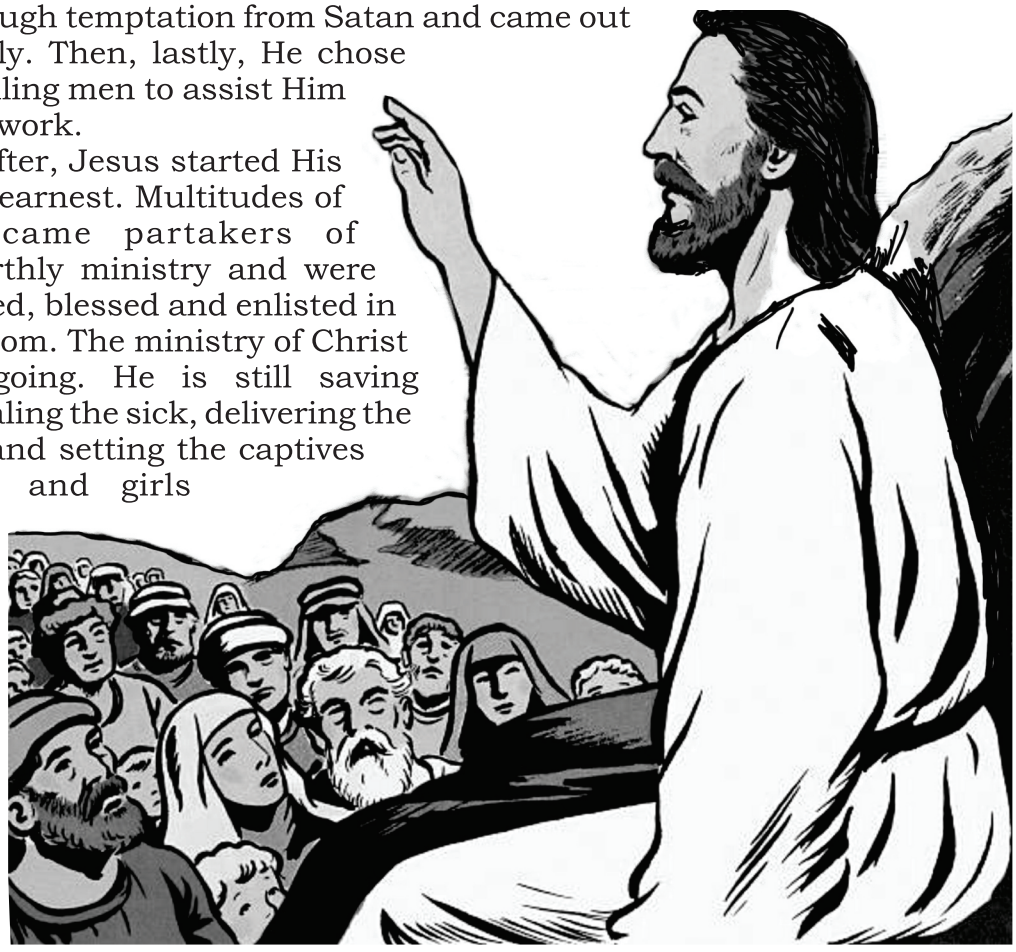
Mark 1:1-45; 2:1-28

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden, curses were pronounced on them and they became separated from God. However, God made provision for man to come back into fellowship with Him. This great provision was the promise to send His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to come into the world to die for us (Genesis 3:15).

This promise was fulfilled when Jesus was conceived and given birth to by virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. At the time of Jesus' birth, the whole world was in darkness and separated from God. At the very appointed time, God raised up John the Baptist, who helped to prepare the way for the full revelation of God in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist was the first one who preached the good news concerning Jesus, as the One who would come and baptize His followers with the Holy Spirit. Immediately after John's proclamation, Jesus, revealed Himself ready to begin His ministry. Before He started His work, He submitted Himself for water baptism by John the Baptist. He also passed through temptation from Satan and came out triumphantly. Then, lastly, He chose able and willing men to assist Him in His great work.

Thereafter, Jesus started His ministry in earnest. Multitudes of people became partakers of Christ's earthly ministry and were saved, healed, blessed and enlisted in God's kingdom. The ministry of Christ is still ongoing. He is still saving sinners, healing the sick, delivering the oppressed and setting the captives free. Boys and girls must make up their minds to partake of the great work that Jesus is doing presently in the world.



1. PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY:

Mark 1:1-20; Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-11,18-22; Luke 3:21,22; 4:1-13

Jesus came into the world to do the will of God, His heavenly Father. He knew all that He had been ordained to do. However, to have great success in the work and also show us a good example of how to do things, He made adequate preparation before He started His work. As friends of Jesus, we are to follow His example in everything that we do. We must plan and prepare for important projects like schools to attend, career choice, evangelism or Christian outreach programmes, etc.

(i) Baptism – Jesus submitted Himself for water baptism under the ministry of John the Baptist. This He did to:

– Show His approval of the ministry of John, His forerunner.
– Identify Himself with sinners whom He came to save and
– Fulfil all righteousness.

Immediately after His baptism, the heavens opened and the Holy Ghost descended to empower Him for kingdom ministry. When a sinner comes to Christ, he must repent, turn from his sins and be baptized in water as a sign that he now belongs to Jesus.

(ii) Fasting and prayer – Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. He prepared Himself by means of prayer and meditation on the word of God for the work the Father sent Him to do. You must cultivate the attitude of praying and fasting not only when you are told to do so, but as an act of obedience to Jesus' command. In every decision you want to make, put it before the Lord through fasting and prayer.

(iii) Temptation and triumph – Immediately after His fasting, Jesus was tempted by Satan. His preparation through fasting and prayer, made Him to triumph over Satan. As Jesus triumphed, so He expects His friends to resist Satan and triumph over him.

(iv) The call of His disciples – Jesus knew that the work He has come to do is much, and that He needs to call people to work with Him. Therefore, He began by calling some people to follow Him to become fishers of men. The first calling of the disciples is to follow Jesus, and to know Him personally. As a result of this relationship, they must then lead others to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

The call of Jesus is still coming to boys and girls today. Are you a sinner, come to Him, repent and confess your sins to Him. Ask Him to forgive and cleanse your heart with His blood. Then ask Him into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour. The disciples immediately forsook all and followed Jesus. You too must forsake all to follow Him.

2. PROGRAMME AND PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S EARTHLY MINISTRY:

Mark 1:7,8,21-45; 2:1-17,23-28; Luke 4:16-21

"The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18,19). This statement by Christ Himself summarises the programme and purpose of His ministry on earth.

It is a four-fold mission which are:

(i) Preaching the gospel of the kingdom – Jesus came to proclaim and bring to completion the kingdom of God. This was the theme of His earthly message. He preached to call sinners to repentance. This is the same assignment He has given to all His friends. If you are a friend of Jesus, then you must preach the gospel to sinners and bring them to the Saviour.

(ii) Healing of the sick – This healing involves the whole person both physical and spiritual. He demonstrated this immediately He started His ministry by casting out unclean spirit from the possessed, healing Simon's mother-in-law and those with different diseases, cleansing a leper, forgiving and healing of a man with palsy and many others. If you are sick, pray to Jesus. He is our great Physician. He will heal you.

(iii) Opening of the spiritual eyes of those blinded by the world and Satan in order that they might see the light and accept the truth of God's word.

(iv) Proclamation of freedom and salvation from Satan's dominion, sin, fear and guilt. Sinners have no excuse to remain under Satan's control. Jesus has finished the work of their salvation. You must therefore go forth and proclaim this gospel truth to all the sinners around you.

3. PARTAKING IN CHRIST'S MINISTRY:

Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-28

Jesus came into the world as it was prophesied of Him. He went about doing good, healing the sick, delivering the oppressed, preaching the gospel and preparing the saints for God's kingdom. At the conclusion of His earthly ministry, He laid down His life on the cross, died, was buried and rose triumphantly on the third day. Before His ascension, He handed over the assignment to His friends, empowered them with the Holy Ghost so that they can succeed as He did.

The disciples did their part and handed over to the next generation. Now it is our turn to continue with Christ's ministry. Are you saved? If no, the first thing is to answer His call to be saved. Repent, turn from your sins and accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour. Then, go further to pray for the sanctification of your heart and Holy Ghost baptism. This will enable you to faithfully carry on with Christ's ministry.

To partake in Christ's ministry, you must have compassion and love for sinful boys and girls. Also, determine to surrender fully to Christ and become "fishers of men." The disciples left their fishing business to follow Jesus. You may not leave your academic pursuit or career, but wherever you are, there are sinners to call to repentance. Let the assignment be the paramount desire of your heart. Preach the gospel to sinners in your school, playground, market,

your neighbourhood, community and everywhere you go. Christ has promised to bless all who obey and join Him in doing the work.

QUESTIONS:
1. Jesus came into the world to fulfil His Father's will. Yes/No?
2. How did Jesus prepare for His ministry on earth?
3. Describe the programme and purpose of Christ's ministry on earth.
4. What should a (i) sinner (ii) friend of Jesus do to partake in Jesus' ministry?

MEMORY VERSE: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14,15).

LESSON: Jesus came to save, heal and set the captives free.

THOUGHT: I accept Jesus as my personal Saviour and Lord.

ACTIVITY: Use the key to decode the passage. Then you will find out what Jesus came to the world to do.

KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	J	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	G	W

1	12	4		16	7	5		16	7	1	10	10		2	15	8	12	20		

6	13	15	17	7		1		16	13	12		1	12	4		17	7	13	18	

16	7	1	10	17		3	1	10	10		7	8	16		12	1	11	5		

9	5	16	18	16		6	13	15		7	5		16	7	1	10	10			

16	1	19	5		7	8	16		14	5	13	14	10	5		6	15	13	11	

17	7	5	8	15		16	8	12	16

11	1	17	17	7	5	21	A	:	B	A	

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 216 - MORE ABOUT JESUS WOULD I KNOW

CHORUSES: (1) Anywhere He went, He was doing good. (2) Jesus, the same yesterday, today and forever. (3) I know He's able, He's able.

HOMEWORK: Preach the gospel to a child during the week. Invite him/her to fellowship.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	LUKE	4:18-21
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	1:21-23
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	1:13-17
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	4:12-16
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	4:17-20
SATURDAY	JOHN	1:1-5
SUNDAY	JOHN	1:11-14

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Ministry 2. Multitude 3. Enlist 4. Outreach 5. Triumph

LESSON 23

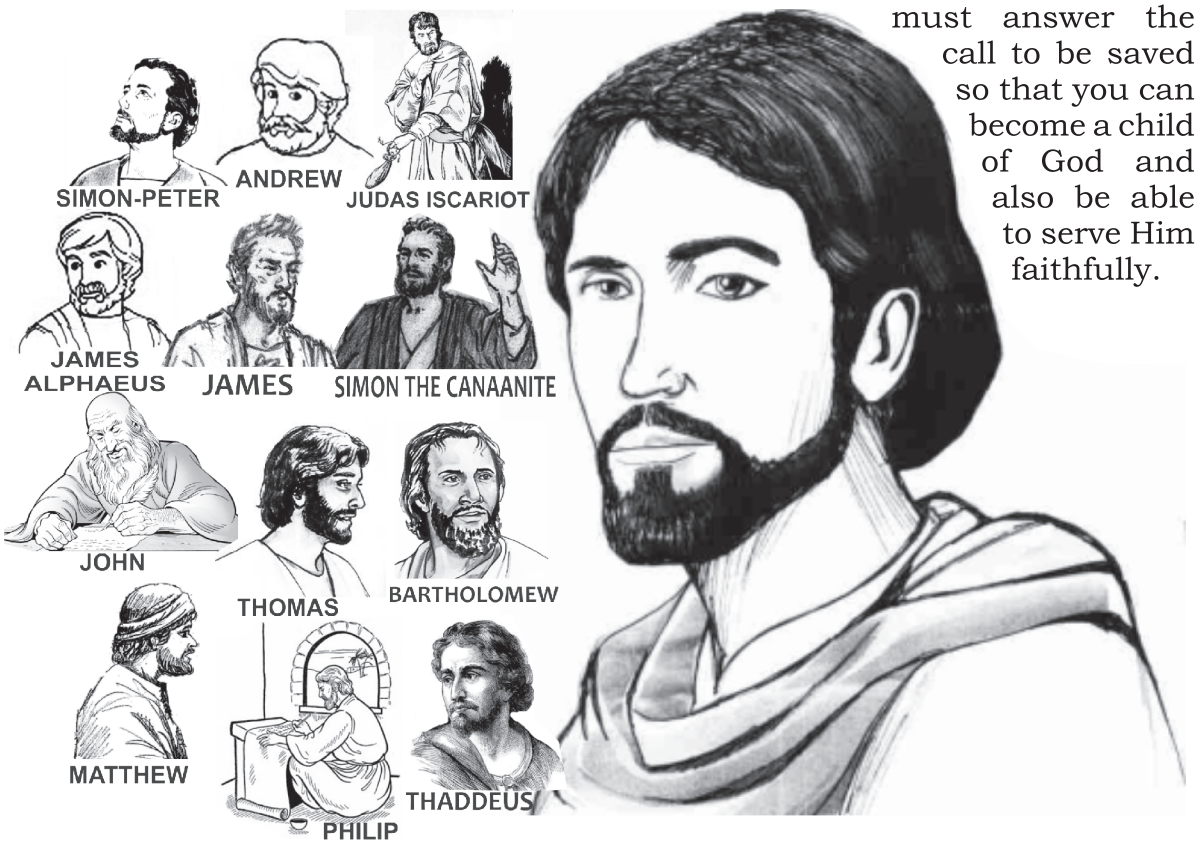
JESUS ORDAINS TWELVE DISCIPLES

Mark 3:1-35

The Wycliffe Bible Dictionary defines disciple as a pupil who submits to processes of learning under a teacher. In a broad sense, Jesus Christ used the term disciple to describe all His followers who come under the influence of His teaching and strive to conform to His principles. "**Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed**" (John 8:31).

Jesus' disciples then and now are people who respond to His invitation to "**... learn of me**" (Matthew 11:29a). However, the disciples of Jesus can be divided into two categories. (i) Those who repent, surrender to Jesus and wholeheartedly accept Him as Lord and Saviour. They are expected to follow Him and serve Him faithfully and acceptably. (ii) Those who are specifically called and ordained like the twelve apostles. They were called out of the greater company that they might be with Christ, hear Him teach about the kingdom, witness and later perform signs and wonders, and proclaim the gospel to the world.

This study will examine the call of this second category, their works and lessons we can learn from their obedience to the Master. Are you a friend of Jesus? Then you are called to be a disciple. If not yet a friend of Jesus, you must answer the call to be saved so that you can become a child of God and also be able to serve Him faithfully.



1. THE CALL OF THE TWELVE DISCIPLES:

Mark 3:1-19; Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-4; Luke 10:1,2; Acts 9:1-20

Jesus came into the world to fulfil God's divine purpose for mankind. He went about preaching the good news, healing the sick and setting the captives free. As He was doing these great works, He knew that the time is short and that He would need people to carry on the work after Him. Therefore, He called some men to follow Him and become fishers of men.

There were many people who came to Jesus and He taught them about the kingdom. Out of this great multitude, He only chose twelve of them to be His disciples. These twelve men later became apostles who formed the foundation of the New Testament church. The twelve were as follows: Simon Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew also known as Nathanael, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot who later betrayed Him.

Today, Jesus is still calling out to boys and girls to come and be His disciples. This call is in two parts: (i) The call to repent from sin. This is the first call to every child. As you hear this call, you must respond without delay. Repent now, confess your sins to Christ, ask Him to forgive and wash your heart clean with His blood. Accept Him into your life as personal Lord and Saviour. (ii) The call to partner with Christ in the work of the kingdom. This work involves preaching of the gospel to sinful boys and girls, following up on new converts, teaching younger ones the word of God and doing everything that will influence sinners to become friends of Jesus.

As a disciple of Jesus, you are to walk in His steps by following His example of love, humility, compassion and willingness to serve others, and other characters He has shown us. As a friend of Jesus, you are called to be a disciple, obey His voice and follow Him.

2. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUE DISCIPLES:

Mark 3:14,15; Matthew 10:24-39; 16:24-26; Luke 9:1-6;
1 Timothy 3:1-13; 2 Timothy 3:15

The twelve friends that Jesus called to work for Him were true disciples except Judas Iscariot who allowed Satan to deceive him. They obeyed His call to be saved, sanctified and to serve Him faithfully and acceptably. What then are the characteristics or attributes of a true disciple of Jesus? A true disciple must be:

(i) **S**aved from sin and its consequences. He must have repented and turned away from his bad ways.
(ii) **S**anctified and made holy in his heart and character.
(iii) **S**pirit-filled through baptism with the Holy Ghost power.
(iv) **S**eparated from the world and ungodly influences.

(v) **S**ober in his lifestyle, not given to any form of naughty behaviour.
(vi) **S**elfless in serving the Lord.
(vii) **S**ound in the knowledge of the Bible as he daily reads, think on and obey God's word.
(viii) **S**teadfast and immovable in his faith and walk with the Lord.
(ix) **S**ingle-minded in his decision to serve and follow the Lord till the end.

From these characteristics, can you really say you are a true disciple? If no, you can pray for God to input these attributes into your life. He has called you and will also equip you to achieve His purpose for your life. If your answer is yes, then strive more to serve Christ because it is only those that shall endure to the end that shall be saved.

3. COMMISSION AND CONSECRATION OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST:

Mark 3:1-19; 16:15-20; Matthew 4:17-19; Luke 5:1-11; Acts 1:8; 8:4-8; 2 Timothy 4:1,2

When Jesus called His twelve disciples, He told them exactly the assignment He has for them. Mark 1:17 gives us a good explanation of the assignment: "**And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men**". After calling the disciples, He then commissioned them to carry out this important assignment. To commission means to invest with ministerial or sacred functions. The word also means to establish, order, train, appoint and set apart.

The disciples were not only called to be saved, they were commissioned or set apart for a sacred assignment. Jesus sanctified them, sent the Holy Spirit to empower them for service. He also gave them power and authority to heal the sick, raise the dead, open the eyes of the blind and cast out devils.

The disciples after been commissioned went out, preached the gospel and did great wonders through the name of Jesus. These disciples except Judas are in heaven now enjoying their rewards. Now it is your time to be commissioned. The work of preaching the gospel is ongoing till Jesus comes in the rapture. You must enlist in the workforce of the kingdom. The Bible reveals that the harvest is still plenty and the labourers are few. Be among the few who will work for Jesus and preach the gospel.

Be an evangelist in your school, home and community. As you grow, pray so that you can be a missionary and a teacher of the word of God. There are many rewards for those who will obey. Do not miss it.

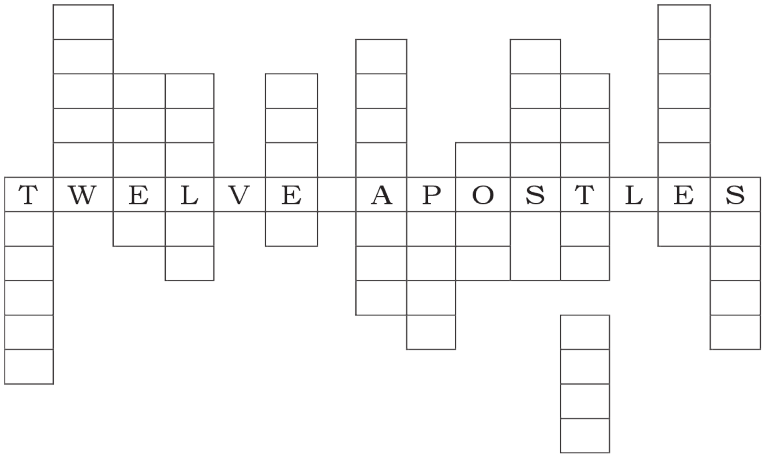
QUESTIONS:

1. How many disciples did Jesus call?
2. Mention the names of the twelve disciples.
3. What were the disciples called to do?
4. What are the characteristics of a true disciple?
5. How can a (i) sinful child (ii) friend of Jesus become a true Disciple?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils**" (Mark 3:14,15).

LESSON: Jesus is calling boys and girls to be saved and to faithfully serve Him.

THOUGHT: I will answer Jesus' call.



ACTIVITY: The names of the twelve apostles will fit exactly in the squares in the puzzle. Read Matthew 10:2-4 as a guide.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 55 - ANYWHERE WITH JESUS

CHORUSES: (1) There were twelve disciples Jesus called to help Him ... (2) When He calls me, I will answer. (3) It is a good thing to serve the Lord.

HOMEWORK: Children should be given tracts to witness to at least two children during the week.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW	28:16-20
TUESDAY	MARK	16:15-18
WEDNESDAY	JOHN	21:15-17
THURSDAY	ACTS	1:4-6
FRIDAY	ACTS	1:7-9
SATURDAY	2 TIMOTHY	3:14-17
SUNDAY	2 TIMOTHY	3:1-5

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Selfless 2. Disciple 3. Sacred 4. Commission 5. Divine.

LESSON 24

PARABLES OF THE SEEDS

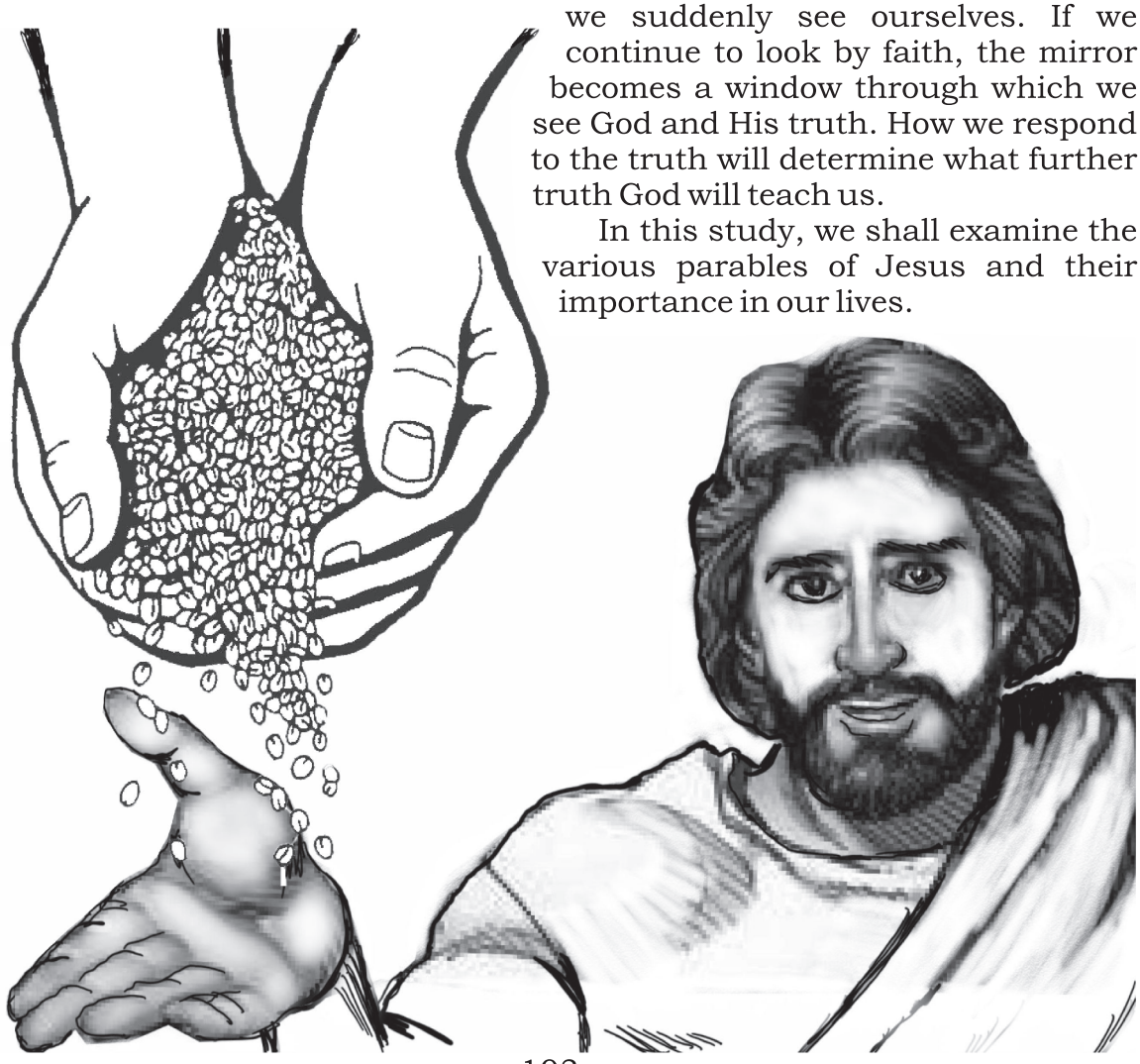
Mark 4:1-41

During Jesus' earthly ministry, He was going about doing good and teaching the people about God's kingdom. God's kingdom is the perfect, holy place that Jesus has prepared for all His friends. To be qualified to enter this kingdom, there are certain preparation every child must make. This is the reason Jesus was always employing the use of parables to explain the nature of the kingdom and necessary preparation needed to be qualified to enter it.

A parable is a simple story from everyday life experience that reveals truth about the kingdom of God to those whose hearts are prepared to hear, and hide this truth from those whose hearts are unprepared.

A parable begins simply as a picture that arrests our attention and arouses our interest. But as we study the picture, it becomes a mirror in which we suddenly see ourselves. If we continue to look by faith, the mirror becomes a window through which we see God and His truth. How we respond to the truth will determine what further truth God will teach us.

In this study, we shall examine the various parables of Jesus and their importance in our lives.



1. PRESENTATION OF THE PARABLES:

Mark 4:1-34; Matthew 13:1-23,31,32; Luke 8:4-15; 13:18-21

Our Bible passage presents different parables illustrating different aspects of God's kingdom. These parables reveal the link between the time of the initial sowing of the seeds of God's word at the time of Jesus' ministry through the church age harvest of souls to the end of the world when Christ will establish His millennial reign. It is like a summary of the mission of Christ on earth and purpose of God for all mankind.

(i) The sower and the seed – Mark 4:1-20; Matthew 13:1-15,18-23; Luke 8:4-15

The sower is liken to the preacher of God's word. He goes out to sow the seed which is the gospel truth. While he sows, the seed falls into different categories of ground (hearts of boys and girls). It is the type of soil or ground that will determine whether the seed will grow well and bring expected fruit or not.

There will be different reactions to the gospel by the people of the world. Some children who hear will not understand (Mark 4:15), others will believe for a while but later fall away (Mark 4:16-19). Some others will believe, become saved, receive grace to persevere and bear fruit in different measures. The enemies of God's word are Satan, riches, worldly attractions and pleasures.

What is the condition of your heart? Is it one that is like stone, or filled with thorns, or is it like the wayside where the word of God that you hear is being eaten up by carelessness, bad company and 'I-do-not-care' attitude? You need to repent now and ask Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing of your heart.

(ii) The candle on the candle stick – Mark 4:21-25

This parable encourages children who have repented to shine forth the light of God everywhere they go. Then they can attract sinful children to the Saviour.

(iii) The growing seed – Mark 4:26-29

The parable reveals the mystery of how a plant grows. The farmer plants and do all that is necessary for the seed to germinate. But how it grows to maturity is not what anyone can explain. God alone is the one that knows the secret. This means the word of God in the heart of man is made to grow and bear fruit through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The great Apostle Paul explains this mystery when he said "**I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase**" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Friends of Jesus who daily read, meditate on God's word, obey all its instructions, attend fellowship regularly and share the love of Jesus with others will surely grow to become mature believers. They will also bear much fruit in the kingdom.

(iv) The mustard seed – Mark 4:30-34; Matthew 13:31,32; Luke 13:18,19

This is a very tiny seed sown by farmers especially in Israel. Yet in a very

short time, it grows to be a very big plant. This parable shows the power of the gospel of God's kingdom. It started in a very small way with few people. Yet it has grown over the centuries and spread to all the nations of the world. Many who believed the word of God are in heaven already and many will still join them till Jesus comes to reign on earth. Are you part of this great and everlasting kingdom? Jesus is the door to God's kingdom. Surrender your life unto Him.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PARABLES:
Mark 4:10-12; Matthew 13:10-17; Luke 8:9,10

Through these parables, Jesus was speaking to the unbelievers (sinners) as well as His disciples (believers). The reasons for these parables therefore are to (i) Reveal the plan of God for the salvation of sinners. (ii) Show sinners the way to receive salvation. (iii) Encourage believers to strive for things that are profitable for their spiritual growth and maturity. (iv) Reveal the truth to all so that no one will have excuse before God on the final day. (v) Help true friends of Jesus to identify what is right and what is wrong. (vi) Teach believers how to overcome the influence and opposition of Satan and his agents.

We are called to serve God through wholehearted devotion to Christ and living a righteous and holy life every day.

3. PREPARATION FOR THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM:
Mark 4:9,30-34; Hebrews 12:1,2; Revelation 2:7

All that Jesus taught and did was to draw sinners to Himself, keep and make them fit for heaven. Every child must therefore take heed to God's word, overcome all evil influences and be ready for heaven. The secret of victory lies in (i) Keeping our eyes fixed upon Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). (ii) Separating from the things of the world that can choke the word in our hearts (1 John 2:15-17). (iii) Abiding and growing in God's word (1 Peter 2:2). (iv) Looking forward to Christ's return (Luke 12:35-40). (v) Our willingness to suffer for Christ's sake (1 Peter 4:1,2). (vi) Resisting and running away from all appearance of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:22) (vii) Standing always for the truth (Jude 3). (viii) Putting on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:11-18).

QUESTIONS:
1. What is a parable?
2. Give a brief explanation of the different parables in our study.
3. What are the reasons for the parables of the seeds?
4. How can boys and girls get the full blessings from God's word?
5. What should a (i) sinner (ii) friend of Jesus do to prepare for God's kingdom?

MEMORY VERSE: "And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. But without a parable spake he not

unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples" (Mark 4:33,34).

LESSON: Only those who hear and obey the word of God will inherit the kingdom of God.

THOUGHT: I will always obey God's word so as to inherit the kingdom of God.

ACTIVITY: Search the Scriptures and learn more about other parables of Jesus.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 84 - DEEPER, DEEPER IN THE LOVE OF JESUS

CHORUSES: (1) Thy word is light, the word is Spirit. (2) The B. I. B. L. E. is good enough for me. (3) I am ready to obey Thy word.

HOMEWORK: Children should write in their homework books, the consequences of not obeying the word of God as seen in the parable.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	LUKE	8:4-8
TUESDAY	LUKE	8:9-11
WEDNESDAY	LUKE	8:12-15
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	13:1-6
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	13:7-12
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	13:13-17
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	13:18-23

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Ministry 2. Arouses 3. Parable 4. Millennial 5. Maturity

LESSON 25

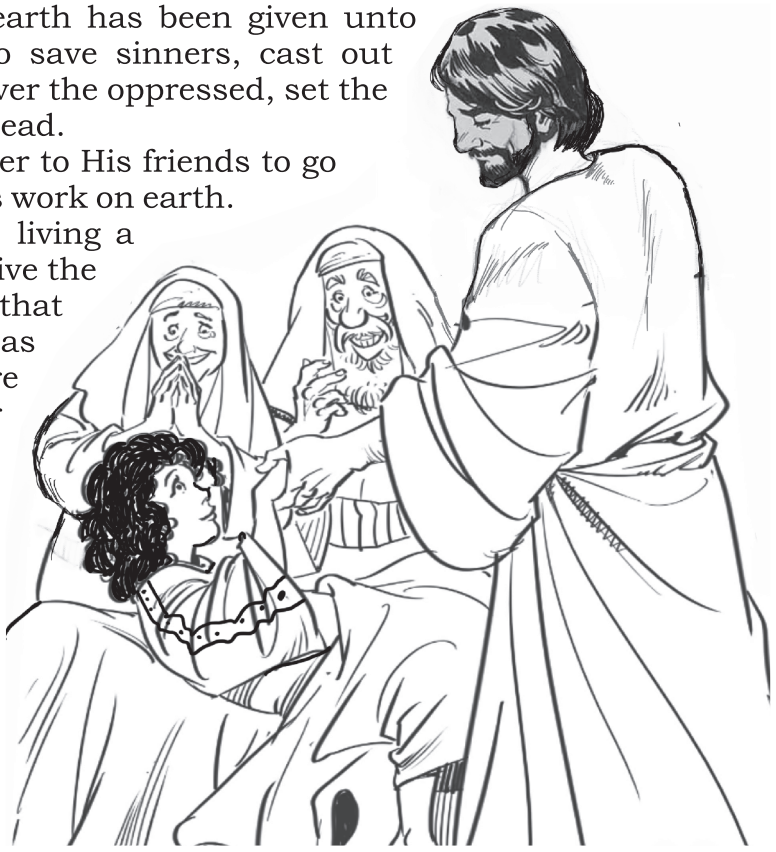
CHRIST'S POWER OVER DEMONS, DISEASES AND DEATH

Mark 5:1-43; Luke 8:19-56

"**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord**" (Luke 4:18,19). This passage clearly shows the mission of Jesus on earth. It is a multiple fold mission that no prophet or anyone that ever lived can lay claim to. Jesus alone is vested with full authority and power to: (i) preach the gospel to the poor, afflicted and brokenhearted (ii) Heal those who are bruised and oppressed by Satan. This healing is both physical and spiritual. (iii) Open the spiritual eyes of those blinded by Satan and (iv) Proclaim true freedom and salvation from Satan's bondage.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus went about to accomplish this multiple fold mission. At the end of His work on earth, He surrendered Himself to die on the cross. After three days, He rose triumphantly because death could not confine Him to the grave. Then He declared that all power in heaven and on earth has been given unto Him. This is the power to save sinners, cast out demons, heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, set the captives free and raise the dead.

He then gave this power to His friends to go forth and continue with His work on earth. Are you a friend of Jesus, living a holy life? Then pray to receive the power of the Holy Ghost, so that you can do what Jesus has called you to do. If you are still a sinner, you are under Satan's dominion. Repent now and ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Ask Jesus to be your personal Saviour and Lord. And if you are sick and under demonic influence, the power of Christ is still available to deliver and set you free.



1. CHRIST'S POWER OVER DEMONS:

Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39; Matthew 8:1-28-34

As Jesus continued His work with His disciples, they got to a country of the Gadarenes. Here they came in contact with a demon-possessed man. The demons immediately recognised and acknowledged the power and authority of Jesus. The demon-possessed even ran to worship Christ. Jesus showed compassion on the possessed man and cast out the demons through His word. No demon can resist the power of Christ. Immediately, the man was set free and the demons perished with the swine.

Demons are messengers of Satan who run errands for him. They are unclean spirits that cannot be seen with the physical eyes. They cause sickness and mental problem to humans. They also possess the hearts of sinful boys and girls in form of witchcraft, familiar spirits, etc. Such children are used by Satan for wicked assignments. If you are suffering under the dominion of Satan, there is hope for you. Jesus is not willing that you die and perish. He wants you to come to Him and receive deliverance. You can seek prayers and guidance from your godly teachers, parents and pastors.

As a friend of Jesus, you need not be afraid of demons, Jesus has given you authority to cast them out. All you need do is to live a holy and prayerful life.

2. CHRIST'S POWER OVER DISEASES:

Mark 5:21-34; Luke 8:43-48; Matthew 9:18-22

In our Bible passage, we can see how Jesus demonstrated His power over sicknesses and diseases (Mark 5:25-35). In this instance, a woman who has been afflicted with an issue of blood (continuous loss of blood) for twelve years came, touched Christ's garment and she was healed of her disease. This shows that even the clothes of Jesus carry power. There are so many instances of instantaneous healing by Christ during His earthly ministry.

Many sick people were often brought to Him and He healed them all. He has power and authority over every sickness and diseases, be it lameness, deafness, blindness, ulcer, Coronavirus, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, stomach-ache, headache, etc. Diseases are subject to the name and power of Christ. Sicknesses and diseases are the result of the fall of man and Satan's activity in the world. "**For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil**" (1 John 3:8b).

Jesus heals and also gives gifts of healing to His church. He commanded His friends to heal the sick as part of their proclamation of the gospel message. Are you sick? Then there is good news for you. Jesus the same yesterday, today

and forever will heal you right now. Believe that He has power to heal you. Pray in faith and receive your healing.

3. CHRIST'S POWER OVER DEATH:
Mark 5:21-24,35-43; Luke 8:49-56; John 11:38-44;
Matthew 9:18,19,23-26

While Jesus was still speaking with the woman who has the issue of blood, a message came to Jairus who had come to Jesus for the healing of his only daughter that she has died and that there was no point for him to trouble Jesus. When Jesus heard them, He told Jairus not to be afraid but only believe. Jesus then took Peter, James and John along to Jairus' house.

As Jesus got to the house, He excused the crowd, went inside and took the twelve-year old girl by the hand and said "**Talitha cumi**" which means, "damsel I say unto thee, arise!" Because death recognises the voice of Jesus, it released its grip over the girl's life and she arose from death to the amazement of the people. Now Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He has irreversible power over demons, diseases and death.

As friends of Jesus, you have nothing to fear. So do not cry when you are sick, rather pray to God in the Name of Jesus. You will be made whole. Do not fear death because Jesus has conquered it on the cross when He said "**It is finished**". Always pray and claim the promise of God which says, "**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord**" (Psalm 118:17). A sinner is under the judgment of death. Therefore, he needs to urgently seek the Saviour, repent, pray for forgiveness and cleansing of his sins and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. He will be delivered from sin and eternal death.

QUESTIONS:
1. Who has authority and power over demons, diseases and death?
2. Where did Jesus cast the unclean spirit in the demonic man to?
3. What did the woman with the issue of blood say in her mind as she moved among the crowd? Was she made whole?
4. Jesus raised _____ from the dead.
5. Can Jesus still heal and deliver today?

MEMORY VERSE: "**Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee**" (Mark 5:19).

LESSON: Jesus has power to heal, deliver and set the captives free.

THOUGHT: Lord, I will trust you for help in time of need.

ACTIVITY: Testimony time – children are to share testimonies of how they were healed and delivered through the power in the name of Jesus.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 19 - CHRIST JESUS HATH THE POWER

CHORUSES: (1) Jesus conquered the world and gave us victory. (2) I know He's able. (3) Unquestionable You are the Lord.

HOMEWORK: Search the Scripture and write out five instances in the Bible where the disciples of Jesus showed authority and power over demons, diseases and death.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ISAIAH	53:1-4
TUESDAY	ISAIAH	53:5-8
WEDNESDAY	ISAIAH	53:9-12
THURSDAY	LUKE	4:16-21
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	10:5-8
SATURDAY	ACTS	5:12-16
SUNDAY	JOHN	11:41-44

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Mission 2. Proclaim 3. Triumph 4. Dominion 5. Instantaneous.

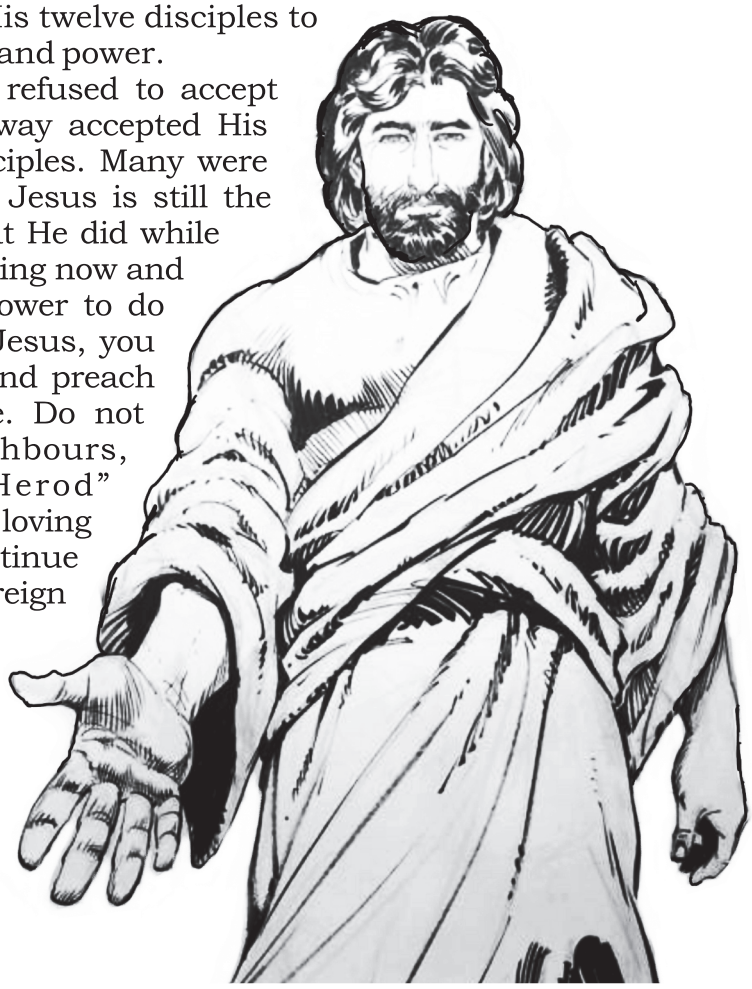
LESSON 26

CHRIST REJECTED IN HIS OWN COUNTRY

Mark 6:1-56

Jesus Christ grew up in Nazareth, a hilly country side in the Northern part of Palestine known as Galilee. The people of His country/home town rejected Him. They did not accept Him as a prophet. When He visited Nazareth the second time with His disciples, He entered into the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. While many were surprised at the depth of His teaching, some were offended, asking "**Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him**" (Mark 6:3).

Christ was rejected by the people that were closer to Him in relationship, even His own brothers did not believe in Him until after His death and resurrection. The people rejected Christ because of unbelief and hardness of heart. However, Jesus did not allow His rejection to stop the great work that His heavenly Father has sent Him to do. From our Bible passage, we learn that Jesus went about the villages, teaching the people about the kingdom of God. He also called and sent out His twelve disciples to go and preach with authority and power.



As His own countrymen refused to accept Him, others who were far away accepted His message and that of His disciples. Many were saved, healed and delivered. Jesus is still the same today and forever. What He did while He was on earth, He is still doing now and has also given His friends power to do more. If you are a friend of Jesus, you must go out with boldness and preach the gospel to every creature. Do not allow your friends, neighbours, classmates or even "Herod" (authority) to stop you from loving Jesus and doing His will. Continue to follow Him so that you can reign with Him in heaven at last.

If you are still a sinner, now is the time for you to accept Jesus as your Lord and personal Saviour. Do not be like the people who rejected Him. As you come to Him, He will accept you and give you power to become a child of God.

1. THE MESSIAH REJECTED IN HIS OWN COUNTRY:
Mark 6:1-6,14-29; John 1:10-14; 1 Peter 2:1-6-8

Jesus Christ was rejected in His native town – Nazareth. Likewise, His message was rejected and they even planned to kill Him. The Jews of His day were governed (ruled) by the laws of Moses (Mosaic law) and they believed very much in them. They could not accept that there can be any prophet greater than Moses who gave them the laws as he received them from God. The Jews therefore rejected Jesus because: (i) they were familiar with His childhood, they knew His earthly parents, brothers and sisters (Mark 6:3). It is often said that "familiarity breeds contempt."
(ii) Unbelief and hardness of heart. This was the main reason His countrymen rejected Him. They were spiritually blind, therefore they could not see and accept Jesus as the Messiah they have been expecting.
(iii) Fear of what others will do or say about them.

Jesus was amazed at their unbelief and inability to believe God and trust Him. Unbelief is a grievous sin against God. The message of Jesus became a stumbling block to His own countrymen and a stepping stone to salvation for others. Jesus could not do much miracles among His own people because they rejected Him.

However, He did not let this rejection stop Him. He continued with the business of teaching and healing among those who were ready. The stories of Jesus' rejection at Nazareth and John the Baptist's death in our Bible passage show that the devil is always out to hinder the gospel work.

This is to show what would later happen to Jesus towards the end of His earthly ministry. The lesson we learn here is that as friends of Jesus, we should be prepared for persecution because, we cannot expect an evil world to welcome the gospel of truth that Jesus has sent us to spread. However, Jesus has assured us that He is with us even to the end of the world. Be courageous! Serve the Lord and He will keep you.

2. THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST AND HIS DISCIPLES IN OTHER TOWNS:
Mark 6:7-11; Luke 3:1-6,18; 9:1-9

As the people of Nazareth did not welcome Jesus and His disciples, He sent them to other cities to preach the kingdom of God (repentance from sin), heal the sick and also deliver the oppressed. He however told them that anyone or any city that rejected them should be left alone. They were not to carry any personal provisions for themselves, but depend on God for their personal provision. God always provides for His people. Those who received them, accepted their gospel and turned away from their sins were saved. Even the sick received healing and the oppressed were delivered.

When Herod heard about the miracles being performed by Jesus and His disciples, he became afraid. He thought that John the Baptist whom he had beheaded (ordered that his head be cut off) had risen from the dead. He killed

John because he had preached against his sin of adultery (Herod married Herodias, his brother Philip's wife – Mark 6:18). Though he silenced the voice of John the Baptist, he could not silence his own conscience, he was tormented by it. He became uncomfortable, he lost his peace. It is still happening today – many people are rejecting the gospel because they want to continue living in their sins. They even hate those who are preaching, telling them to turn away from their sinful ways. Such people cannot become friends of Jesus except they repent of their sins.

If you are still living in sin, come to Jesus now: know yourself as a sinner, confess and repent of your sins, ask God for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus, invite Jesus into your life to be your Saviour and Lord. Believe it is done and begin to live a new life in Christ.

3. MIRACLES THROUGH THE POWER OF THE REJECTED CHRIST:

Mark 6:12,13,30-56; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:15-21

After going through the cities and towns, the disciples of Jesus went back to give account of their evangelistic outreach to Him. Likewise, we must give a report of all that happen during our evangelism to our leaders (Mark 6:30). Therefore, He told them to leave the city for the desert so that they could rest. "**And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat**" (Mark 6:31).

This is what we call RETREAT. It is a time to stay away from home activities, hear God's word, think about it and also renew our spiritual experiences so that we can serve God better. It is not good for friends of Jesus to miss the programmes (Easter and December Retreats). It is not a time to just go, eat, sleep and play in the campground. Instead, it is a time to listen to God's word (in the children camp), pray about it, learn how to be better Christians and receive fresh anointing to be able to continue serving Him. It is a time when God's power is present to save sinners, heal the sick, deliver the oppressed and encourage those who are getting weak on the journey to heaven.

The disciples had a retreat with Jesus in the wilderness and many miracles happened:

(I) Jesus fed a multitude of 5,000 men (apart from women and children) with only five loaves of bread and two fishes. He is still the Supplier of our needs today (Philippians 4:19). Twelve baskets full of bread and fishes were left over after all the people had eaten!

(ii) Still wanting to minister to the needs of the people, Jesus asked His disciples to go to Bethsaida (by boat). He was not in the boat with them. Suddenly, the sea became troubled and the disciples were afraid but Jesus appeared on the water. They thought He was a ghost and cried out in fear but Jesus said to them: "**Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid**" (Mark 6:50b). The wind ceased immediately. He still calms the storm in our lives today, just trust Him and be not afraid.

In many other villages, cities or countries that Jesus entered, He

performed many more miracles. He is still doing the same today. The greatest miracle you can receive is the salvation of your soul. His power has not changed. Hebrews 13:8 says, "**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**" If you are not saved yet, come to Jesus now, believe His word, repent and surrender your life to Him.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were those that rejected Jesus Christ?
2. Mention three reasons Jesus was rejected in His home town.
3. What did Jesus send His disciples to do in other towns?
4. Mention one miracle of Jesus stated in this study.
5. (a) What is the greatest miracle you can receive? (b) Have you received that miracle?

MEMORY VERSE: "**But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house**" (Mark 6:4).

LESSON: Anyone who rejects Jesus Christ will spend eternity in hell.

THOUGHT: I accept Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord.

ACTIVITY: Draw the picture of the disciples in a boat on the stormy sea.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 224 - OH, THE BITTER SHAME AND SORROW

CHORUSES: (1) Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever. (2) I believe in Jesus. (3) Jesus is the sweetest Name I know.

HOMEWORK: Read John 2:1-11 and write in your own words, the miracle that Jesus performed in the passage.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW	13:57,58
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	21:42-44
WEDNESDAY	MARK	12:10-12
THURSDAY	ACTS	4:11,12
FRIDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	1:22-24
SATURDAY	PHILIPPIANS	2:9-11
SUNDAY	1 PETER	2:6-8

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:1. Kinsmen 2. Wilderness 3. Miracle 4. Retreat 5. Multitude.

SECTION 3

LESSON **PAGE**

OLD TESTAMENT

27. CALL TO HOLINESS.....116

28. DIVINELY APPOINTED FEASTS.....120

29. THE YEAR OF JUBILEE.....124

30. CONDITIONS FOR BLESSINGS AND CURSES.....128

31. LAW OF VOWS AND DEDICATIONS.....132

32. CENSUS OF ISRAEL AND DUTIES OF THE LEVITES.....136

33. PRESERVATION OF HOLINESS AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE.....140

NEW TESTAMENT

34. JESUS' EXPLANATION ON DEFILEMENT.....144

35. JESUS WARNS AGAINST HELL.....148

36. HEALING OF BLIND BARTIMAEUS.....152

37. THE WIDOW'S OFFERING 156

38. BIRTH OF JOHN AND ANNUNCIATION OF CHRIST.....160

39. BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS.....164

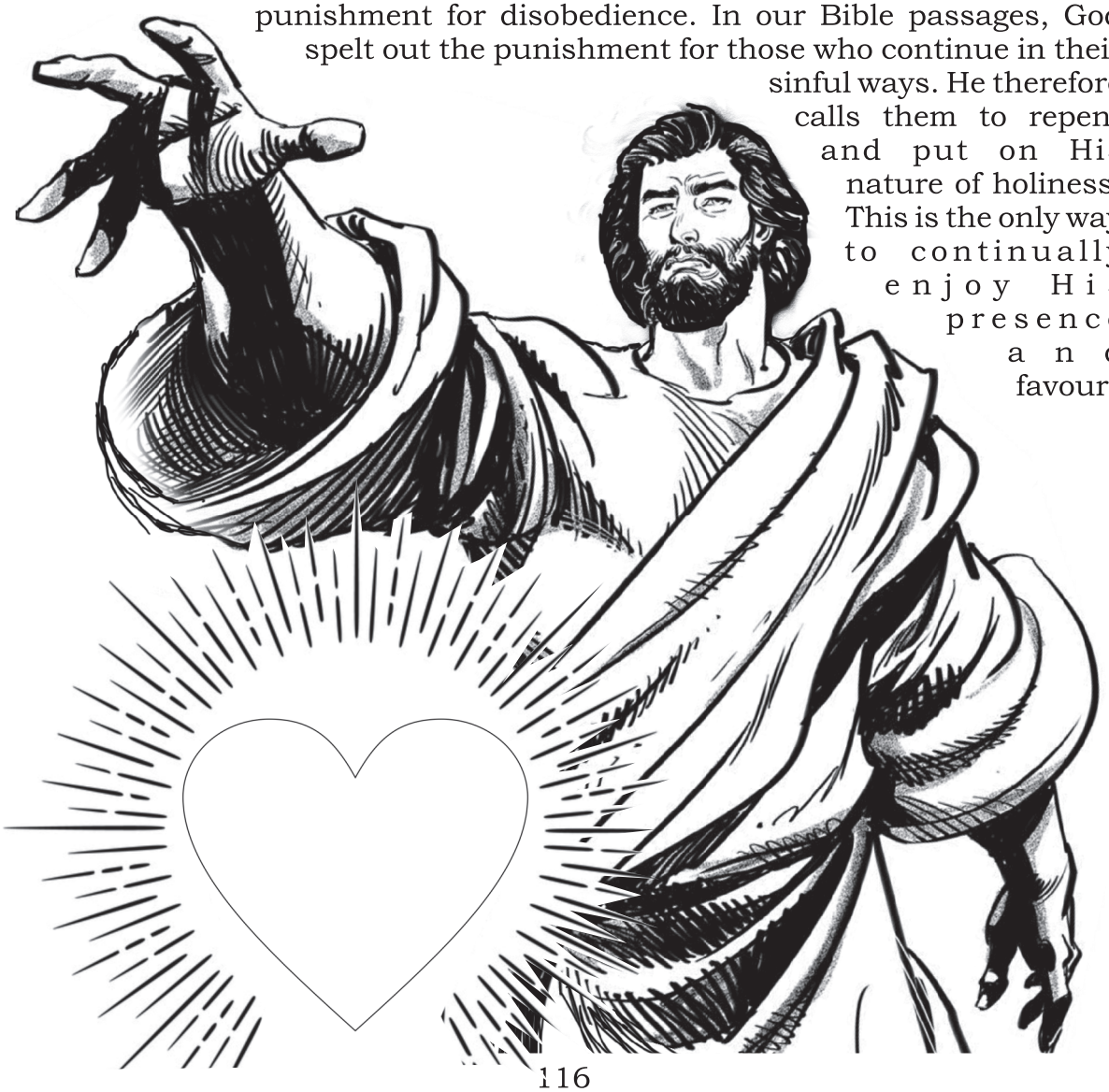
LESSON 27

CALL TO HOLINESS

Leviticus 20:1-27; 21:1-24; 22:1-33

The Wycliffe Bible Dictionary defines holiness as "separation from what is common and unclean and consecration to God." Other terms used to describe the word holiness are devoutness, humility, saintliness, devotion and worship. Holiness is the nature of God and He desires that His children be holy as He is. This is the reason He calls us to be holy. This call runs through the Bible. Right from the time of creation, God called Adam and Eve to a life of holiness that will enable them continue in unbroken relationship and fellowship with Him.

Alas, Satan, the enemy of man came to tempt them to disobey God. Their disobedience led to separation and loss of fellowship with God. There is punishment for disobedience. In our Bible passages, God spelt out the punishment for those who continue in their sinful ways. He therefore calls them to repent and put on His nature of holiness. This is the only way to continually enjoy His presence and favour.



1. PENALTIES FOR WRONG DOINGS:
Leviticus 20:1-27; Psalm 9:17; Ezekiel 18:4,20

Leviticus chapter 20 prescribed different forms of punishment for various offences. God had repeatedly warned His people about the danger of disobeying His word. He will not punish a sinner without warning him. It is only those who refused to heed God's warning that will be punished.

The law of God sets out penalties for many offences against God's word thus - (i) People who offered sacrifices to idols were to be stoned to death (Leviticus 20:1-5). (ii) Those who seek guidance from familiar spirit and witchcraft were guilty of rebellion against God and were to be punished by being cut off from the community (Leviticus 20:6). (iii) A child who cursed his father or mother shall be put to death (Leviticus 20:9). (iv) Immoral behaviour was also punishable by death (Leviticus 10:10-21).

The children of Israel had to be holy before God, and this meant they had to separate themselves from the sinful practices of the Canaanites. If they failed in this, God would destroy them as He would the Canaanites (Leviticus 20:22-27).

The same warning comes to every boy/girl today. Do not follow the way of sinners. Come out from among them and be separate unto God. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Accept Him as your personal Saviour and Lord. This step is the foundation of your Christian faith and walk with God. As a friend of Jesus, you are now a priest unto God. Your lifestyle must be different as you live a holy and righteous life.

2. PRINCIPLES AND CALL TO HOLINESS:
Leviticus 20:7,8,22-26; 21:1-24; 22:1-33; 11:44; 1 Peter 1:15,16; Hebrews 12:14

The priests in the Old Testament were to be separated from all ungodly customs and to live blameless lives that conformed to God's righteous standard. They were to be examples of godliness both in their ceremonial duties and in their personal character and conduct. This principle of holiness is also applicable in the new covenant. God desires only children who live holy and righteous lives to be His chosen people.

Holiness is the goal and purpose of our call. It means being like God and being dedicated to Him as we live to please Him. This is the reason, the Bible emphasises the need for friends of Jesus to be holy. Without holiness, no one can see or please God. To be holy therefore, a friend of Jesus must develop a strong desire for the sanctification experience. It is a desire to be like Christ in everything. Then, go a step further by praying sincerely for God to sanctify your heart.

Then wait patiently to receive the experience. Sanctification will remove all the root of sin from your heart and you will become blameless and clean. Jesus

has paid the price for your cleansing; therefore, you must pray now to be made holy (Hebrews 13:12).

3. PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF HOLY LIVING:

Leviticus 21:1; 22:1,2; Luke 1:5,6,26-35,74,75

Holiness is not an abstract subject; it is a practical way of life expected of every child who has been washed with the blood of Jesus. It is a higher calling for the friend of Jesus who desires to see God at the end of his journey on earth. God calls His people especially the priests to a life of holiness. Those who obeyed and walked in the holy path were good examples of how to live a holy life.

The following Bible personalities were good examples of how to live a holy life.

(i) **H**uldah – 2 Kings 22:10-20. She was a prophetess who explained the content of the book of the law to the king and the priests. She remained a holy child of God in the midst of the corruption in Judah, at that time.

(ii) **O**bededom – 2 Samuel 6:1-12. This man received the ark of God (which signifies His presence) into his house with holy fear and absolute obedience. God blessed him and his family. What brought death to Uzzah, brought blessings to Obededom because he was found to be a holy man.

(iii) **L**azarus – Luke 16:1-31. Though this man was poor in material things, he was rich in spiritual works. God who sees the heart of all men sent angels to carry him to heaven after his death. What a glorious life!

(iv) **I**saac – Genesis 22:1-14. He learnt the word of God from Abraham his father and was obedient. He surrendered himself for sacrifice to God on the altar before a ram was provided in his place. This was complete submission to God and obedience to his father.

(v) **N**oah – Genesis 6:1-9. The Bible testified that Noah was a just, perfect and the only righteous man in his generation. You too can stand out in this corrupt and wicked world. Be a just and perfect child who will walk with and serve God till the end.

(vi) **E**sther – Esther 2:1-9. She was raised among idol worshippers and immoral people. Yet Esther remained a virgin and a true child of God. You must remain holy and righteous even when others are given to immoral and dirty acts.

(vii) **S**amuel – 1 Samuel 12:1-5. Right from his birth, Samuel was a righteous child and prophet of God. He was found upright and blameless before God and the children of Israel. You must be righteous and blameless in your words, lifestyle and actions.

(viii) **S**alome – Mark 15:40,41; 16:1-8. This was one of the holy and faithful women who served and ministered to Jesus during His earthly ministry. They followed Christ till the time of His crucifixion, burial and resurrection. You must surrender to the Lord and serve Him faithfully till the end.

All these Bible characters lived exemplary life for us to copy. Many of them lived at a very difficult time, yet they stood out of the crowd. They served God in holiness and righteousness. You too can follow their example and you will be blessed.

QUESTIONS:
1. Define holiness.
2. From this study, what are the penalties for wrong doings?
3. Mention eight Bible examples of people who lived a holy life.
4. Who called us to live a holy life?
5. How can a (i) sinful child (ii) friend of Jesus become holy?

MEMORY VERSE: "**Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God**" (Leviticus 20:7).

LESSON: God calls all His children to live a holy life.

THOUGHT: I will live holily and righteously all the days of my life.

ACTIVITY: Prayers and altar call.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 190 - "CALLED UNTO HOLINESS"

CHORUSES: (1) Holiness, holiness, holiness, the kingdom of God is holy. (2) Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord. (3) Lord I want to be like Jesus.

HOMEWORK: Prayer for grace to live a holy life every day.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	LEVITICUS	11:43-45
TUESDAY	1 THESSALONIANS	4:1-4
WEDNESDAY	1 THESSALONIANS	4:5-7
THURSDAY	2 THESSALONIANS	2:13-15
FRIDAY	EPHESIANS	5:25-27
SATURDAY	JOHN	17:16-18
SUNDAY	TITUS	2:11-14

BIBLE WORD SEARCH
Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Holiness 2. Saintliness 3. Standard 4. Principle 5. Covenant.

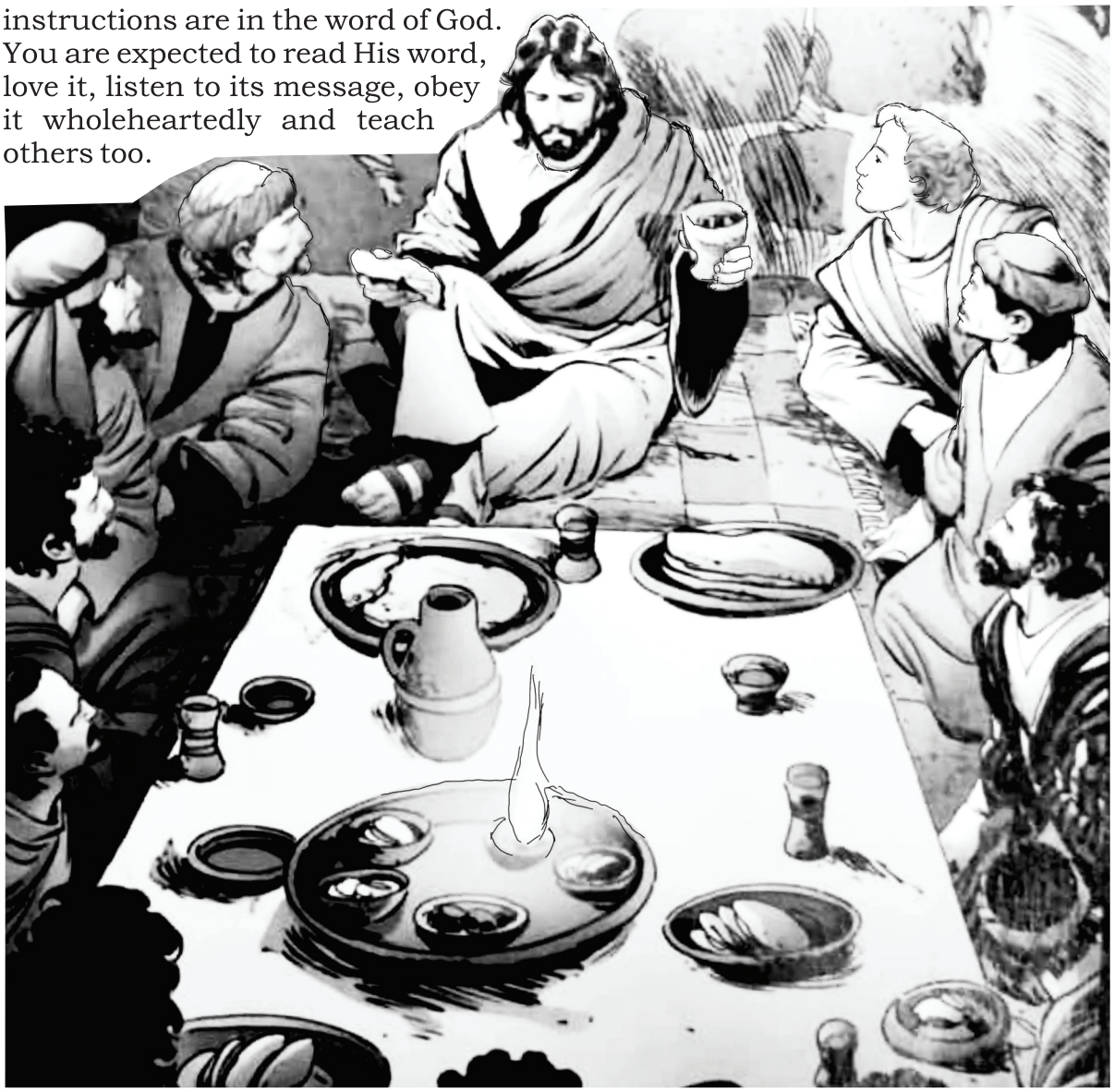
LESSON 28

DIVINELY APPOINTED FEASTS

Leviticus 23:1-44; 24:1-23

God in His love and mercy desire to have fellowship with His children at all times, hence, He commanded Israel, His chosen nation to observe some feasts. Through the celebration of these feasts, the children of Israel can maintain an unbroken relationship with God. These feasts are no more relevant in New Testament worship because Jesus has fulfilled all their purposes and significance.

However, there are certain divinely approved instructions for New Testament believers who desire to walk with God, serve Him acceptably and make it to heaven at last. All these instructions are in the word of God. You are expected to read His word, love it, listen to its message, obey it wholeheartedly and teach others too.



1. PRECEPTS FOR GOD'S APPOINTED FEASTS:

Leviticus 23:1-44; 24:1-23

The command to observe certain feasts was given by God directly to Israel through Moses. These feasts were to serve important purposes in their relationship with God. Our Bible passage has a record of such feasts as follows:

(i) The Sabbath – Leviticus 23:3; Exodus 20:8-11. This was to be observed on the 7th day of every week. It was to be a day of rest when the people will do no secular work. It is a day dedicated for the worship of God. God made the world in six days and on the seventh He rested. For New Testament believers, our day of worship and rest is Sunday, the first day of the week. This is because Jesus, our Lord and Saviour rose from the dead on Sunday. Spend the day to honour God.

(ii) Passover feast – Leviticus 23:5. God commanded the children of Israel to observe the Passover in remembrance of what He did for them in Egypt. On the night before the day of their deliverance, God commanded the children of Israel to kill a lamb, use the blood as mark of protection on their houses. They were also to eat the lamb with bitter herbs and bread without yeast. The mark of the blood protected all their firstborns from death. Today, Jesus is our Passover Lamb. As we celebrate the Lord Supper from time to time, we remember the sacrifice that Jesus did for our sins.

(iii) The feast of unleavened bread – Leviticus 23:5-8. The children of Israel were to observe this after they entered Canaan, the Promised Land. The feast represented the consecration of God's people based on their redemption from Egypt. Unleavened bread symbolised repentance from sin and consecration to God. Sinful children are called to repent from sin, turn from their bad ways and become true friends of Jesus.

(iv) Feast of first fruits – Leviticus 23:15-21. This feast involves presenting a sheaf of the first of the barley (grain) harvest as a wave offering, making a burnt offering and a grain offering. This feast is in acknowledgement that the fruit came from the Lord. The first fruits were to be consecrated to the Lord, which pointed to the New Testament believer's dedication of all his life to God.

(v) Feast of weeks - Leviticus 23:15-21. This is also called the feast of Pentecost. It is a one-day feast dedicated to God's worship in which all works are suspended. This feast signifies that the harvest season has begun. The great harvest of souls into the kingdom occurred during the feast of Pentecost. The power of the Holy Ghost fell, Peter preached and three thousand souls were converted that day. The pentecostal power is still available to help you do exploits for God.

(vi) Feast of tabernacle - Leviticus 23:34-43. During this feast, the people leave their houses and live in temporary booths or tents made from tree branches. This act reminded the people of God's goodness to them during their forty years in the wilderness when they had no permanent dwelling place. It

was also a period to celebrate the conclusion of the harvest of fruits and nuts. Other feasts appointed for the children of Israel are – the feast of trumpets and day of atonement (Leviticus 23:23-32).

There are important symbols associated with the celebration of these feast like the shew bread – holy bread meant for the priest and pure olive oil to burn continually and lighten the temple. Today the word of God is the bread of life made available for everybody. Read it, chew it and let it become part of your life. Also, the oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. You need Him to build up your Christian faith and empower you to do exploits and offer acceptable service unto the Lord.

2. PURPOSE OF GOD'S APPOINTED FEASTS:

Leviticus 23:1-44; 24:1-23

God wanted Israel to think about spiritual things, especially about their covenant relationship with Him. This is the most important reason for the feasts. Other reasons include (i) Serving as reminder of how God delivered them in the past from Egypt. As a friend of Jesus, you should always remember how God saved you from sin, then dedicate your life to serve Him more and live a holy life. (ii) Encouragement for them to keep on serving God and for the younger ones to trust and serve the Lord in all their generations. (iii) Strengthening their faith in God so that they will not forsake the Lord to serve idols. Friends of Jesus must continually meditate on God's mercies and goodness and how to please Him in all their ways (Colossians 3:1-4).

The feast of Passover serves as a reminder of their miraculous preservation and deliverance. Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb who took away our sins and the consequences we ought to bear. At the last commemoration of the Passover, Jesus commanded His friends to start observing the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:17-29).

The Lord's Supper serves as remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection and His promise to come again to take us to heaven. How prepared are you? If you are not saved, this is the time to repent, turn from all sins and accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour. Then when He comes, you will be qualified to go with Him to the marriage feast of the Lamb.

3. PREPARATION FOR THE GREAT FEAST:

Leviticus 23:1,2; 24:1-3; Revelation 19:1-9

The time is drawing nearer for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This will take place in heaven immediately after the rapture of the saints (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). This study is an encouragement for all friends of Jesus to get ready for the great feast. Do not look back like Lot's wife. Never

forsake the Lord like Demas. Be steadfast, unmovable and live a holy life in expectation of His coming.

QUESTIONS:
1. Mention the different feasts ordained for the children of Israel.
2. Explain their significance.
3. Enumerate the purposes of these feasts.
4. What feast did Jesus command believers to observe till He comes?
5. What is the great feast that will take place after the rapture?
6. How should a child prepare for this great feast?

MEMORY VERSE: "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts" (Leviticus 23:1,2).

LESSON: God's desire is that all His children serve Him faithfully and acceptably.

THOUGHT: I will serve God faithfully and acceptably.

ACTIVITY: Group discussion – children should discuss the differences and similarities between the Passover feast and the Lord's Supper.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 42 - CLOSE TO THEE

CHORUSES: (1) Let the dew of heaven fall upon my thirsting soul. (2) I am ready to obey Thy word. (3) Keep me through Lord Jesus.

HOMEWORK: Prayer for grace to be ready for the rapture.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	20:8-11
TUESDAY	EXODUS	12:11-13
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	12:14-16
THURSDAY	EXODUS	12:17-20
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	26:1-3
SATURDAY	ACTS	2:1-5
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	26:26-29

BIBLE WORD SEARCH
Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:1. Feast 2. Divine 3. Significance 4. Sabbath 5. Passover.

LESSON 29

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Leviticus 25:1-55

Our God is loving, merciful, caring and executes justice and fairness. He reigns and rules in the affairs of His people. This is the reason He sets forth certain regulations and laws to govern the life of His people after their deliverance from Egypt. These laws were to enhance their fellowship with God as well as guide their relationship with one another. Complete obedience to God's command will attract His blessings while disobedience will lead to punishment and loss of favour from Him.

Jesus' death and resurrection has provided freedom for sinners who would respond to His call. God wants them to repent, turn from their bad ways and accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. For "**If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed**" (John 8:36). The word of God is the truth that sets free. As you hear the word, respond positively to it, you will be free. True freedom will then help you to dedicate your life to God and serve Him faithfully and acceptably all the days of your life.



1. PROVISION FOR THE YEAR OF JUBILEE:
Leviticus 25:1-55

The land that God promised to give Israel was a holy and sacred land. This was the reason God gave them special regulations concerning the land. There are two parts to this regulation.
(I) The sabbatical year – Leviticus 23:1-7. This comes every seventh year. This seventh year was to be set apart as a year of rest for the land. All agricultural processes were to be suspended and the land was to lie fallow. This will help the land to recover and become more fruitful. Whatever grew of itself was to be shared by all. God encouraged the people to share His bountiful provision with one another to show their dependence on Him. This instruction is still relevant to us today. Firstly, we have to always observe a time of rest in order to restore the energy we have spent in doing one activity or the other. Secondly, we are to solely depend on God for provision of all our needs because the Bible assures that "**... my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus**" (Philippians 4:19).
(ii) The year of Jubilee – Leviticus 25:8-19. The word jubilee means liberty or freedom. The year of jubilee was to be celebrated every fiftieth year. The year was to be announced by blowing of trumpet. Three features characterise the year of jubilee. (a) All properties that had been sold was to be returned to its original owners/families. (b) The land was to be left uncultivated for the whole year for God has promised double provision for them. (c) All Israelite slaves were to be set free.

This was a period to show mercy and kindness to one another, especially to the poor and the slaves including strangers. Today we are not required to celebrate the feast of jubilee as it was in the Old Testament. However, every born-again child must daily celebrate his freedom from sin and eternal death.

Are you saved? If yes, then do you have the record of the day or period when you accepted Jesus as your Saviour and Friend? If yes, you have reason to celebrate. If your answer is no, then you are still a slave to sin and Satan. Jesus has come to set you free. All you need do is to repent and confess your sins to Him. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing through His blood. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. This step of faith will bring into your life, hope, peace and joy of the Lord. Always remember this period as your time of jubilee.

2. PURPOSE OF THE YEAR OF JUBILEE:
Leviticus 25:1-55; John 8:31-36

God's purpose in instituting this special year was to guarantee justice and to keep the rich from gathering wealth and land at the expense of the poor. Also, these laws ensured that God's people set aside times to acknowledge Him as the giver of all good things. Other reasons for the celebration of the year of jubilee include: (i) Re-uniting family members who had been separated for a

long time. (ii) Celebration of freedom from slavery and bondage. (iii) Establishing closer relationship with God. (iv) Providing opportunity to show love and kindness to one another and partake of God's blessings.

God told the children of Israel that they were not the real owner of the land, for it belongs to Him. They were simply its stewards or caretaker. Similarly, all that we possess as New Testament believers belong to the Lord. We are given these things as stewards who must manage all our resources – (treasure, time and talents) faithfully for God, for ourselves and for others (Matthew 25:14-27).

3. PROMISED BLESSINGS FOR THE OBEDIENT:
Leviticus 25:10,21,22; Deuteronomy 28:1,2; Philippians 4:19

The laws concerning the year of jubilee ensured that God's people set aside times to acknowledge that the provisions from their farm is a gift from the almighty Creator. Obedience to these laws attracts divine blessings. "**Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years**" (Leviticus 25:21).

The children of Israel were to leave the land uncultivated for a whole year. Some of them may be thinking of how they would survive without planting. God who knows all things assured them that if they obey Him in leaving the land fallow, He will give them enough harvest in the sixth year that will last them for three years. They have nothing to fear. This promise is a call to trust God for bountiful provision. We are not to ask questions from God concerning His word. We should rather obey and expect Him to fulfil His promise.

You too will enjoy special blessings from God if you will wholly obey and surrender your life to Jesus. These blessings include – salvation, joy and peace, deliverance, victory over Satan and his agents, divine provisions and protection, answers to prayers, eternity with Christ.

QUESTIONS:
1. What is the meaning of jubilee?
2. Describe the two parts to the celebration of the year of jubilee.
3. What are the features of the year of jubilee?
4. Mention three purposes of the year of jubilee.
5. How can a sinful child be set free from the slavery of sin and Satan?
6. What is the great feast that will take place after the rapture?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family**" (Leviticus 25:10).

LESSON: Jesus has come to save and set us free from sin and Satan.

THOUGHT: I surrender to Jesus and I am free and free indeed.

ACTIVITY: Write out in the lines below the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 220 - WHEN I SAW THE CLEANSING FOUNTAIN

CHORUSES: (1) Jesus sets me free. (2) He has broken every fetter. (3) He sets me free with the Holy Ghost power.

HOMEWORK: Share the love of Jesus with at least two children during the week.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	DEUTERONOMY	15:1-3
TUESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	15:4-6
WEDNESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	15:7,8
THURSDAY	DEUTERONOMY	15:9-11
FRIDAY	DEUTERONOMY	15:12-14
SATURDAY	DEUTERONOMY	15:15-18
SUNDAY	JOHN	8:34-36

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:1. Jubilee 2. Fallow 3. Bountiful 4. instituting 5. Enhance.

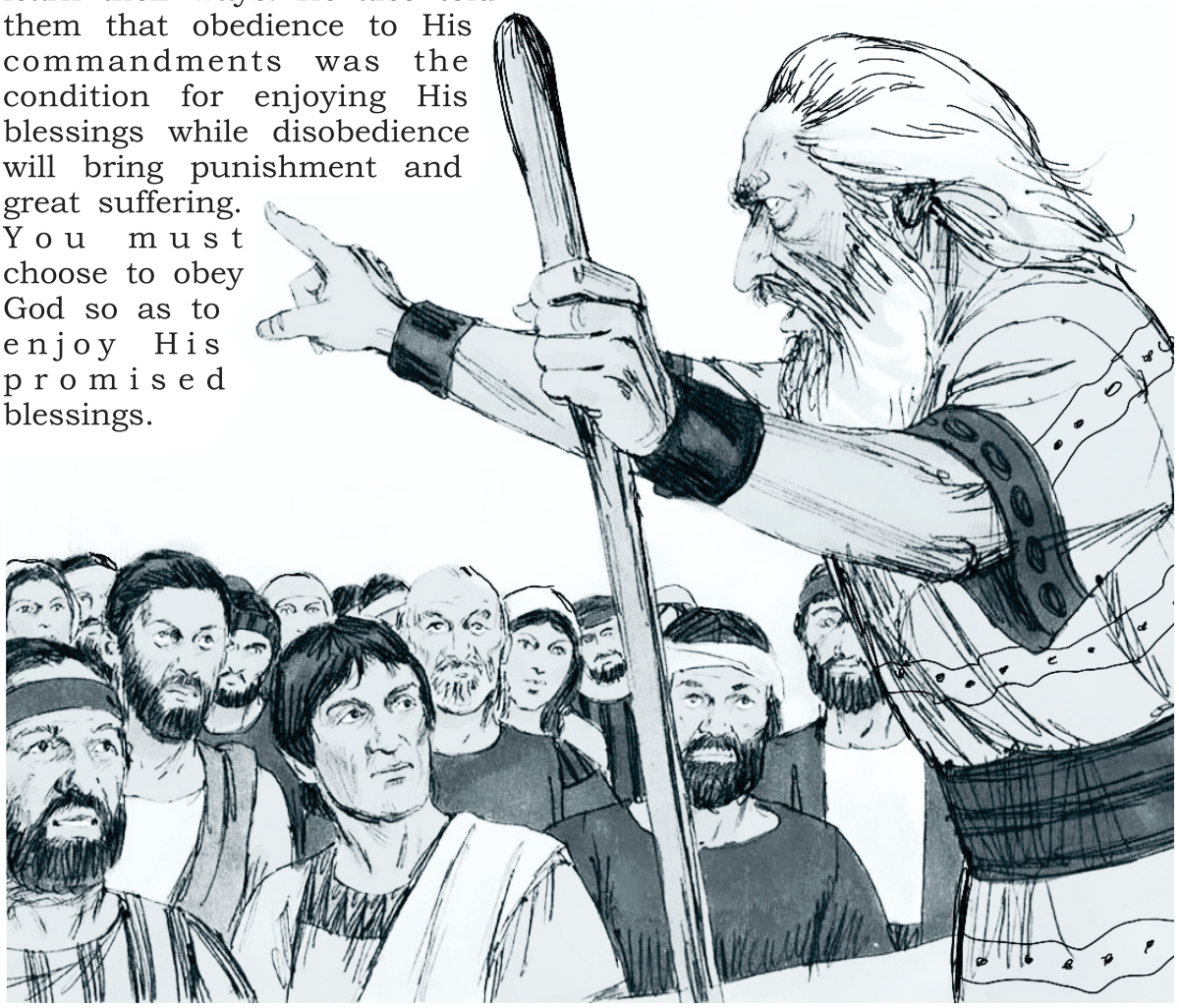
LESSON 30

CONDITIONS FOR BLESSINGS AND CURSES

Leviticus 26:1-46

God gave several commandments to the children of Israel when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; one of such, is the focus of this study. "**Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God**" (Leviticus 26:1). God told Moses to warn the children of Israel against idolatry. This was necessary because: (i) they were used to the idolatrous practices of Egypt. (ii) they were passing through idolatrous nations on their way to the Promised Land. (iii) there were mixed multitudes among them who could introduce them to strange practices (Exodus 12:38). (iv) the surrounding sinful nations in the Promised Land might want to influence them.

God had to warn them not to make friends with such wicked nations or learn their ways. He also told them that obedience to His commandments was the condition for enjoying His blessings while disobedience will bring punishment and great suffering. You must choose to obey God so as to enjoy His promised blessings.



1. CONDITIONS FOR BLESSINGS:

Leviticus 26:1-13; Deuteronomy 28:1-13

God wants every child to obey His word. His instruction to Moses was clear: "**If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit**" (Leviticus 26:3,4). As children of God, we have a part to play in order to enjoy the blessings of God. The word of God says, "**... to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams**" (1 Samuel 15:22b). Obedience to God's instructions as stated in the Bible is very important as we run the race to heaven.

The commandment of God to the Israelites includes the following: one, "**Ye shall make no idols nor graven image, ...**" God hates idolatry and every child of God must run away from it (1 Corinthians 10:14). Two, "**Ye shall keep the sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary ...**" In the new covenant, every Sunday is regarded as the Lord's Day, a day set aside to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth (Revelation 1:10). God's sanctuary is our place of worship and our bodies are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19).

When we keep these commandments, we will enjoy the following blessings: (a) Abundance of the fruits of the earth. (b) Unlimited and continuous supply of all our needs. (c) Peace and divine protection. God promised them: "**And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land**" (Leviticus 26:6). God is faithful to His word. Christian boys and girls are instructed to be faithful to God so that they can enjoy divine security (Psalms 23:4; 91:10-12). (d) Victory and success. Children who are obedient to God's word need not fear the outcome of examinations because the God of Daniel is their God, "**And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm**" (Daniel 1:20). (e) Favour and presence of God; "**And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people**" (Leviticus 26:11,12).

The presence of God is always with His children to guide, protect and keep them from all evil (Matthew 28:20). God will never leave nor forsake you. Only believe and obey His word.

2. CURSES FOR DISOBEDIENCE:

Leviticus 26:14-39; Deuteronomy 27:13-26; 28:15-68;
Jeremiah 12:17

God dislikes disobedience. Children who disobey God will not go unpunished (Leviticus 26:14-16). God will not punish us for the sins committed by someone else. "**...the soul that sinneth, it shall die!**" (Ezekiel 18:2-4). Moses plainly declared the warnings from God to the hearing of the

children of Israel. Just as God pronounced the blessings on the obedient, He also pronounced curses on the disobedient. Christian boys and girls must be careful not to invite the wrath of God upon their lives.

When God brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, He made a covenant with them, that He would bring them into the Promised Land, but they must serve Him in holiness. Unfortunately, many of the children of Israel who left Egypt and saw all the wonders of God, broke this covenant and they were punished by God (Deuteronomy 4:23,24).

A covenant is a two-way agreement. We have our part to play and God has His part to play. But man sometimes fail on his own part. God warned that if they do not obey Him, He would bring evil upon them as punishment. There is nothing like eternal security in the kingdom of God (1 Samuel 2:30). "**Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished ...**" (Proverbs 11:21). Those who were disobedient to God among the children of Israel suffered one punishment or the other and the word of God has not changed. God still punishes sin among His children.

The Bible has records of people who were punished for their sins of disobedience: **Cain** (Genesis 4:9-13), **Lot's wife** (Genesis 19:26), **Nadab and Abihu** (Leviticus 10:1,2), **Miriam** (Numbers 12:1-10), **Korah, Dathan and Abiram** (Numbers 16:31-33), **Achan** (Joshua 7:1,24-26), **sons of Eli** (1 Samuel 2:12-16; 4:11), **Saul** (1 Chronicles 10:13), **Ananias and Sapphira** (Acts 5:1-10).

The good news is that, there is always opportunity to repent as long as the disobedient is still alive. Now that you have the opportunity, do not wait like these bad examples before it is too late.

3. CALL TO REPENTANCE AND RESTORATION:

Leviticus 26:40-46; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 18:8

God will show His mercy to all boys and girls who seek His face in repentance. Disobedience and all kinds of sin separate us from God. Necessary conditions for restoration must be fulfilled before one can be brought back into enjoying the blessings of God. There is need for children who have gone into sin to humble themselves in repentance and stop doing bad things.

In the New Testament period, repentance from sin and faith in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ are required for one to be saved. Therefore, sinners must ask for God's forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. They should invite Him into their hearts as Saviour and Lord. They must continue to live a holy life and follow Christ to the end.

QUESTIONS:

1. God gave commandments to the children of Israel through _____ their leader.
2. List the commandments given to the children of Israel in our Bible passage.
3. What are the blessings for obeying God's word?

4. Mention the consequences of disobeying God's commandments.
5. Give examples of people in the Bible who were punished as a result of disobedience.
6. How can a sinner be saved so as to enjoy God's blessings?

MEMORY VERSE: "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit" (Leviticus 26:3,4).

LESSON: God's blessings are only for those who obey His Word.

THOUGHT: I will obey the word of God.

ACTIVITY: Write out one thing you will do each day of the week to show obedience to God's word.

Monday _____
Tuesday _____
Wednesday _____
Thursday _____
Friday _____
Saturday _____
Sunday _____

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 43 - TRUST AND OBEY

CHORUSES: (1) Obedience is the very best way. (2) I am ready to obey Thy word. (3) Abraham's blessings are mine.

HOMEWORK: Read Deuteronomy 28:1-13 and write out all the blessings promised to obedient children.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	DEUTERONOMY	10:12-14
TUESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	10:15-17
WEDNESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	11:1-3
THURSDAY	DEUTERONOMY	11:22-25
FRIDAY	DEUTERONOMY	11:26-29
SATURDAY	DEUTERONOMY	28:14-15
SUNDAY	JOSHUA	24: 14-16

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Focus 2. Wrath 3. Curse 4. Restoration 5. Security.

LESSON 31

LAW OF VOWS AND DEDICATIONS

Leviticus 27:1-34

God is the Creator of the heaven and the earth. He made man in His own image; therefore, He solely owns us and all that we possess. Yet, God has given us the freedom to willingly surrender and give back to Him all that He has given us. Your body, soul, spirit, talents, treasures, time and everything in your possessions belongs to God. Do not withhold anything from the Lord. Surrender all to Him.

In our Bible passage, God gave the children of Israel specific commandments on how to make vows, pay their tithes and dedicate all that they possess to Him. The same commandment is coming to you today. God wants us to make vows to serve Him with all our mind, soul and spirit, pay our tithes and dedicate our lives to serve Him faithfully and acceptably. Obedience to these commandments will bring abundant blessings to your life.



1. EXPRESS COMMAND ON VOWS AND GIVING OF TITHES:
Leviticus 27:1-34; Numbers 30:1-4; Deuteronomy 23:23;
Matthew 15:4-6

"**And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When a man shall make a singular vow, the persons shall be for the LORD by thy estimation**" (Leviticus 27:1,2). This is a direct command from God to the children of Israel through Moses. This command deals with things vowed to the Lord such as persons, animals, houses and land. A vow is a voluntary pledge to God to perform some service or do something pleasing to Him.

The people were commanded to surrender all that they have to God. Our Bible passage begins with vows involving animals, dedication of houses, properties and first born of animals to God. It emphasises the fact that when a person makes a pledge to God, that person must be faithful to that pledge. God requires that born again boys and girls be faithful in doing all that they promise so that they might reflect His faithfulness and enjoy His promised blessings.

The passage concludes with instructions about tithes. Of all that the land produced, whether seeds or fruits, one-tenth was to be reserved for the Lord. A tithe is one tenth of our income like pocket money or gift we receive from people. This one-tenth belongs to God and must be given to Him through the church. God gave these commandments to the children of Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai so that they might dwell at peace with Him in the land of promise.

This same command is coming to you now. God wants you to surrender your life to Him, serve and honour Him with your substance by regularly paying your tithes and offering. Then the door of blessings will be opened to you such that your storehouse will be filled to overflowing.

2. EXAMPLES OF VOWS AND TITHES IN THE BIBLE:
Leviticus 27:1-34; Malachi 3:10-12

There are powerful testimonies in the Bible about people who made vows to God, performed their vows and were greatly blessed. These include:
(i) Abraham – Genesis 14:17-20. He gave Melchizedek a tenth of all in gratitude for the help and grace of God. This is the first time tithing is mentioned in the Bible.
(ii) Jacob - Genesis 28:16-22; 31:13. He promised to set up a house to worship God and also dedicated his life to God alone.
(iii) Jephthah – Judges 11:30,31,39. A warrior who vowed to give whatever comes out first to meet him at his return from the warfront. God gave him victory in battle and he fulfilled his vow by presenting his daughter to God as a living sacrifice. She devoted her entire life to live holy and serve God.
(iv) Hannah – 1 Samuel 1:9-11,20,25-28. Hannah is an example of a faithful promise keeper. From the time she first desired to have a child, she prayerfully and purposefully presented her child before the Lord. She regarded her son as

a gracious gift from God. She fulfilled her vow by dedicating Samuel to the Lord.
(v) Paul – Acts 18:18. In the course of his missionary journey, Paul made a vow that will enable him to be able to reach out to the people who do not believe in Jesus. He was all things to all men so that he can effectively preach the gospel to them.

We may not follow the Old Testament ceremonies of making vows, Jesus has made everything simple for us through His death on the cross. All that a child need do is offer himself to God. Firstly, as a sinner, repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Ask Jesus into your life to be your personal Saviour and Lord. Secondly, surrender your life, time, talent, material, education and everything for God's use. Pay your tithe regularly. Be involved in the work of evangelism and building the body of Christ.

As you make a vow to follow Jesus, do not go back. Fulfil your promise and enjoy abundant blessings from God. Remember, whatever you have vowed to give to God must be done willingly and with a cheerful heart.

3. ETERNAL REWARDS AND REASONS FOR MAKING VOWS AND PAYING TITHES:

Leviticus 27:1-34; Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-14

We make vows, and determine to pay such vows for the following reasons:

(i) To show our obedience to God who commands us to dedicate our lives to Him through vows and paying of tithes.
(ii) To honour God.
(iii) As a mark of surrenderedness, accepting the fact that God owns us and all that we have.
(iv) As an opportunity to give back to God what He has given to us.
(v) Serves as open door to help the poor and needy.
(vi) As a way of storing up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20).

Obedience to God's command will open the door to God's blessings and continuous fellowship with Him. Now is the time to make your vow, pledge and surrender your life to Jesus so He can use you for His own purpose. Eternal rewards await the obedient.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is a vow?
2. What did God command the children of Israel to do in our Bible passage?
3. Mention three examples of people who vowed and paid what they vowed.
4. Mention four reasons for making vows and paying tithes.
5. How can a child make a vow to God as a (i) sinner (ii) friend of Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE: "**Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When a man shall make a singular vow, the persons shall be for the LORD by thy estimation**" (Leviticus 27:2).

LESSON: Obedience to God's command on vows brings blessings.

THOUGHT: I will pay my vows and serve God faithfully.

ACTIVITY: Scripture hunt: The teacher should call out the following Bible passages one at a time. The first child to search and locate any of the passages stands, reads and says one lesson he has learnt from the passage. Genesis 28:20-22; 14:18-20; Malachi 3:10; Judges 11:30,31,35; 1 Samuel 1:11; Jonah 2:9; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 92 - I SURRENDER ALL

CHORUSES: (1) All I have is given to me by the Lord. (2) All that I have (3ce) I give to Jesus. (3) Give, it shall be given unto you.

HOMEWORK: Search the Bible and write in your homework book, the names of two people who made vows and fulfilled their vows.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	DEUTERONOMY	23: 21-23
TUESDAY	GENESIS	28:15-18
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	28:19-22
THURSDAY	MALACHI	3:10-12
FRIDAY	NUMBERS	30:1-4
SATURDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	9:6-9
SUNDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	9:10-15

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Vows 2. Dedication 3. Commandments 4. Voluntary 5. Reserved.

LESSON 32

CENSUS OF ISRAEL AND DUTIES OF THE LEVITES

Numbers 1:1-54; 2:1-34; 3:1-51; 4:1-49

Census means counting or numbering of people living in a country and collecting information about them. The book of Numbers is so named based on the two numberings (census) of the children of Israel, the first being at Mount Sinai and the second at the plains of Moab. This study describes the complete obedience of Moses, Aaron and the leaders of the tribes of Israel to the details of the divine instruction for the numbering of Israel.

Taking a census emphasized that each individual was important to God's redemptive purpose and that the nation's activity was to be directed and fully accountable to God alone. God has a record in the book of life of all who have surrendered their lives to Christ. Is your name among them?



1. THE CENSUS OF ISRAEL:

Numbers 1:1-54; 3:1-51

"**Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls; From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies**" (Numbers 1:2,3). Israel needed to raise an army to fight their battles, therefore, God gave Moses the standard for raising armies from the various tribes of Israel. Those counted were young males above twenty years.

The assignment was too much for Moses and Aaron to carry out. So, God named twelve leaders across the tribes to assist them. The Bible says: "**And with you there shall be a man of every tribe; every one head of the house of his fathers. And these are the names of the men that shall stand with you: of the tribe of Reuben; Elizur the son of Shedeur**" (Numbers 1:4,5). This clearly shows that God knows every boy and girl by name. God called Samuel, Elijah, Apostle Peter, Apostle Paul and some other believers by name.

Whenever God calls a person to do special work for Him, He raises up specific people with different spiritual gifts and talents to assist him. Doing God's work alone without the help of others could lead to carelessness and weariness. The total number of people counted was six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty (603,550). God commanded Moses not to number the Levites among Israel because their duty was to serve in the sanctuary.

There is a census going on every day of all that surrender to Christ. As soon as a sinner repents and accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, his name is written in the Book of Life. At the end of this world, God will open His book and only those whose names are in the Book of Life will enter God's kingdom to reign with Jesus. If your name is not in the Book of Life, you need to repent now. Ask Jesus to forgive and cleanse your heart with His blood. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Never go back to your old sinful ways but rather live in righteousness and holiness of life. This is the only way you will be numbered among the redeemed.

2. THE COMMAND AND REASONS FOR THE CENSUS:

Numbers 1:3,20; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 6:10-18

The command to conduct a census for Israel is not just to count them for counting sake. It is for divine purpose. It was to organise Israel into a nation and an army. God knows that they would be confronted with many enemy nations. These will want to hinder them from getting to the Promised Land. They need a well-trained and organised army to fight their battles. Secondly, it was to make room for proper worship, letting Israel know that God alone should be the centre of their affection and worship. Thirdly, it was to show

Israel that they were special to God and should be different from the other nations around them.

Friends of Jesus are on their journey to heaven. In view of this, Satan is not happy. Therefore, he uses his agents and weapons to fight against them. It could be through temptations, trials, troubles, discouragement, hunger, sickness, false teachers and others. We should always remember that we are in the army of the Lord. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to pull down all strongholds. You must therefore determine to defend the faith, stand for the truth and live by it. As you do all these, you will overcome and make it to heaven, our promised land at last.

3. CALL OF THE LEVITES AND THEIR DUTIES:

Numbers 3:1-51; 4:1-49; Leviticus 10:1-10

The Levites were not numbered with the other tribes and were not included in any of the ranks. They were to offer special service to God. The first two sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, died mysteriously after offering a strange fire before the Lord. To know the exact number of the Levites, God commanded Moses to count them in two categories: firstly, every male from a month old and upwards (Numbers 3:15) and secondly, the males from thirty to fifty years old (Numbers 4:3,23,30).

The Levites were specially called by God to do special work in God's house. They were to: (a) Take care of God's tabernacle (place of worship). (b) Keep all the instruments used for worship. (c) Teach the people the word of God. (d) Assist the priest in his service before the Lord. (e) Carry the ark of God and care for it. As special people called to do special work, they were to be totally separated from the other tribes and other duties in the congregation. Total separation from societal influence and consecration to God's service is what is expected from every child of God.

You are to be separated from worldly things such as music, dance, dressing, games, plays and others. Then be set apart for God's use. As the Levites were set apart for God's service in the temple work, so all friends of Jesus, as New Testament Levites, are to surrender themselves to the service of the Lord. Be involved in evangelism in your community. Give willingly for the work of God. Support mission work with your prayers and gifts. Attend church service/fellowship regularly. Be an example of believer to other children. Support your parents' ministerial work. As you do all these, the blessings of the Lord will come upon your life.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God command Moses to number Israel?
2. What do we learn from the appointment of some individuals to assist Moses and Aaron in the work?
3. Why were the Levites not counted with the other tribes in Israel?
4. What were the duties of the Levites?

5. God has a record of the names of born-again children in the _____.
6. How can a sinful child be numbered among God's children?

MEMORY VERSE: "Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls" (Numbers 1:2).

LESSON: God has record of all true friends of Jesus.

THOUGHT: I will become a true friend of Jesus so that I will be numbered among the redeemed.

ACTIVITY: Read Numbers 1:1-3 and 1 Chronicles 21:1-8 and write out two important lessons you learnt from the two passages.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 52 - COUNT ME

CHORUSES: (1) I am a soldier in the army. (2) Are you in that number? (3) Oh, when the saints go marching in.

HOMEWORK: Pray for at least 10 minutes that God will give you the grace to serve Him well and be numbered among His children.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	30:11-14
TUESDAY	NUMBERS	26:1-4
WEDNESDAY	NUMBERS	26:62-65
THURSDAY	1 CHRONICLES	21:1-3
FRIDAY	1 CHRONICLES	21:4-7
SATURDAY	REVELATION	21:22-27
SUNDAY	REVELATION	20:11-15

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

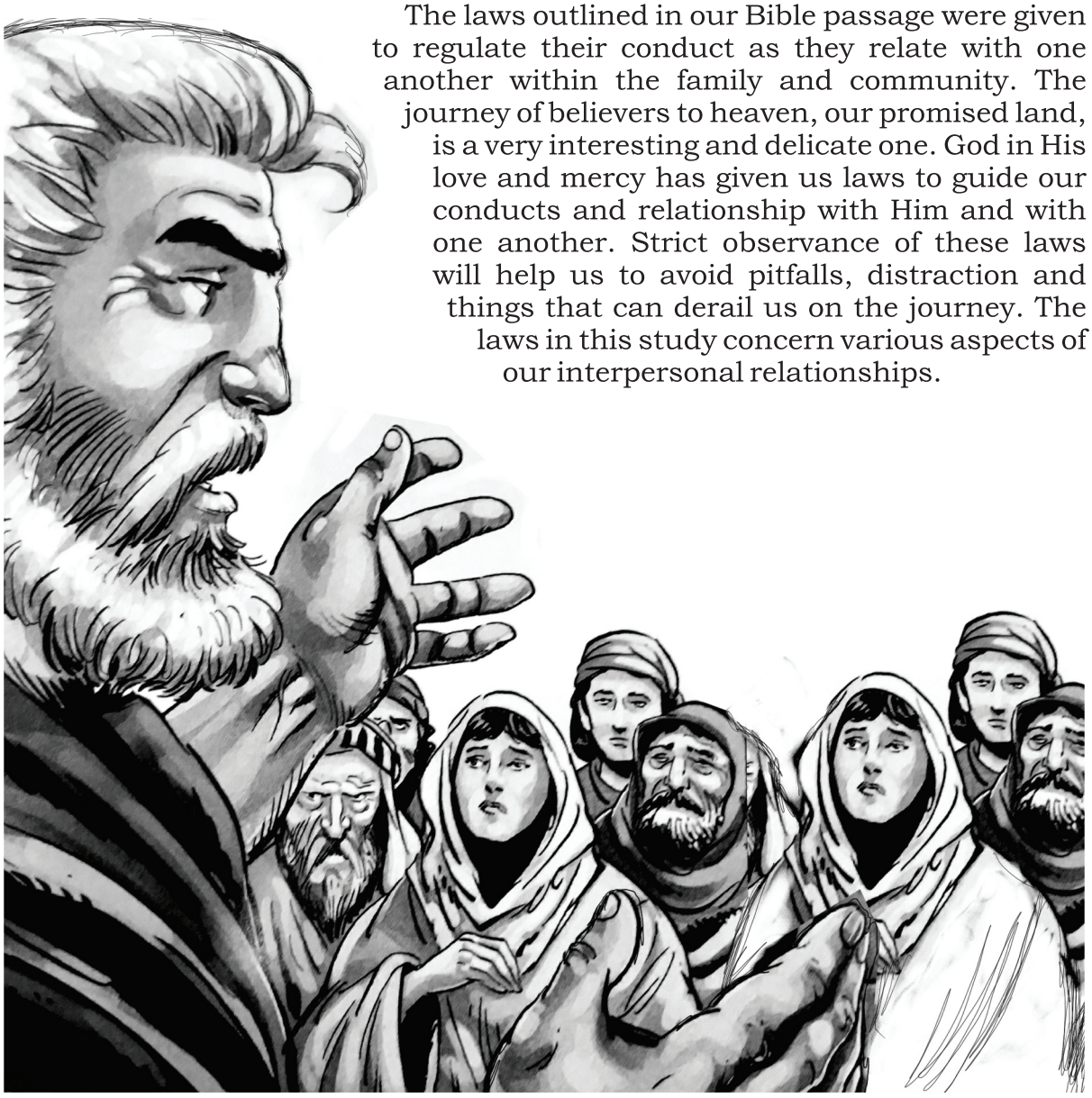
Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Census 2. Conduct 3. Confronted 4. Levites 5. Redemptive.

LESSON 33

PRESERVATION OF HOLINESS AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE

Numbers 5:1-31

Most of the laws given directly to Israel through Moses were often restated in other books of the Bible. This is to serve as reminder and also to emphasize the importance of obeying them for their maximum benefits. As the children of Israel continued their journey in the wilderness, God continued to remind them of the things they need to do to continually enjoy His presence and favour.



The laws outlined in our Bible passage were given to regulate their conduct as they relate with one another within the family and community. The journey of believers to heaven, our promised land, is a very interesting and delicate one. God in His love and mercy has given us laws to guide our conducts and relationship with Him and with one another. Strict observance of these laws will help us to avoid pitfalls, distraction and things that can derail us on the journey. The laws in this study concern various aspects of our interpersonal relationships.

1. LAWS CONCERNING UNCLEANNESS AND HEALTHY LIVING:

Numbers 5:1-4; Leviticus 13:1-6; 15:1-7

The laws here deal with problems likely to arise where people lived close to each other in a community. People who were ceremonially unclean, whether through disease (especially leprosy) or any other cause were put outside the camp. The spiritual significance of this was that it demonstrated that uncleanness could not be tolerated in a community where the holy God dwells.

The practical benefit was that it helped prevent the spread of infectious disease. The focus on purity or holiness indicates that the Lord was not only concerned about the uncleanness of individuals, but also the effects that the impurity would have on the sacred assembly. If they want God to dwell in their midst, both the people and the environment had to be pure.

Sin and impurity negatively affect the individual, nation and sanctuary; so, holiness in all areas must be preserved at all costs. Leprosy is a symbol of sin, therefore it made people ceremonially unclean and unable to join in the religious activity of the community till they were healed and ceremonially cleansed. Secondly, public health had to be protected by separating infected people from the camp and destroying anything that might spread the disease to others.

All these are geared towards maintaining holiness among God's people. The demand for holy living is still the same for the New Testament Church. God calls us to be holy both in our outward appearance and conduct. As a leper is being separated from the people, so will a sinner be eternally separated from Christ to suffer in hell-fire. To be free from such suffering, sinners must repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Then they must desire and pray for sanctification and grace to live a holy life.

2. LAWS CONCERNING RESTITUTION:

Numbers 5:5-10; Leviticus 5:14-16; 6:1-7; Luke 19:6-8

When people, through carelessness caused harm or loss to others, they had to confess their wrong, present a sin offering and pay back the loss, together with a fine amounting to one-fifth of its value. If the offended party or a near relative could not be found, the offender had to make the repayment and the fine to the priests instead! The attention here was on interpersonal relationship within the camp, especially where there was an offence between individuals. Any offence within the community was viewed as unfaithfulness against the Lord, and so confession and restitution were required.

Restitution is the act of making right the wrong done to another person. It involves making apologies for lies told against another or false accusation, returning stolen items to original owners, taking responsibilities for repair to damaged items and seeking to make peace with one another. Just as the unclean had to be removed from the camp, the cause of conflict and disagreement among children of God must be dealt with to maintain wholesome purity in the fellowship.

Are you saved from sin through cleansing by the blood of Jesus? If yes, then you need to make your way right through restitution. Return all stolen items, seek for pardon from those you have damaged their properties, make peace with those you have offended and ask for their forgiveness. This is the only way to have a conscience void (free) of offence towards God and man.

3. LIVING AND MAINTAINING PURITY IN THE FAMILY:
Numbers 5:11-31; Exodus 20:14; Ephesians 5:1-12; Leviticus 18:20

The instructions given in this section is about how to test, detect and punish the sin of immorality in the family. God hates sin of any kind especially immoral behaviour either by a man, woman, boy or girl. The law is to warn the people so that they will not be involved in sexual relationship outside marriage. God's children (men, women, boys and girls) must abstain from every form of immoral behaviour – adultery, fornication, boyfriend/girlfriend relationship, rape, incest, pornography and dirty or foul language that arouse sexual interest. Every member of the family must strive to maintain holiness in the home.

Sin is contagious and must be dealt with before it spreads and destroys the entire family. This is the reason God calls us to be holy. Purity of life is essential because it will attract God's protection, favour and blessings. It is holiness that will make us qualified to see God and enjoy eternal blessings.

If you are a sinner, you need to repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Ask Jesus to come into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour. Then you pray that the Lord should sanctify your heart and make you holy. It pays to live a holy life and to encourage others to do so.

QUESTIONS:
1. Why were the laws given to Israel repeated in many books of the Bible?
2. Why was a person with leprosy put outside the camp?
3. What does leprosy signify?
4. What should a sinner do to receive cleansing from sin?
5. Mention two important laws relating to other personal and family relationship.
6. How should members of the family maintain purity in the home?
7. What are the benefits of living a holy life?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, When a man or woman shall commit any sin that men commit, to do a trespass against the LORD, and that person be guilty; Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed**" (Numbers 5:5-7).

LESSON: God wants all friends of Jesus to be free from sin and live a holy life.

THOUGHT: I will remain holy all the days of my life.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill – Leviticus 11:44; Exodus 19:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:15; Hebrews 12:14; Ephesians 5:3

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 189 - TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

CHORUSES: (1) Holiness, holiness, holiness, the kingdom of God is holy. (2) Give me oil in my lamp. (3) Lord I want to be like Jesus inner my heart.

HOMEWORK: Pray for your family.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	GENESIS	17:1-3
TUESDAY	EXODUS	20:12-17
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	22:33-36
THURSDAY	EXODUS	22:1-3
FRIDAY	ROMANS	12: 1-3
SATURDAY	EPHESIANS	5:1-5
SUNDAY	EPHESIANS	5:6-10

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Preservation 2. Uncleanness 3. Impurity 4. Restitution 5. Wholesome.

LESSON 34

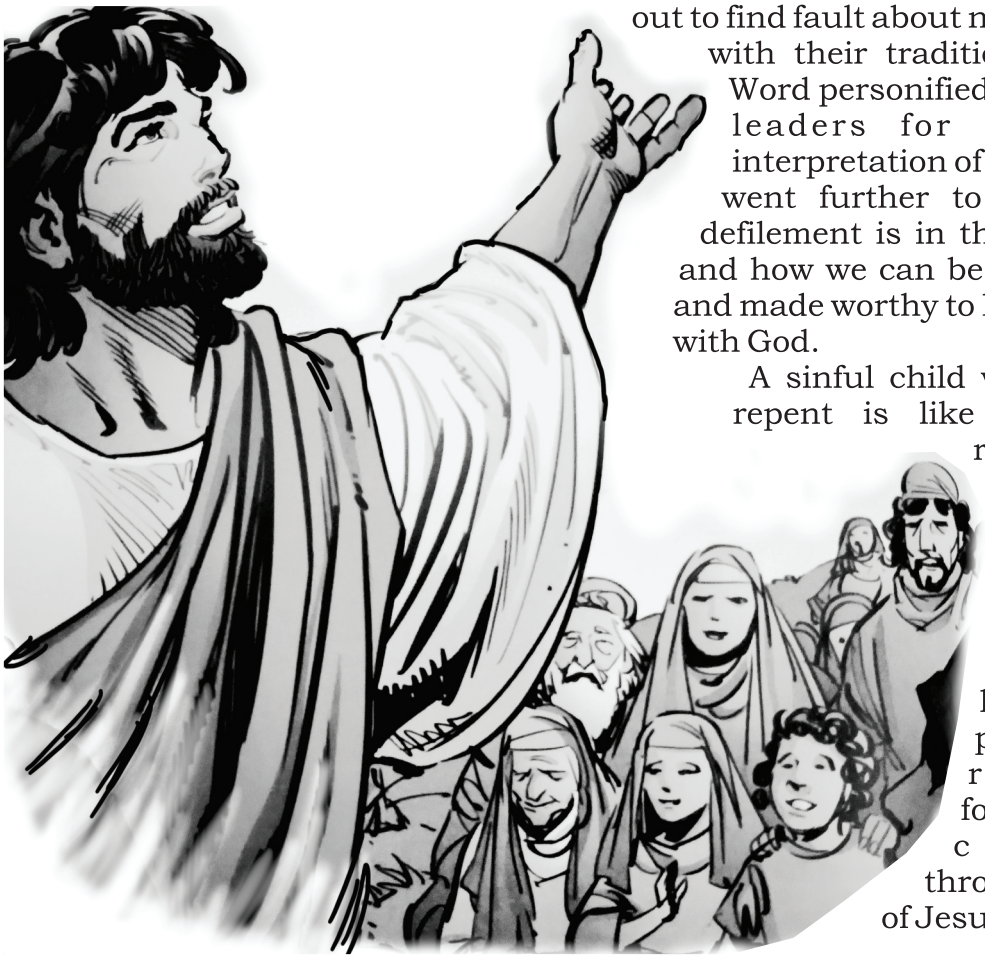
JESUS' EXPLANATION ON DEFILEMENT

Mark 7:1-37

Defilement means to make someone or something dirty and unfit for holy use. Other words that have the same meaning as defilement are contamination, corruption and pollution.

God is holy and absolutely clean therefore, He hates anything that is unclean. He gave His people specific commandments on what to do in order to remain clean and fit to have fellowship with Him. These commandments are contained in His word – the Holy Bible. However, the religious leaders at the time of Jesus' earthly ministry decided to add their own man-made laws to the word of God. These laws are known as the elders' traditions. In fact, these laws were elevated above the real truth of God's word. These religious rulers were so concerned about the man-made laws that they were always seeking ways to accuse Jesus and His disciples.

In our Bible passage, some Pharisees and Scribes came from Jerusalem to where Jesus was ministering. They did not see the good works that Jesus was doing among the people. They were only out to find fault about non-compliance with their tradition. Jesus, the Word personified rebuked these leaders for their wrong interpretation of God's word. He went further to explain what defilement is in the sight of God and how we can be truly cleansed and made worthy to have fellowship with God.



A sinful child who refuses to repent is like the religious rulers. Such a child is unclean and dirty before God. All he needs do is to acknowledge his sinfulness, pray and receive forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus.

1. JESUS CORRECTS THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS:

Mark 7:1-16; Matthew 15:1-9; Isaiah 29:13

During the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, there were some people referred to as religious leaders. They were different from the political leaders of the day. These religious rulers were the custodians (keepers) of the oracles of God (Law of Moses). They were set apart to teach the people God's word. They were the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes. They consider themselves as people who have authority to interpret God's word. However, because of their position, they went beyond their duty to add their own rules and regulations to the word of God. These rules are referred to as the Elder's traditions. These religious rulers became so proud that they now elevated their traditions above God's word.

When Jesus came and started teaching the truth about God's kingdom, it did not go down well with these leaders. They always sought occasion to accuse Jesus and His disciples of not obeying their traditions. One of such tradition is the ceremonial cleansing of the body. The law prescribes the washing of hands in a certain way so as to become fit to serve God. It is a law that deals only with outward cleansing without taking into consideration the cleanliness of the heart which is far more important.

Jesus was not happy with the bad attitudes of these rulers. He rebuked them, calling them hypocrites. They were people who pretend to be one thing when they are actually something else. Jesus corrected them not just because they accused His disciples but for the following reasons. (i) They have corrupted the word of God. (ii) They elevated their man-made traditions above God's word. (iii) They were not ready to serve God in truth and holiness. (iv) The religious rulers were leading the people astray and away from eternal life. Jesus has come to seek and save the lost. He does not want anything that will hinder sinners from knowing the truth that will set them free.

Children who pretend to be obedient while in church but are stubborn at home and school are hypocrites. Jesus wants to set you free today. Do not reject Him like the religious rulers did. Come to Him now and He will accept you.

2. JESUS' EXPLANATION ON DEFILEMENT:

Mark 7:17-23; Matthew 15:10-20

Having corrected the religious leaders, Jesus now explain to us the things that can defile a person. He made us to understand that it is not what goes into the body through the mouth that causes spiritual defilement. It is rather those things that arise from within the heart of a person that defile him or her. He reminds us that what goes into the body passes through the alimentary carnal down to the anus where it goes into the toilet. It goes in one end and comes out through the other, but it does not affect the heart or our inner man. If it is unhygienic, it can cause sickness in the body but not sickness of the soul. It is good to observe the rules of hygiene but it cannot replace the word of God.

Jesus now gives us a list of the attitudes and actions that cause spiritual defilement. These are the things that make us unclean in the sight of God. These include:
Evil thoughts, immoral relationship, murder (through direct killing, abortion and slander), thefts (stealing), covetousness, wickedness, malice, deceit, lasciviousness (shameless behaviour), evil eye (jealousy, envy), pride, blasphemy and foolishness. All these things come from the heart and defile the sinner.

The point of Jesus' explanation is not to condemn the sinner but to provide a way for him to be saved. Is your heart defiled with sin? Jesus is knocking at the door, open to Him by acknowledging your sinful state, repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing through His shed blood. Forsake all sins and ask Him to come into your heart to be your Saviour and Lord. Continue to follow Jesus so as to enjoy other blessings that He has in store for you.

3. JESUS HEALS AND DELIVERS:
Mark 7:24-37

The last section of our Bible passage reveals an interesting story of Jesus' encounter with a stranger. A woman who was not a Jew, heard about Jesus and came to Him because of her sick daughter. At first, Jesus spoke to her in order to test her faith. The woman passed the test by her words and action of faith. You must trust God even when it seems the answer to your prayers is delayed. Jesus sees your tears, and He will answer and help you at the right time.

Jesus went ahead to set the woman's daughter free through His word. This was to further prove to the religious leaders that Jewish tradition of not associating with strangers has no place in God's word. Jesus helped the woman and also healed a man that was deaf and dump. The greatest command in God's word is centred on LOVE. To love God with all our mind and soul. Also, to love our neighbours as ourselves. On these two commandments stand the law and the prophets.

If you love God, you will surrender to Christ and serve Him in righteousness and holiness all the days of your life. Also, if you love your neighbour as yourself, you will not do anything that will harm him, but rather share the love of Jesus with him as the man who was healed did (Mark 7:36). Pray now so that you will be totally cleansed and made fit for God's service.

QUESTIONS:
1. Defilement means _____
2. Who were the religious leaders at the time of Jesus' earthly ministry?
3. The religious rulers accused Jesus' disciples of _____
4. According to Jesus' explanation, what are the things that defile a person?
5. What step should a child that is defiled with sin take to be free?

MEMORY VERSE: "There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man" (Mark 7:15).

LESSON: God is concerned about the total cleansing of our heart.

THOUGHT: I surrender my heart to Jesus for total cleansing.

ACTIVITY: Search the Scriptures and write out two passages where Jesus had encounter with the religious leaders. Read and write out the lessons you learnt from those passages.

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

CHORUSES: (1) Obedience is the very best way ... (2) You shall be holy unto me, for I the Lord I'm holy. (3) It is a great thing to serve the Lord.

HOMEWORK: Share the love of Jesus with at least one person during the week.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW	15:1,2
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	15:3-6
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	15:7-9
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	15:15-20
FRIDAY	ISAIAH	1:11-15
SATURDAY	ISAIAH	1:16-19
SUNDAY	PSALM	15:1-5

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Defilement 2. Religious 3. Hypocrites 4. Corrupt 5. Lasciviousness.

LESSON 35

JESUS WARNS AGAINST HELL

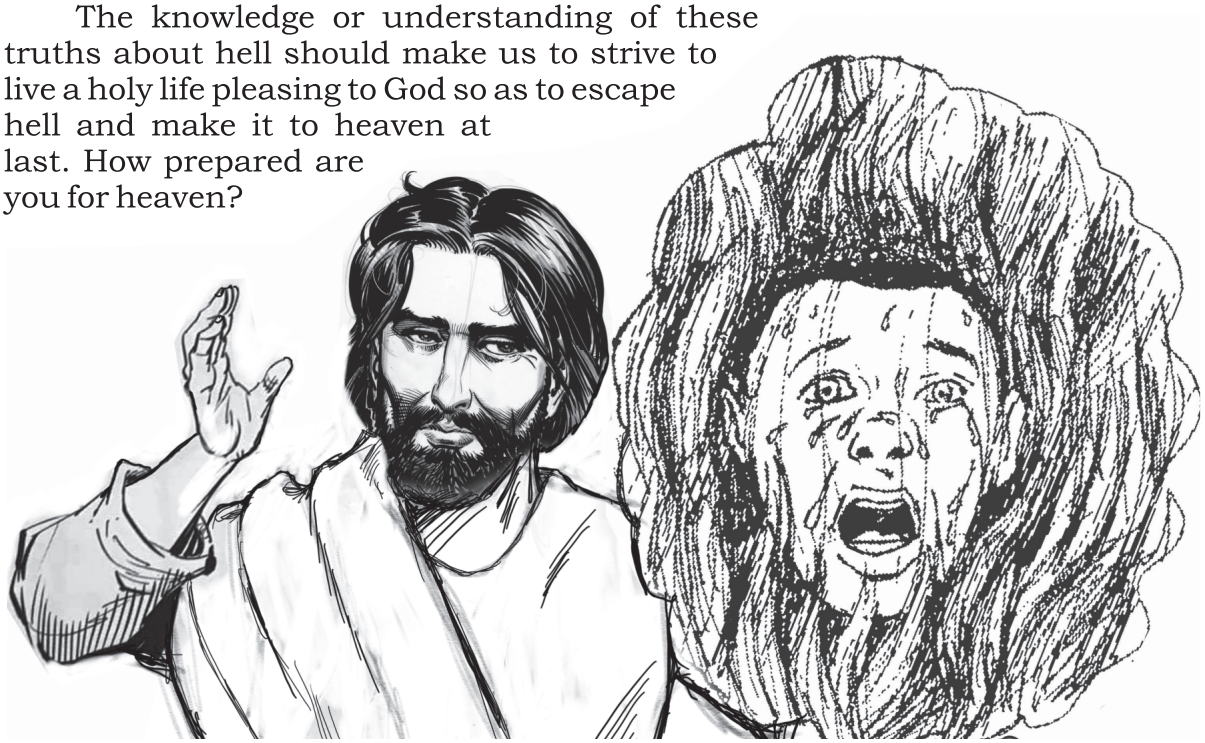
Mark 9:30-50; Luke 16:19-31

The book of Luke 16:19-31 contains the account of a rich man who lived a life of extreme luxury. Laid outside the gate of this rich man's house was an extremely poor man named Lazarus who simply hoped to eat what "**fell from the rich man's table.**" The rich man was completely unconcerned and uncaring about the situation of Lazarus, showing him no love, sympathy or compassion.

Eventually, they both died. Lazarus was carried to heaven by the angel while the rich man went to hell. While in hell, the rich man lifted up his eyes and saw Lazarus in the bosom of Father Abraham. He then requested Lazarus to be sent to cool his tongue with a drop of water to lessen his agony in the fire. The rich man also asked Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth to warn his brothers to repent so that they would not join him in hell.

Both requests were denied and Abraham made the rich man to understand that if his brothers did not believe the Bible neither will they believe a messenger sent from heaven. There are many lessons to learn from this great story from Christ Himself. (i) Jesus teaches all that heaven and hell are both real. (ii) The story also illustrates that once we cross over to the other side of life at death, there is no turning back or chance of repentance. (iii) When a believer dies, he is immediately taken into everlasting fellowship and joy in heaven. On the other hand, when a sinner dies, he goes into hell to suffer and burn forever.

The knowledge or understanding of these truths about hell should make us to strive to live a holy life pleasing to God so as to escape hell and make it to heaven at last. How prepared are you for heaven?



1. THE WORMS AND FIRE OF HELL:

Mark 9:30-50; Luke 16:19-26; 12:3-5; Psalm 9:15-17;
Revelation 20:11-15

Hell is a real place that was originally prepared for Satan and the fallen angels. In the beginning, when God created man, He wanted them to be like Him and live forever. Alas, Satan came, deceived man (Adam and Eve) and made him disobey God. Then disobedience brought separation and loss of fellowship with God. Satan who deceived man have been sentenced to hell with the angels who rebelled against God. Therefore, he is going about to seek people who will join him in hell-fire (Isaiah 14:9-17).

Hell is a terrible place that no language on earth can accurately describe. It is a place of torment where real unquenchable fire will burn its inhabitants day and night. Hell is a place of suffering and eternal regret. The worms in hell are so ferocious that they will not die but rather continue to bite the people in the fire. Hell is a place of great darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:30). Hell is also a place of final eternal separation from God's presence and fellowship.

Death is the doorway to either hell or heaven as we have seen in the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Both have a choice laid out before them as we also have a choice. The rich man's life was consumed in self-centred living. He made the wrong choice and suffered eternally. Lazarus lived all his life in poverty, but his heart was right with God. His name means “God is my help”, and he never gave up his faith in God.

He died and was immediately taken to Abraham's bosom in heaven. Hell is real and heaven is real also. It is the individual that will choose where he or she wants to spend eternity. This is the reason Jesus warns us so that we will choose the path that will lead us to heaven.

2. WARNING AGAINST HELL:

Mark 9:42-50; Luke 16:27-31; Psalm 9:17; Matthew 5:22-30;
2 Peter 2:1-9

Jesus our Saviour, Redeemer, Lord, King, Creator of heaven and earth and the One who will judge the world has warned and is still warning us to beware of “hell.” God is patient and longsuffering. Because of these attributes, He always warns sinners before punishing them. He sent Noah to build an ark and warn the people of the danger of rejecting His offer of security and safety in the Ark. Noah obeyed and spent one hundred and twenty years warning the people but they refused. At last the flood came and swept them into hell.

Also, Abraham was sent by God to intercede for Sodom. He even sent angels to warn them. Yet the people refused to heed God's warning but chose to burn in hell. Jesus through the word of God is still warning us today. He even said that if our eyes, foot or any part of the body will hinder us from getting to heaven, we should do away with it. What this means is that we must not allow

anything in this world to hinder us from living a life that pleases God so that we can live with Him in heaven at last.

The rich man, being concerned about his brothers who were still alive, wanted Lazarus to go and warn them. But even the miracle of someone rising from death would not cause such people to give up their selfish ways. They had the message of salvation in the word of God. If they rejected that, nothing else could save them.

The word of God is still the same today. It teaches us that there is heaven for the righteous and hell-fire for the sinners. Which one do you choose? Choose to live a righteous life so that you can escape hell and get to heaven at last.

3. THE WAY OF ESCAPE FROM ETERNAL PUNISHMENT IN HELL:

Mark 9:30-50; Luke 16:29; Genesis 19:15-17; Matthew 11:28-30; John 3:1-7,16-18; 14:1-6; Acts 2:21; 4:12

From Bible accounts, we learn that many people had opportunity to be saved but neglected it and they perished. On the other hand, there are few who received the warning from the Lord and escaped hell. Two examples are: (a) The second thief on the cross – he narrowly escaped hell because he accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord (Luke 23:40-43). (b) Stephen – He endured persecution as he was being stoned to death. Heaven opened and he saw Christ welcoming him to heaven. It was a glorious escape from the corruption of this world.

These two examples show us the way to escape from the destruction and judgment coming upon this wicked and corrupt world. (i) Like the thief on the cross, a sinner must – believe the good news that Jesus died on the cross to save him – acknowledge that he is a sinner; confess all his sins to God; repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus; ask Jesus to be his Saviour and Lord. From now on, he must strive to live a life pleasing unto God. Jesus is the only way of escape, accept Him now.

(ii) As a believer, you must desire and pray to be sanctified so as to have power like Stephen to live a holy live. Pray for grace and determination to be salt of the earth, endure persecution as good soldier of the cross and be at peace with others. Warn sinners of the danger of hell and show them the way of escape through the preaching of the gospel. Watch, pray and wait for the coming of the Lord.

Children should always remember that two ways of life and two ends lie before them with a great gulf fixed between them. Therefore, choose life by following Jesus to the end (John 14:6).

QUESTIONS:

1. Hell is a real place. Yes/No?
2. _____ warns us against hell.
3. Hell is a place of _____, _____, _____
4. Who is the way of escape from hell?

5. What should a (i) sinful child (ii) saved child do to escape hell?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched**" (Mark 9:47,48).

LESSON: Hell is real and dangerous.

THOUGHT: I will do away with everything that can take me to hell.

ACTIVITY: Prayer and altar call.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 208 - THE GREAT JUDGMENT MORNING

CHORUSES: (1) One day be one day, the sinner child go find himself for hell fire. (2) Do not delay, tomorrow may be late. (3) If you do good, there is kingdom.

HOMEWORK: Evangelism in the neighbourhood.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	PSALM	9:15-17
TUESDAY	PSALM	16:8-11
WEDNESDAY	PROVERBS	23:12-14
THURSDAY	ISAIAH	5:13-16
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	5:22,29,30
SATURDAY	LUKE	12:3-5
SUNDAY	2 PETER	2:4-9

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Reality 2. Agony 3. Illustrate 4. Eternal 5. Faithfulness.

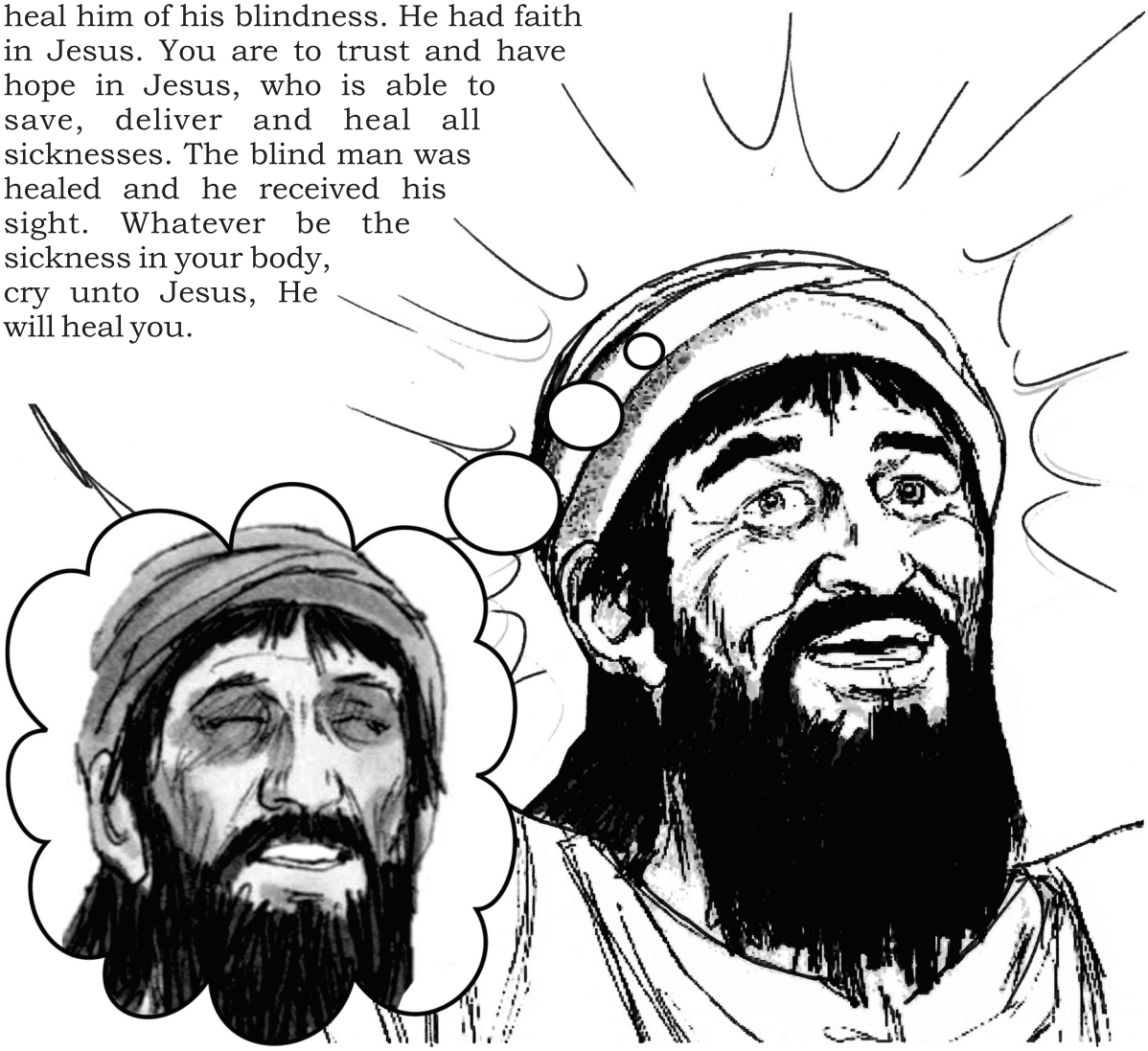
LESSON 36

HEALING OF BLIND BARTIMAEUS

Mark 10:46-52

When God created Adam and Eve, they were perfect and God put them in the garden of Eden. There was no sickness, disease, affliction of any kind until Satan came and deceived man. Their disobedience brought sickness, diseases, sorrow, death and separation from God. Despite this, God in His goodness and mercy, made provisions for our salvation and healing through His only begotten Son Jesus, who came to make peace between God and the fallen man.

Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem for the Passover feast and a great multitude (many people) followed Him. On their way out of Jericho, Jesus performed a great miracle. A blind man named Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by. He cried to Jesus to have mercy on him, and heal him of his blindness. He had faith in Jesus. You are to trust and have hope in Jesus, who is able to save, deliver and heal all sicknesses. The blind man was healed and he received his sight. Whatever be the sickness in your body, cry unto Jesus, He will heal you.



1. BLIND BARTIMAEUS:
Mark 10:46; Luke 18:35-37; 2 Corinthians 4:4

The man Bartimaeus was in a very pitiable condition because:
(i) He was blind: He could not see the beauty of many things around him. He would always need somebody to lead him about.
(ii) He was a beggar: he could not do any job. Hence he made a living through begging for alms. If no one gave to him, he would go hungry.
(iii) He was helpless: He had no one to take care of him.
(iv) He had no hope: He never believed that he could be cured.
(v) He had no comfort: He was exposed to both the heat of the day and the cold of the night.
(vi) His life was in danger: He was at the mercy of robbers and dangerous animals.

Any child who is outside Jesus is spiritually blind and helpless like blind Bartimaeus. Such a person needs to cry unto the Saviour now so that he will not be lost forever. Only Jesus can open blind eyes like He did to blind Bartimaeus. He is the Saviour and all powers belong to Him. He can make both the physically and spiritually blind to see.

2. BARTIMAEUS' PRAYER:
Mark 10:47-49; Luke 18:36-39

Mr Bartimaeus, though blind was spiritually at alert. He made use of his other sense organs in a profitable way. He heard people's movement and noise. Then he made enquiries about what was happening. Then he acted promptly, without wasting time. Your time of deliverance is now; do not delay. Come to Jesus. The following things that Bartimaeus did are important lessons for us to note.
(a) He recognised who Jesus is. Probably, Bartimaeus may have heard about the miracles performed by Jesus such as the healing of the lepers, the lame and the deliverance of demon possessed people. He had the assurance that Jesus could do the same for him. You must accept that Jesus is the only One who can set you free from sin, sickness and Satan.
(b) Bartimaeus exercised faith in Jesus. If you want to be blessed, trust and have faith in Jesus for your salvation, deliverance and provision of your needs.
(c) He cried unto Jesus. It was a sincere cry for help. Those who stood by and were travelling with Jesus tried to make Bartimaeus to stop crying out to the Lord. He continued to cry even louder. He was not hindered. You must not allow situations and circumstances to stand between you and Jesus. Do not let friends, sin or family hinder you from getting to Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. He will hear your cry.

When Jesus heard his cry, He stood still and called for Bartimaeus to come. As he rose to meet Jesus, he cast away his old garment of shame, sin, sickness and reproach. When the Saviour asked what he wanted, he was quick to respond thus "**... Lord, that I might receive my sight**" (Mark 10:51). It was

a straight forward and faith building answer. "**And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way**" (Mark 10:52).

If you too will exercise faith in the word of God, you will receive answers to your prayers. However, you need to know that the greatest sickness is to be spiritually blind. A sinner is blind and needs to urgently seek the Saviour for deliverance. Do not delay.

3. BELIEVE AND BE SAVED:
Mark 10:49; Matthew 11:28

Jesus ordered the people to call blind Bartimaeus. They said to him "**Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee**" (Mark 10:49). Boys and girls, Jesus desires to save sinful boys and girls who are willing to accept His offer. He is at the door of your heart knocking, why not let Him in (Revelation 3:20). A sinful child is very sick. If you are still lying, stealing, cursing, disobedient, fighting and doing other bad things, you are dead spiritually.

Jesus is calling you now. Respond to His call by repenting and confessing your sins to Him. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing through His blood. Accept Him as your personal Saviour and Lord. Remember, Jesus is concerned about your soul and total wellbeing. If you are sick in your body, do not fear or cry, just pray and have faith in God's promise. Jesus who is Jehovah Rapha will take away your sickness and make you whole.

QUESTIONS:
1. What is the name of the blind man in our study today?
2. Mention four pitiable conditions of this beggar.
3. What did the blind man do to receive his sight?
4. Sinful boys and girls are spiritually _____
5. Mention the steps a sinful child must take to receive spiritual and physical healing from Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: "**And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way**" (Mark 10:52).

LESSON: Jesus heals and delivers from both physical and spiritual sickness.

THOUGHT: I will remain a friend of Jesus, so as to enjoy total healing.

ACTIVITY: A child should read the passages below. Then the other children are to mention the miracles that took place in those passages.
(i) Luke 19:5-10 (ii) Matthew 8:5-13 (iii) Mark 9:17-29
(iv) John 4:46-52; (v) Acts 3:6-9; 9:17,18

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS: 103 - HE HEALED THEM ALL

CHORUSES: (1) My God is able, is able. (2) Anywhere He went, He was doing good. (3) And his name was Naaman.

HOMEWORK: Write in your homework book, one testimony of how you received healing through prayers and faith.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	23:25-27
TUESDAY	PSALM	103:1-3
WEDNESDAY	ISAIAH	53:3-5
THURSDAY	MARK	6:51-56
FRIDAY	LUKE	4:16-19
SATURDAY	ACTS	8:4-8
SUNDAY	3 JOHN	1-4

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Pitiable 2. Impending 3. Bruised 4. Liberty 5. Spiritual blindness.

LESSON 37

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

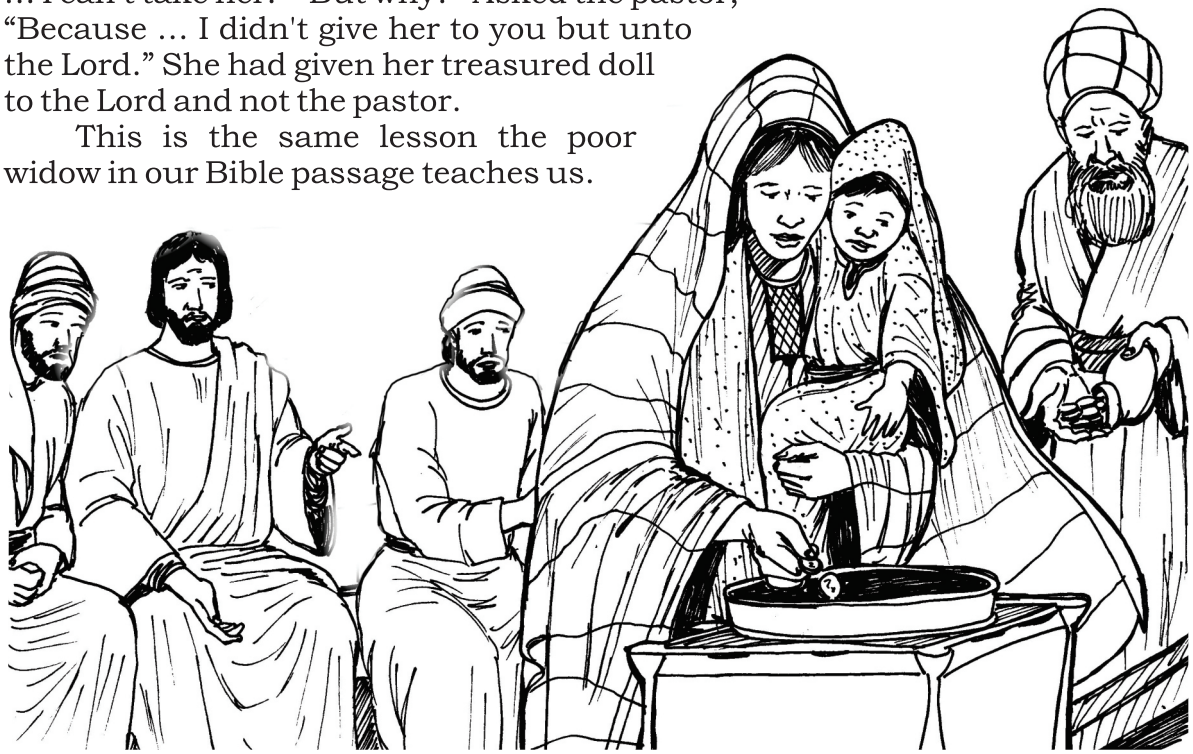
Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

The story is told of a little girl who went shopping with her mother and saw a very beautiful doll. She wanted it so badly, but they just could not afford it. Her Dad had been sick and out of work for many months. Every time they went into that store, the girl would always gaze at the doll. Some months later, things got better for the family as the father became well. The mother was then able to buy the doll as a surprise gift to the little girl. She and the doll were inseparable as it became her favourite treasure.

One day, while in the church with her parents, she listened as the pastor spoke of how much Jesus loves us – how He died for our sins. All week long, the girl thought about how much Jesus loves her and she wished she could do something to show Him that she loves Him too. But she only had her treasured doll. The next Sunday her father and mother couldn't believe it when they saw the girl take her treasured doll and put in the offering plate. Some people were amazed not realising the costly sacrifice it represented. Every day the little girl missed her doll especially at bedtime, but then she would think about Jesus' love and sacrifice and it would be all right again.

One evening the pastor came to their house with the doll. He smiled warmly and said "I brought your doll back to you." The little girl was surprised at the sight of that doll. She didn't move. "Go ahead, take her" the pastor said. "I'm giving her back to you". The girl replied, "I can't … I can't take her." "But why?" Asked the pastor, "Because … I didn't give her to you but unto the Lord." She had given her treasured doll to the Lord and not the pastor.

This is the same lesson the poor widow in our Bible passage teaches us.



This woman's giving reveals two important truths. (i) It shows us how we should respond to the great love of Christ. We must give Him our heart. (ii) It points us to Christ's total self-giving for us on the cross (2 Corinthians 8:9). He took our sins on Himself so that we can receive pardon and forgiveness from God.

To please God with your giving, you must first receive His indescribable gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Then, out of love, give Him your heart and show it by giving sacrificially to please Him.

1. THE WIDOW'S EXAMPLE OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING:
Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4; 2 Samuel 24:24,25; Matthew 10:42; Mark 9:41; 14:1-9

Jesus was in fellowship watching what the people were doing. Even now Jesus is everywhere watching all that we do. He sees what we do and our motives for such actions. Jesus noticed that some of the rich people gave generously, but the poor widow gave an amount so small that it was almost of no value in the local market.

Jesus however, was more concerned with how people gave than the amount they gave. He considered that the widow gave more than anyone else because He measured the gift not by its commercial value but by the degree of sacrifice of the giver. A heart of true devotion, not money was the most valuable thing in His kingdom. The “little mites” that the widow gave, out-weighed all the rest. The rich people gave out of their abundance. She gave out of her poverty and insufficiency. They gave out of surplus; she gave out of need. This shows that she gave “her whole livelihood.”

Her action was an exemplary one which made Jesus to commend her. You are to follow her example; do not say “I am too small to give.” There are many things you can give for God's use – talent, treasure, time and most importantly your life. Your giving must be sacrificial and done willingly.

2. WONDERFUL LESSONS FROM THE WIDOW'S OFFERING:
Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4; 2 Samuel 24:24,25; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Jesus teaches us some important lessons from the widow's sacrificial giving.
(i) The significance of a person's gifts is determined not by the amount he/she gives, but by the measure of sacrifice involved in the giving (2 Corinthians 9:6). The rich at times give only a token from the abundance of their wealth that involves no sacrifice. Though the widow gave only a very small amount, her giving represented a heart of rich generosity. She gave so much as she possibly could.
(ii) God evaluates our actions not by its quantity but by the quality of our love, faith and sacrificial giving of ourselves to Him in sincere devotion.
(iii) The condition of the heart of the giver is more important than the size of the gift (2 Corinthians 9:7). God does not measure sacrifice by the size of the

gift but by its cost to the giver (2 Corinthians 8:1-3).
(iv) God is able to multiply that which is invested in His kingdom work (John 6:9-12; Luke 6:38).
(v) Sacrificial giving helps us to give praise to God and depend on Him for our needs (Philippians 4:19).
(vi) God desires that we first give our hearts to Him before any other thing (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

Have you given your heart to Jesus? If no, you can do so by repenting of your sins, asking for forgiveness and cleansing of your sins with the blood of Jesus and surrendering your life to Him so He can reign in your heart as your Saviour and Lord.

3. WAYS TO EXPRESS SACRIFICIAL GIVING:
Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4; 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:1-7

Giving is an important aspect of worship. We must realise the fact that God owns us and all that we have. Therefore, we must surrender all to Him. Whatever we are giving to God – money, tithes, time, talent, love to others, care for the needy, we need to consider these principles
(i) Focus on Christ – the centre of our giving must be Christ and not 'self'. God knows the motive for our giving. We should therefore give sacrificially, selflessly and with humble submission to God.
(ii) Faith in God's word – when we give, it should be with faith, knowing and believing that God will always supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. As we give willingly, God will give us back in multiple fold (Luke 6:38).
(iii) Faithfulness in giving – we must give sacrificially, willingly and faithfully. Do not be like Ananias and Sapphira who thought they could deceive God in their giving. Whatever you are giving for God's service and for others must be done through pure love and good motive. Children should not be stingy. You can start in a little way, from your small savings, give. Also pay your tithes regularly and God will honour your faith.

QUESTIONS:
1. The story of the widow's offering reveals two important truths.
   (a) _____ (b) _____
2. The widow's offering was _____ giving.
3. Mention five important lessons from the widow's offering.
4. What are the principles of sacrificial giving?
5. Are you a cheerful giver?

MEMORY VERSE: "And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury" (Mark 12:43).

LESSON: God loves a cheerful giver.

THOUGHT: I will give sacrificially and cheerfully to the Lord.

ACTIVITY: MAKE A PLEDGE. Put into practice all that you have learnt about sacrificial giving by making a pledge of what you will give unto the Lord.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 85 - GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER

CHORUSES: (1) Give and it shall be given unto you. (2) I will give to God all I have. (3) Jabrata, Jabrata, Jabrata, God will bless me Jabrata.

HOMEWORK: Share the love of Jesus with at least one child during the week.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	1 KINGS	17:8-10
TUESDAY	1 KINGS	17:11-13
WEDNESDAY	1 KINGS	17:14-16
THURSDAY	LUKE	6:37,38
FRIDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	9:6-8
SATURDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	9:9-12
SUNDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	9:13-15

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Sacrificial 2. Quality 3. Fellowship 4. Principles 5. Evaluation.

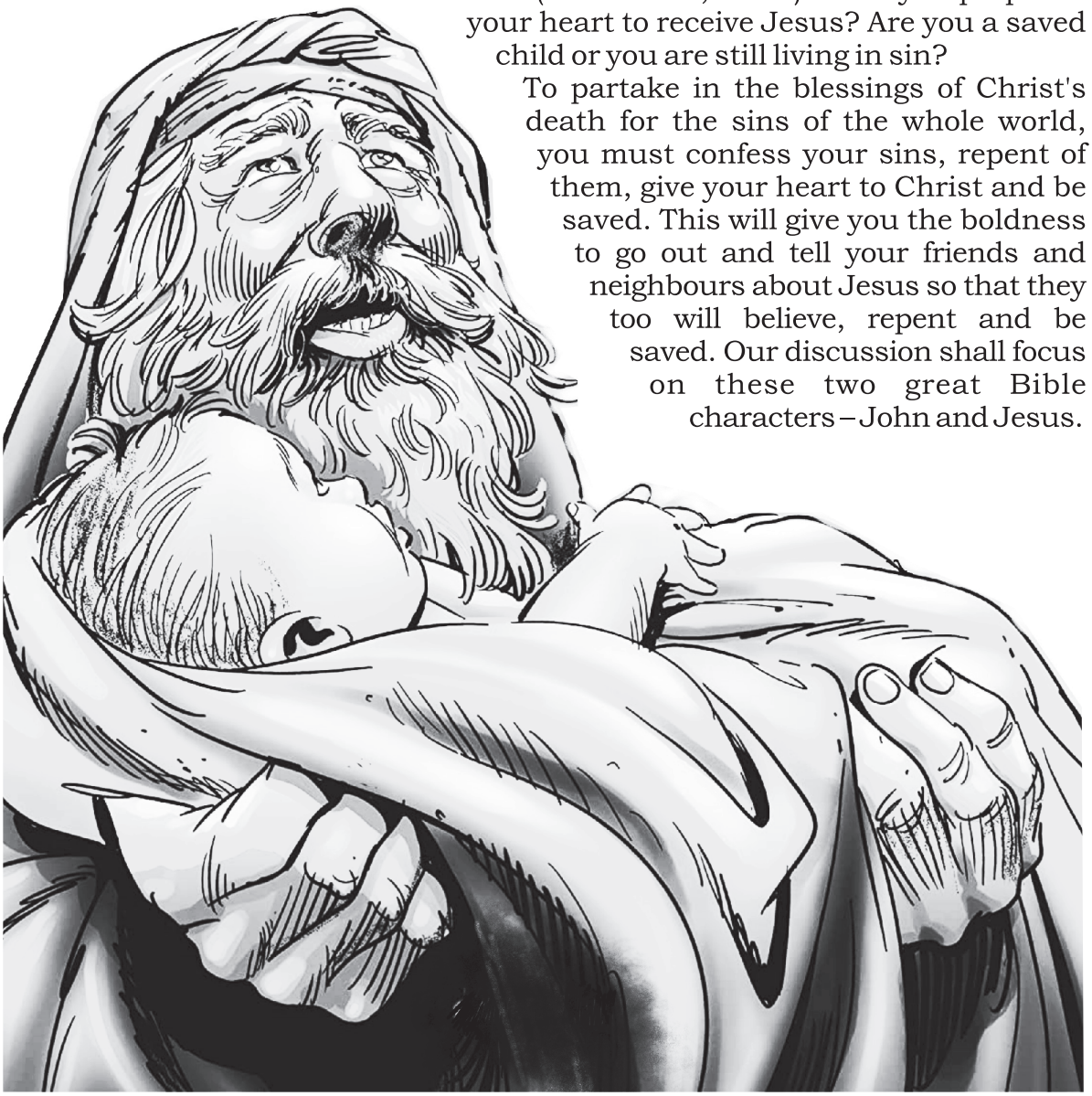
LESSON 38

BIRTH OF JOHN AND ANNUNCIATION OF CHRIST

Luke 1:1-80

The birth of Jesus Christ is the greatest thing that has ever happened to man. If the president wants to visit a place, the people expecting him will announce his coming and also make adequate preparation for his arrival so that he will be well received, and the purpose of his visit will be fulfilled. This is similar to what we are going to discuss in this study. Before Jesus came into this world, God announced it. He also sent His servant, John the Baptist to come and prepare the way for the coming of the great King – our Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:6-8,29-31). Have you prepared your heart to receive Jesus? Are you a saved child or you are still living in sin?

To partake in the blessings of Christ's death for the sins of the whole world, you must confess your sins, repent of them, give your heart to Christ and be saved. This will give you the boldness to go out and tell your friends and neighbours about Jesus so that they too will believe, repent and be saved. Our discussion shall focus on these two great Bible characters – John and Jesus.



1. JOHN'S BIRTH AND ITS PURPOSE:

Luke 1:5-25,57-66

Zacharias the priest and his wife were old and had lost all hope of having a child. They were holy and righteous and served God fervently. God remembered their prayer for a child and sent angel Gabriel to tell Zacharias that their prayers had been answered. Elizabeth became pregnant and God blessed them with a son and his name was called John. The angel said John would be great in the sight of God and he would be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb.

John was born six months before Jesus. He was born earlier than Jesus to prepare the way for Christ's ministry according to the will of God. He came to make ready the hearts of the people of Israel to receive Christ the Messiah. There are lessons to learn from the birth of John and announcement of Christ's birth. They are: (i) God rewards the righteous (ii) Nothing is impossible with God (iii) God's word is true. (iv) Serving God fervently, even when you are faced with challenges, attracts His favour. John fulfilled God's purpose in his ministry by obeying God. Are you an obedient child like John?

2. JESUS' BIRTH ANNOUNCED:

Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6,7; Matthew 1:18-25

The birth of Jesus had been prophesied by prophet Isaiah and other prophets in the Old Testament. "**Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel**" (Isaiah 7:14). Mary was a virgin engaged to a man called Joseph in Nazareth. Angel Gabriel visited her and told her she would have a Son and His name would be called Jesus. He would save the people from their sins (Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31). The angel also told Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth was already six months pregnant. Mary was afraid and said she was a virgin, but the angel told her that nothing is impossible with God. Mary eventually conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and gave birth to the Saviour of the world.

Just as Mary allowed God to use her, born again children should also allow God to control their lives and use them for His glory.

Joseph thought of rejecting Mary's pregnancy to prove his innocence. But the angel appeared to him in a dream and asked him to accept Mary since that which she conceived was of the Holy Ghost. It is clear from our study that God chooses whom so ever He desires. Every child should surrender to the will of God, pray earnestly to discover what God wants him or her to do. As a boy, be a John for Christ, as a girl, be a Mary for Christ. Do everything to please God.

3. JESUS IS COMING SOON:
Luke 1:15-17; Revelation 22:7

Every child must prepare for the second coming of Jesus Christ. His first coming to the earth was to set men free from sins. Despite this, some children are still chained to sins such as: lying, fighting, malice, anger, stealing, envy, hatred and bitterness. Sinful children will be separated from God in eternity. "... **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil**" (1 John 3:8).

To prepare for Christ's second coming, every sinful child must take the following steps: (i) Acknowledge that you are a sinner (ii) Confess your sins to God and repent of them (iii) Ask God to forgive and cleanse your sins with the blood of Jesus (iv) Invite Jesus into your heart and confess Him as your personal Lord and Saviour (v) Continue to follow Jesus as you live a holy life, read the Bible, meditate on its message and obey it.

QUESTIONS:
1. _____ and _____ were the parents of John.
2. State four lessons you learnt from the announcement and birth of John.
3. What lessons do we learn from God's answer to Zacharias and Elizabeth's prayer for a child?
4. What should a sinner do to receive Jesus?
5. How can a born-again boy or girl prepare for Christ's coming?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS**" (Luke 1:30,31).

LESSON: God uses holy and willing children for His service.

THOUGHT: I will live a pure and holy life, so that God can use me.

ACTIVITY: Prayer of consecration.

HOMEWORK: Write in your homework book, three ways you can offer service to God.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 13 - TO GOD BE THE GLORY

CHORUSES: (1) All that I have, I give to Jesus (2) Make me a good child

like Samuel. (3) Jesus, blessed Jesus, I love Thy name.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ISAIAH	40:1-5
TUESDAY	ISAIAH	11:1-4
WEDNESDAY	ISAIAH	9:1,2
THURSDAY	ISAIAH	9:6,7
FRIDAY	MICAH	5:1-3
SATURDAY	MARK	1:1-3
SUNDAY	MARK	1:4-8

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

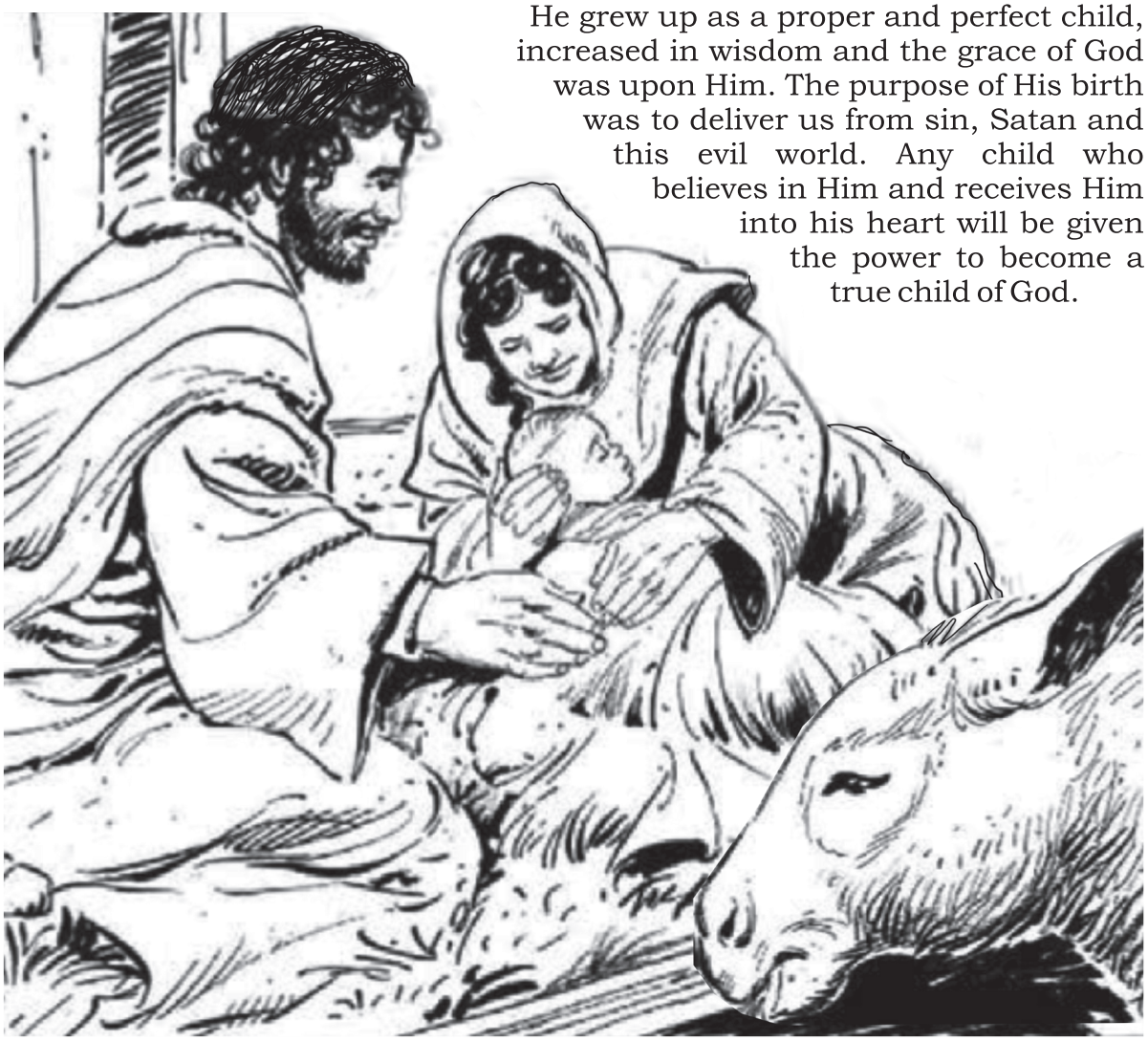
Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Annunciation 2. Fervently 3. Engage 4. Conceive 5. Earnestly.

LESSON 39

BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-52

The birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world was wonderful and truly the greatest event in the history of man. He was born in the most humble and simplest surrounding. He was born in a manger, a stable where animals were kept and fed Yet, He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He was born of a virgin called Mary who was espoused to Joseph, a carpenter. Jesus was born in the little town of Bethlehem in line with biblical prophecy "**But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting**" (Micah 5:2). His birth was heralded by angels, revealed to the wise men and witnessed by rural shepherds.



He grew up as a proper and perfect child, increased in wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. The purpose of His birth was to deliver us from sin, Satan and this evil world. Any child who believes in Him and receives Him into his heart will be given the power to become a true child of God.

1. CHRIST'S BIRTH AND THE ANGEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT:

Luke 2:1-20

Joseph and Mary were both from the lineage of David. The Old Testament is filled with prophecies about the fact that the Messiah would be born through David's lineage (Isaiah 11:1). When they were in Bethlehem, Mary delivered her child, wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger, where animals were kept. The angel of the Lord appeared in the field to some shepherds watching over their flocks by night and brought the good news of joy saying, "**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord**" (Luke 2:11).

When the angels and the host of heaven left them, the shepherds made haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. They spread the news of what the angels told them everywhere and Mary kept all these things in her heart. This shows us that God is able to fulfil all His promises to all who believe in Him. Jesus is a special child delivered in a special way. He came from heaven to earth to show us the way of salvation and to reconcile us with God. Every child also has a purpose why he/she is born. Pray earnestly to God and discover the purpose for your birth.

2. CIRCUMCISION AND DEDICATION OF JESUS:

Luke 2:21-39

Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after He was born and His name was called Jesus, which was the name the angel gave to Mary before He was conceived in the womb. According to the Law of Moses, they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present and dedicate Him to the Lord and to offer a sacrifice of a pair of turtle dove or two young pigeons. After the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we no longer need to offer sacrifices of animals to the Lord as done in the old covenant. Instead, we present our bodies, heart and entire lives as well as everything that we have to God. This we do in holiness and righteousness as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1,2), which God really loves. It means that if we really want to be friends of Jesus, we must be holy. We must put away all dirty things like lying, cheating, stealing and cursing; and in true repentance, surrender our lives to God. There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and the man was holy and devout, and the Holy Ghost was upon him. The Spirit of the Lord brought him to the temple when the parents of Jesus brought Him to be dedicated. Simeon took Baby Jesus in his arms and blessed God.

There was also a widow woman whose name was Anna. She was a prophetess from the tribe of Asher. She was about 84 years old and was always at the temple fasting and praying day and night. She also came during the dedication and blessed the Lord for giving her the opportunity to see Jesus. Every saved child should always give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ who came to save us from sin.

When the parents of Jesus had performed all the ceremonies according to the law of Moses, they returned to Galilee to their own city Nazareth. Jesus was dedicated to His Father's work. He went everywhere preaching the gospel, healing the sick, cleansing the lepers and doing good. Hence, every saved child should be dedicated to the ministry of preaching the gospel in season and out of season.

3. THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS:
Luke 2:40-52

The child Jesus grew and became strong in the spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. When Jesus was 12 years old, His parents took Him to Jerusalem for a feast. After the feast, Jesus remained at the temple in Jerusalem, unknown to Joseph and Mary His mother who thought that Jesus was among their relatives and friends. The parents returned to Jerusalem looking for Him and found Him after three days in the temple sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing and asking them question.

All that heard Him were surprised at His understanding and answers. His parents were not happy that He waited behind without permission but He told them that He must do His heavenly Father's business and left with His parents to Nazareth where He was obedient to all their instructions. "**And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man**" (Luke 2:52). Jesus lived a perfect life, doing His Father's business and glorifying God. Once you become a friend of Jesus, your life must glorify God wherever you find yourself. You must please God by constantly doing His will and be a shining light in this dark world.

For a sinful child to live a life that pleases God and shines in the dark, he must: (i) accept that he is a sinner (ii) confess his sins and repent of them (iii) Believe in his heart that Jesus has saved him (iv) confess Him as his personal Lord and Saviour (v) continue to follow and serve Him by living a holy life and obeying His word.

QUESTIONS:
1. Jesus was born in _____
2. Why was Jesus' birth necessary?
3. The birth of Jesus was announced by _____ to _____
4. The parents of Jesus were met by _____ and _____ at the temple.
5. How can a sinful child live to please God?

MEMORY VERSE:
"**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord**" (Luke 2:11).

LESSON: Jesus came into the world to seek and save sinners.

THOUGHT: I surrender and accept Jesus as my personal Saviour and Lord.

ACTIVITY: Read Luke 2:42-50 and write in your notebook, what Jesus was doing in the temple and the people He was speaking with.

HOMEWORK: Write in your homework book the service you will render in God's house.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 12 - PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!

CHORUSES: (1) Jesus is the sweetest name I know. (2) I know His Name. (3) Jesus, blessed Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW 1:21-24
TUESDAY	MATTHEW 2:1-4
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW 2:5-8
THURSDAY	MATTHEW 2:9-12
FRIDAY	MATTHEW 2:13-16
SATURDAY	MATTHEW 2:17-20
SUNDAY	MATTHEW 2:21-23

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Dedication 2. Conceived 3. Holiness 4. Espoused 5. Heralded.

SECTION 4

LESSON **PAGE**

OLD TESTAMENT

40. THE LAW OF THE NAZARITE.....169

41. DEDICATION OF THE TABERNACLE AND CONSECRATION OF THE LEVITES.....173

42. COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSOVER AND DIVINE GUIDANCE.....177

43. MURMURING IN THE CAMP.....181

44. THE SPIES' REPORT AND ISRAEL'S REBELLION.....185

45. SUNDRY OFFERINGS AND INTENTIONAL SIN.....189

46. KORAH'S REBELLION AND APPROVAL OF AARON'S PRIESTHOOD.....193

NEW TESTAMENT

47. CHRIST'S CALL TO SOUL-WINNING.....197

48. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY OVER SICKNESS, DEATH AND SIN.....200

49. CHRIST TEACHES AGAINST DIVISION IN THE CHURCH.....203

50. MISSION OF THE SEVENTY.....207

51. PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN.....210

52. JESUS TEACHES ON PRAYER.....214

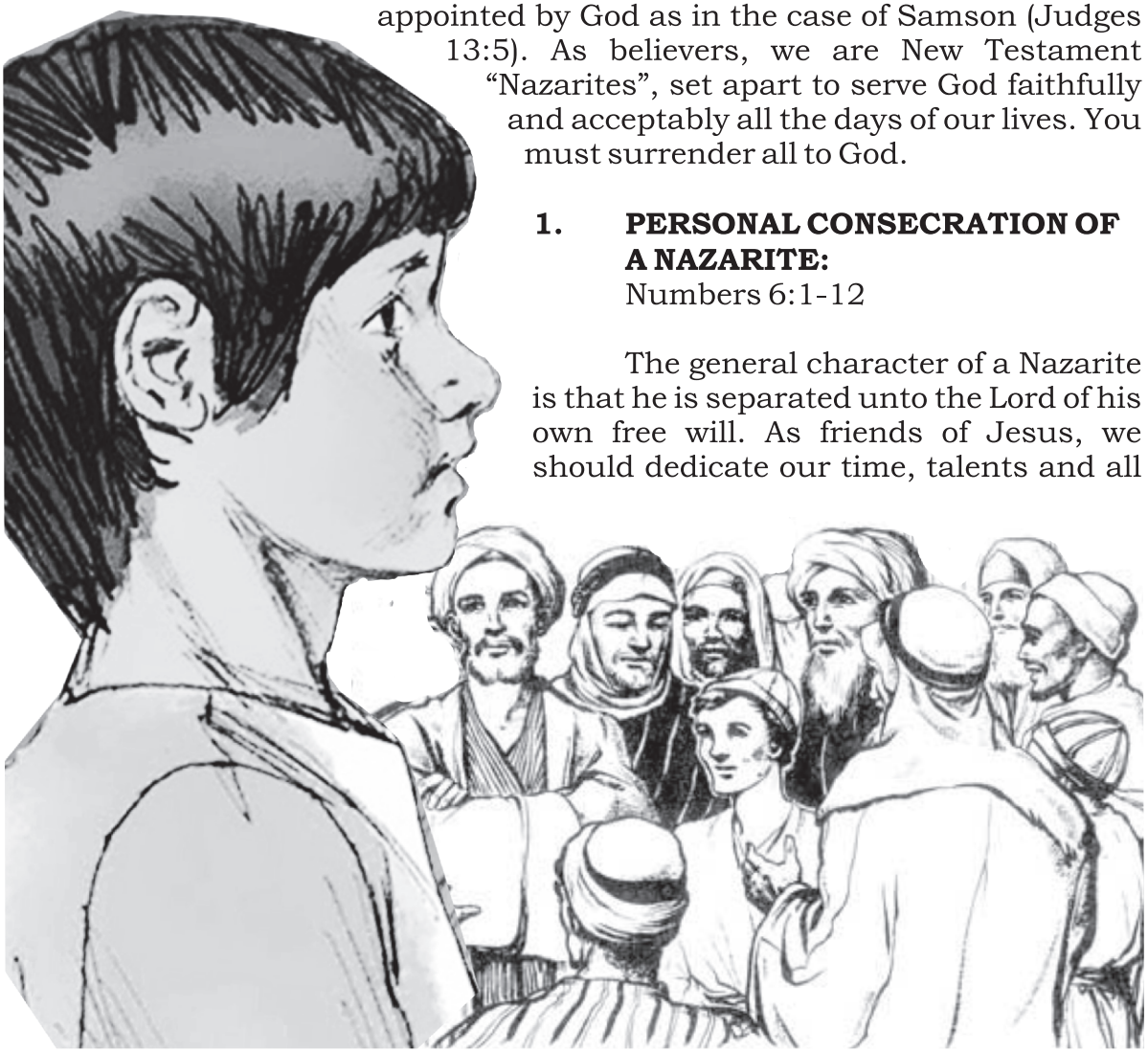
LESSON 40

THE LAW OF THE NAZARITE

Numbers 6:1-27

Nazarite is from the Hebrew word 'Nazar', translated as 'separation', which means something set apart. In the Old Testament, the Nazarite vow was for people who wanted to devote self and time completely to serving God. It was a voluntary vow which could be taken for as little as thirty days or as long as a lifetime. Also, parents could take the vow for their young children, making them Nazarites for life. For example, Samuel was consecrated to God right from birth by Hannah, his mother (1 Samuel 1:11).

A Nazarite is wholly devoted to God and sets apart his time to serve the Lord in a holy manner than others. There are two major types; those who were dedicated to God by parents before they were born or in infancy, and those who freely dedicate themselves to God. Another type of Nazarite is one appointed by God as in the case of Samson (Judges 13:5). As believers, we are New Testament "Nazarites", set apart to serve God faithfully and acceptably all the days of our lives. You must surrender all to God.



1. PERSONAL CONSECRATION OF A NAZARITE:
Numbers 6:1-12

The general character of a Nazarite is that he is separated unto the Lord of his own free will. As friends of Jesus, we should dedicate our time, talents and all

we have to serve God. From our text, the vow of a Nazarite involves his commitment to obey God's instruction concerning his activities and personal life.

(a) Prohibition of wine or strong drink (Numbers 6:3). A Nazarite was not allowed to take strong drink (alcohol) so that he won't get drunk. A similar warning against wine and strong drink is found in Proverbs 31:4,5. This warning is given to avoid forgetting the law and falling into the temptation to take strong wine. Friends of Jesus should run away from alcoholic and strong drink lest they become easy prey to Satan.

(b) They must not cut their hair (Numbers 6:5). Among the Jews, an abundance of hair on the head was considered a mark of physical strength. The free growth of hair on the head of a Nazarite represented the dedication of his whole strength and power to the service of God. This is only peculiar to Old Testament period for the children of Israel and not applicable to boys and girls at this time of grace. Therefore, leaving the hair uncut is not part of true worship. Another significance of leaving the hair uncut is that it serves as a mark of identification that the Nazarite has preserved his purity, otherwise, he would have had it cut (Numbers 6:9). A believer should bear a mark of identification by which people know him that he truly belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:17). Through our lifestyle and even dressing, the believer should identify himself with the Lord Jesus Christ. That is, no wearing of short skirt or gown, transparent dresses and tight-fitted clothes.

(c) They must not come near any dead body (Numbers 6:9). If a Nazarite touches a dead body, even accidentally, he is defiled, He needs to shave his head and offer a sacrifice. From this, we learn the following lessons:

(i) A child that is separated unto God must distinguish himself by not conforming to the world (Romans 12:2). (Others may, I cannot).

(ii) God's children should keep their heart pure from evil thoughts and should not touch any unclean thing (Isaiah 52:11). Touching unclean thing can be in form of stealing, fighting, touching the body of opposite sex in a sinful way, watching pornographic films and playing bad games.

(iii) For a child of God, there must be moderation in everything like eating, dressing, association, pleasure, etc.

Surrender your life to Jesus and be a Nazarite unto God.

2. PRESCRIBED SACRIFICE AND OFFERING FOR THE NAZARITE VOW: Numbers 6:9-21

" **And if any man die very suddenly by him, and he hath defiled the head of his consecration; then he shall shave his head in the day of his cleansing, on the seventh day shall he shave it**" (Numbers 6:9). Even though, there was no moral sin involved in this defilement of the dead, the atonement for the uncleanness was necessary (Numbers 6:11). If a Nazarite is accidentally defiled through contact with dead body, he must go through a cleansing rite of eight days (Numbers 6:8,9). He will shave his head on the

seventh day and perform the prescribed sacrifice to purify and make him clean on the eighth day. The implication of this is that he will start his consecration anew, beginning again to let his hair grow and abstaining from all the things that are forbidden.

The former days of his consecration were not to be remembered just as the righteousness of the righteous man shall not be remembered when he goes back into sin (Ezekiel 3:20). Friends of Jesus must watch against sin to avoid its serious consequence of loss of fellowship with God. More is expected from a child of God in preserving his garment of righteousness at all costs. There is no eternal security.

Furthermore, there were laws concerning the discharge of a Nazarite from his vow upon the completion of his days of separation. He could not be discharged without completing the prescribed sacrifices because he is bound by his vow. After the cleansing period, the Nazarite is set free publicly at the door of the tabernacle (Numbers 6:13). The important lesson here is that as God who has called us is holy, we should also be holy in all manner of conversation and lifestyle.

3. PRONOUNCIATION OF COVENANT BLESSINGS ON GOD'S PEOPLE:
Numbers 6:22-27; 2 Corinthians 13:14

After giving instruction on the cleansing of the Nazarite, God specifically instructed Moses to direct Aaron and his sons (priests of God) to pronounce His covenant blessings on His people. As children of God today, we are made partakers of these special blessings.

All you need do is to make sure you are a genuine friend of Jesus. You must also be watchful and live a holy life. A righteous lifestyle will open the door of uncommon blessings unto you. Now you can claim these blessings for yourself as you say amen to its pronunciation. "**The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them**" (Numbers 6:24-27).

QUESTIONS:
1. Who is a Nazarite?
2. State two important things a Nazarite must do/not do to show his consecration to God.
3. Today, we don't need to shave off our hair in order to serve God. True/False?
4. What sacrifice must a Nazarite undertake when he is defiled?
5. What should a sinful child do to be cleansed from sin?

MEMORY VERSE: "**All the days of his separation he *is* holy unto the LORD**" (Numbers 6:8).

LESSON: God demands obedience to His word from all those who would serve Him acceptably.

THOUGHT: I will obey God's word.

ACTIVITY: Boys and girls should pray and consecrate their lives, time and talents to God.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 87 - TAKE MY LIFE

CHORUSES: (1) I live for Jesus, day after day. (2) Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus. (3) Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever.

HOMEWORK: Prayer of consecration.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	LEVITICUS	27:1-3
TUESDAY	LEVITICUS	27:4-6
WEDNESDAY	LEVITICUS	27:7-9
THURSDAY	JUDGES	13:1-4
FRIDAY	JUDGES	13:5-7
SATURDAY	LUKE	1:13-17
SUNDAY	AMOS	2:10,11

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Nazarite 2. Vow 3. Obedience 4. Prescribed 5. Covenant.

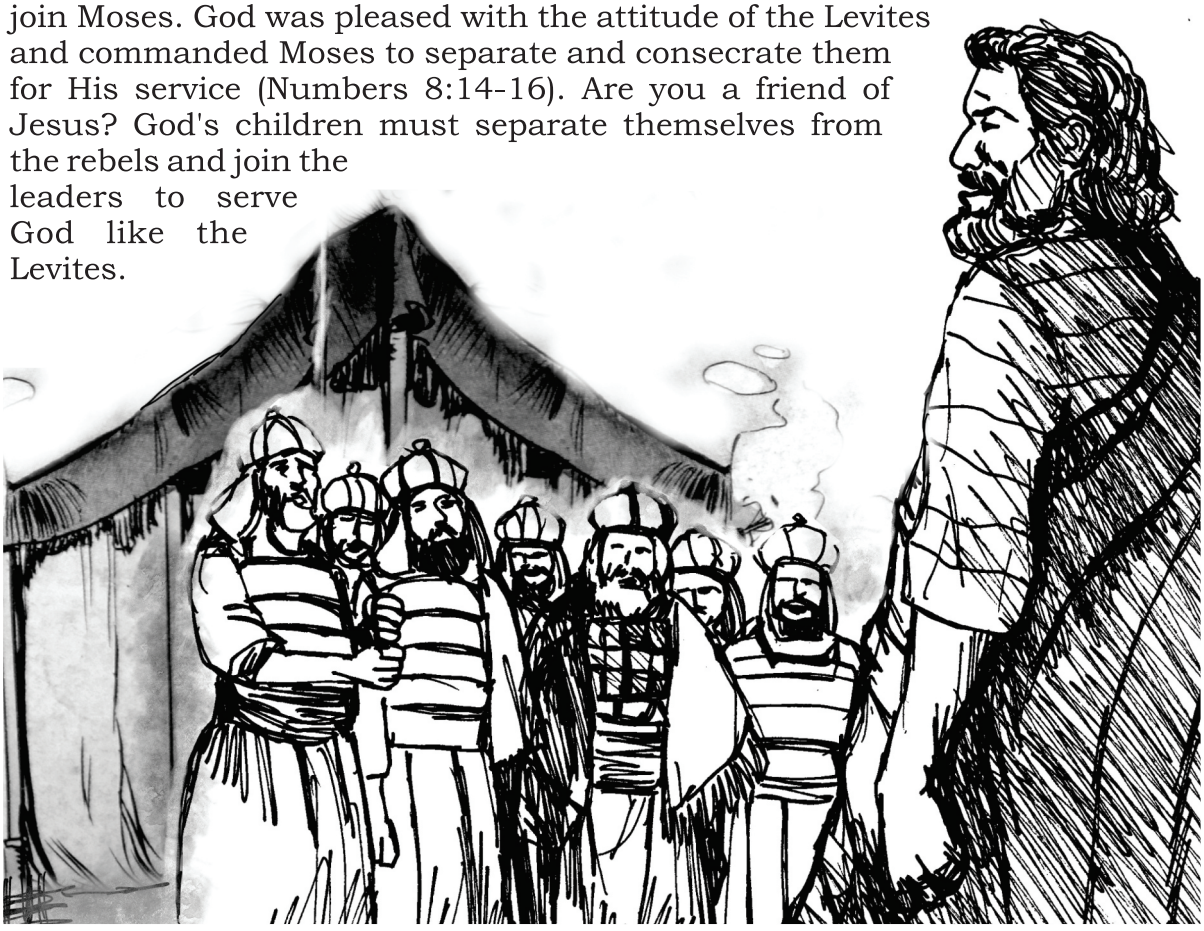
LESSON 41

DEDICATION OF THE TABERNACLE AND CONSECRATION OF THE LEVITES

Numbers 7:1-89; 8:1-26

The tabernacle is the temple or house of God where the children of Israel gather together to worship and serve Him. The Levites were to help the priests as they work in the tabernacle. The Levites were the descendants of Levi, one of the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel). Their tribe was made up of three families – Kohath, Gershon and Merari. After Israel crossed the Red Sea, Moses was called to Mount Sinai by God to receive the Ten Commandments. While he was with God for forty days, Israel made an idol and began to worship it. God was very angry with Israel for the sin of idolatry. He told Moses to get down quickly and see what Israel had done. Moses was shocked to see the people worshipping idol in the shape of a calf. In a display of holy anger, he broke the stones containing the Ten Commandments and destroyed the calf.

Thereafter, Moses stood at the gate of the camp and called all those on the Lord's side to step forward to him. Only the sons of Levi gathered unto him while the remaining children of Israel rebelled and refused to join Moses. God was pleased with the attitude of the Levites and commanded Moses to separate and consecrate them for His service (Numbers 8:14-16). Are you a friend of Jesus? God's children must separate themselves from the rebels and join the leaders to serve God like the Levites.



1. DEDICATION OF THE TABERNACLE:

Numbers 7:1-89; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

To dedicate means to set apart for a holy use or a religious purpose. It also means totally surrendering yourself for a particular work like the work of God. The tabernacle being the temple or house of God was dedicated for the worship and service of God. Moses was clearly instructed by God to raise up the tabernacle where the children of Israel can gather to worship Him. Moses followed the specification of the design given to him by God. After raising up the tabernacle, Moses sanctified and anointed it including all the instruments for worship (Numbers 7:1). It was after this dedication of the tabernacle that the children of Israel brought in their gifts to make sacrifices and show gratitude to God for His mercy and love.

There are many lessons for us to learn from this act of dedication.

(i) The house of God is a place where we gather to fellowship and worship the living God. God is interested in having fellowship with us, hence He commands that we should not forsake the assembly of the saints (Hebrews 10:25).

(ii) God is holy; therefore, we must maintain holiness and orderliness in our fellowship centres. Do not litter the church and its surroundings. Do not play with the instruments used for worship – pulpit, electronic appliances, musical instruments, etc. Maintain quietness and proper behaviour in God's presence and keep the house of God clean and holy.

(iii) Bring in to God's house your tithes and offerings. Offer willingly and cheerfully.

(iv) Your body is the temple of God. Therefore, you must not commit sin nor yield any member of your body as instrument of unrighteousness (Romans 6:13).

2. DEVOTION AND CONSECRATION OF THE LEVITES:

Numbers 8:1-26; 1 Peter 2:9

The Levites as helpers in the tabernacle were consecrated before they were fully admitted into God's service. In consecrating the Levites, the Lord gave Moses, their leader, a detailed instruction on what to do. Many sacrifices were prescribed for both their physical and spiritual cleansing. These instructions were carried out on the Levites and they became cleansed and fit for God's service.

This shows the high standard that God expects from anyone who desire to serve Him. God demands holiness and righteousness of life from friends of Jesus. However, we do not need to go through the lengthy cleansing ritual of the Old Testament Levites. Jesus, our Saviour and Messiah has paid the price for our cleansing. He died on the cross, shedding His blood for our purging and sanctification (Hebrews 13:12).

All we need to do in order to become a child of God is to be saved. Therefore, come to Jesus now. Acknowledge your sinful state. Pray for

forgiveness and cleansing of your heart with the blood of Jesus. Accept Him as your personal Saviour and Friend. Go further to develop strong desire for the sanctification experience. Pray in faith and you will be cleansed. The Adamic nature will be taken away from your heart, you will then love God with all your heart, soul and strength. This experience will help you to serve God in holiness and righteousness all the days of your life.

3. DIVINE BLESSINGS FOR FAITHFUL SERVANTS:
Numbers 8:1-26; 1 Corinthians 2:9

Aaron and his sons were to serve as priests, while the Levites were to serve as workers in the tabernacle. The priests were to lead the people during worship, prepare and offer sacrifices on behalf of the children of Israel. The high priest would go into the innermost part of the tabernacle once in a year to make atonement (plead for forgiveness) for the people.

Today, all the children of God are priests unto the Lord. All of us who are genuinely converted are to serve God in different sections in the church (choir, ushering etc.), preach the gospel to sinners, live a holy life and lead others by good examples and defend the truth always.

God gave the Levites a special inheritance. Inheritance is a property like land, building or wealth that parents pass on to their children when they die. The Levites were to have no earthly inheritance for God was their inheritance. God commanded that everything they needed was to be provided freely by their brethren. As you also surrender yourself, talent, treasure, time to serve God, great blessings await you. There are both physical, spiritual and eternal blessings for God's faithful servants. These include: spiritual growth, fruitfulness in service, God's favour, divine guidance, promotion, protection, preservation and provision of all your needs. Be a Levite unto God and you will be blessed.

QUESTIONS:
1. What is a Tabernacle?
2. To dedicate means _____.
3. How was the tabernacle dedicated?
4. Who were the Levites?
5. What work were the Levites called to do?
6. What must sinful children do to be qualified to serve God?

MEMORY VERSE: "And thou shalt set the Levites before Aaron, and before his sons, and offer them for an offering unto the LORD."
(Numbers 8:13).

LESSON: Service to God requires total dedication and consecration of self.

THOUGHT: I will surrender my life to God for His holy use.

ACTIVITY: Children should pray to be holy and obedient to God at all times.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 87 - TAKE MY LIFE

CHORUSES: (1) Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord. (2) I will dig a little deeper. (3) My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

HOMEWORK: Search the Scriptures and write down two passages where God instructed Moses on the pattern of the tabernacle.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	NUMBERS	3:5-7
TUESDAY	NUMBERS	3:8-10
WEDNESDAY	NUMBERS	3:11-13
THURSDAY	NUMBERS	3:14-17
FRIDAY	EXODUS	25:8-11
SATURDAY	EXODUS	27:19-21
SUNDAY	HEBREWS	9:11-14

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:1. Tabernacle 2. Dedication 3. Atonement 4. Divine 5. Devotion.

LESSON 42

COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSOVER AND DIVINE GUIDANCE

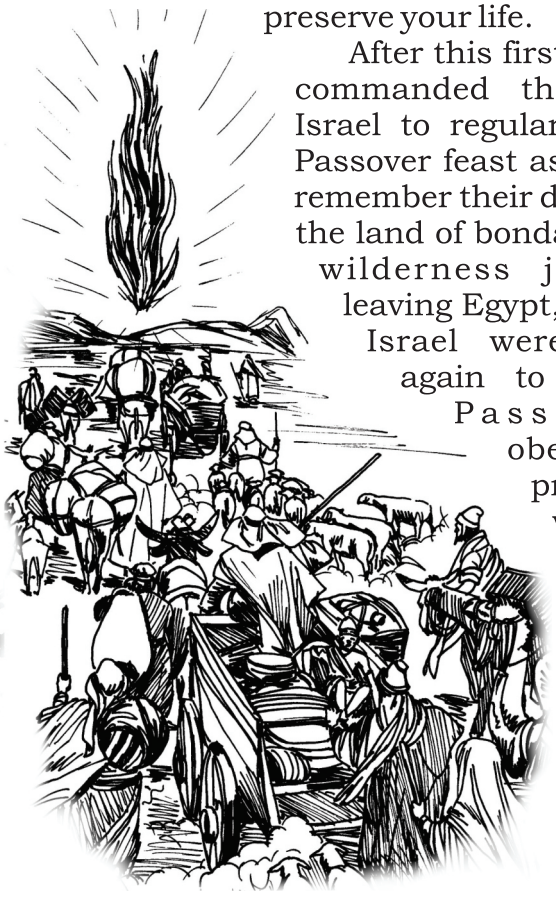
Numbers 9:1-23; 10:1-36

Commemoration means to bring to remembrance or celebrate an important event. In our Bible passage (Numbers 9), God commanded the children of Israel to celebrate one of the most important acts of God in delivering them from bondage in Egypt. This important act is known as Passover.

The word Passover can be divided into two. These two parts explain its meaning and importance. The first part is pass which means to cross from one place to another, while the second is over, meaning to cross above or miss a particular mark or target. This was what physically happened in the land of Egypt during the first Passover.

The angel of death crossed over the houses of the children of Israel, entered those of the Egyptians and killed all their firstborns. It was a divine judgment on a wicked nation and great deliverance for God's chosen people. God still cares for His own. If you are a true child of God, you do not have to fear death or Satan. God will protect and preserve your life.





After this first Passover, God commanded the children of Israel to regularly observe the Passover feast as a memorial to remember their deliverance from the land of bondage. During the wilderness journey after leaving Egypt, the children of Israel were commanded again to celebrate the Passover. They obeyed and the presence of God went with them to guide them on their way. Obedience to God's word will always attract His blessings and presence in our lives.

1. CELEBRATION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PASSOVER:

Numbers 9:1-14; Exodus 12:1-29; Matthew 26:1,2,17-29

"**And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying, Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season**" (Numbers 9:1,2). About two years after leaving Egypt, the children of Israel were commanded to observe the Passover just as they did in Egypt. It was to be a solemn ceremony involving killing a male lamb without blemish, eating unleaven bread with bitter herbs, abstaining from any form of labour, gathering together in a holy assembly. All these, the people observed in obedience to God's command. We are to obey God's word at all times.

Are there any significance or importance of the Passover celebration? Yes there are. (i) It was to serve as a memorial for the children of Israel in their generations (Exodus 12:26,27). (ii) Through this celebration, future generations will bring to remembrance God's mighty acts of grace and mercy which He showed to their fathers. This will help them to honour God, trust Him and be obedient to His word. (iii) Commemoration of the Passover will help the children of Israel to totally depend on God as their deliverer, provider and protector, and to seek His glory alone as they serve Him. (iv) The Passover points to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world (John 1:29).

The blood applied on the door posts was to save the first born from death. Jesus shed His blood on the cross 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). In remembrance of the Passover, God demands that all sinners repent, ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Pray for clean heart and live holy always. Now it is time to examine yourself. Be watchful and prepare for the coming of the Lord.

2. THE CLOUD OF GUIDANCE:

Numbers 9:15-23; 10:1-36

After passing on the instructions concerning the observance of the Passover, the tabernacle was raised up. On the day it was erected, a supernatural cloud covered it and it was continuous and had the appearance of fire. The pillar of cloud and pillar of fire signify the presence of God with His people. He guided them through the wilderness on their journey to the Promised Land. The children of Israel moved in response to the Lord's instructions and the Lord was their real leader. It was their obedience to God's guidance that made them to enjoy His protection and preservation.

God still protects His children today. Though we do not have the pillar of cloud and fire, God leads and directs through His word and the power of the Holy Spirit. If you need guidance on any area of your life and future decision, make the word of God your best companion. Read it every day, listen attentively when it is being taught. Believe the word. Think deeply on its

message, act on its instructions and spread the message to all around you. Then you will enjoy the blessings of obedience.

3. COMPLETE PROTECTION AND GUIDANCE THROUGH JESUS – OUR PASSOVER LAMB:

Numbers 9:1-5,15,16; Matthew 26:1,2,26-29; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7,8; 11:24-26

When a sinner repents and receives forgiveness from God, he comes under divine protection and care because of the blood of Jesus. The blood that Jesus shed on the cross is powerful and more effective than the blood of male lamb the children of Israel applied to their door post in Egypt. If the blood of the male lamb could prevent the angel of death from entering their houses, how much more will the blood of the everlasting covenant, seal and keep us from all evils.

There is surety in the blood of Jesus. There is power in the blood of Jesus, there is wonder-working power in the blood of the Lamb. Redemption through the blood of Jesus opens the door for the repentant sinners to come under and enjoy all the benefits in the sinless, pure blood of Jesus. Such benefits include: (i) Protection and preservation from all evils – demonic attack, plagues, sicknesses, pestilences and afflictions (Exodus 12:13; 1 Corinthians 5:7b). (ii) Authority over Satan and deliverance from his bondage (Revelation 12:11). (iii) Healing of all sicknesses and diseases (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24). (iv) Peace of mind (Romans 5:1).

God has given us lots of promises concerning His guidance and protection. But He will only guide and protect His children who are obedient to His word. If you are still doing bad things like fighting, stealing, lying, disobedient to parents etc. You need to surrender your life now to Jesus. Ask God for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. This is the gateway to enjoying all the benefits that the blood of Jesus provides.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does commemoration mean?
2. Define Passover?
3. Mention the importance of the Passover celebration.
4. What was the symbol of God's guidance for Israel in the wilderness?
5. Enumerate the benefits we can enjoy through the blood of Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: "**And they kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at even in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel**" (Numbers 9:5).

LESSON: Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb who protects and cares for us.

THOUGHT: I accept Jesus as my personal Saviour and Lord.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill: Exodus 12:13; Deuteronomy 1:33; Psalms 121:5-8; 91:1,2; Exodus 33:14.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 37 - WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD

CHORUSES: (1) When I see the blood. (2) The blood of Jesus has made me whole. (3) Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever.

HOMEWORK: Search the Bible and write in your homework book, five promises for our protection and guidance.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	EXODUS	12:1,2
TUESDAY	EXODUS	12:3-6
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	12:7-10
THURSDAY	EXODUS	12:11-13
FRIDAY	PSALM	25:8-10
SATURDAY	PSALM	121:5-8
SUNDAY	PSALM	91:1-6

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Passover 2. Significance 3. Commemoration 4. Bondage 5. Covenant.

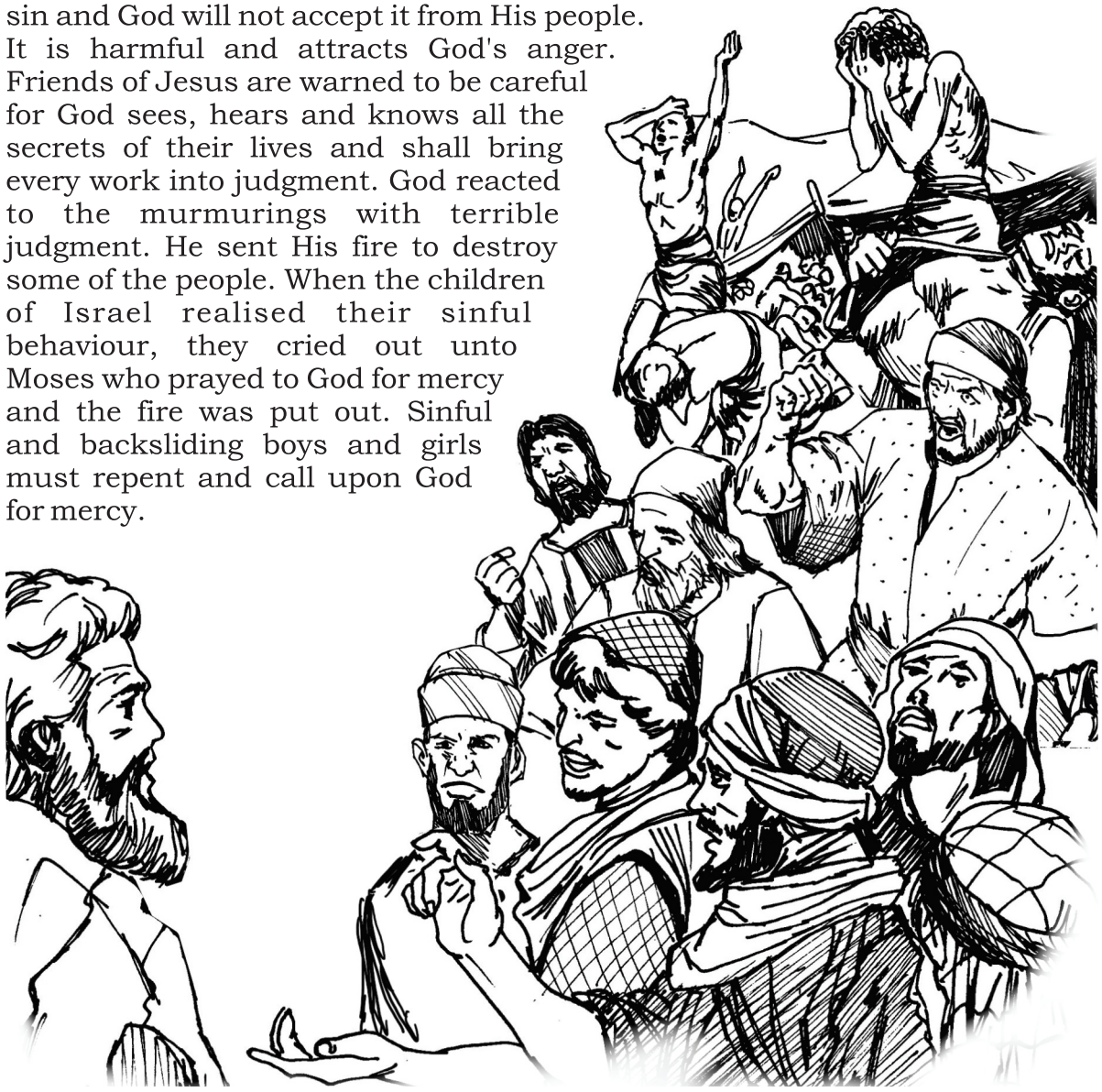
LESSON 43

MURMURING IN THE CAMP

Numbers 11:1-35; 12:1-16

God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, the land of suffering in order to fulfil His promise to Abraham. He led them through the wilderness and provided manna to feed them on the way. The children of Israel were ungrateful and full of unbelief. Instead of trusting God, they murmured against Him and Moses their leader. True children of God must not murmur against God or leaders in the church.

The children of Israel cannot do without complaining because their hearts were hard and uncircumcised. Murmuring is a sin and God will not accept it from His people. It is harmful and attracts God's anger. Friends of Jesus are warned to be careful for God sees, hears and knows all the secrets of their lives and shall bring every work into judgment. God reacted to the murmurings with terrible judgment. He sent His fire to destroy some of the people. When the children of Israel realised their sinful behaviour, they cried out unto Moses who prayed to God for mercy and the fire was put out. Sinful and backsliding boys and girls must repent and call upon God for mercy.



1. THE PEOPLE COMPLAINED AGAINST GOD AND MOSES:
Numbers 11:1-15; 12:1,2

"**And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp**" (Numbers 11:1).

In the first ten chapters of Numbers, Israel was counted, organised, cleansed, separated, blessed, taught how to give, reminded of God's deliverance, given God's symbol of presence, and the tools with which they can make progress in their journey to Canaan – the promised land. Now, having set out towards Canaan, the people complained. God has done so much for Israel, yet, they still murmured against Him.

The complaints were from three sets of people.

(i) The general congregation. After only a few days into their journey (Numbers 10:33), the children of Israel began to murmur and complain because of circumstances that were not too favourable for them. How quickly they forgot their deliverance from Egyptian slavery and God's mighty acts on their behalf. They would not trust God and commit their lives and future to Him. Friends of Jesus are encouraged to always think of God's gracious acts in our lives and continually show appreciation to Him. Never you murmur or complain even in times of trials and difficulties. God sees everything and will help you at the right time.

(ii) The mixed multitudes – these were strangers who mixed up and followed the children of Israel when they left Egypt. This set of people influenced the children of Israel to raise false accusation against God and Moses their leader. In fact, they complained of the delicious manna that God gave them. They were longing for meat and the delicacies of Egypt. Their evil desires even pushed them to "weep throughout their families" (Numbers 11:10). It was a shameful act of ingratitude and disregard for God who showed mercy unto them. Their action also provoked Moses to even complain to God.

Children of God must beware of their actions. Some children are covetous and greedy, to the extent that they show little regard for what their parents can afford to give them. It should not be so. You must cultivate the attitude of showing appreciation to your parents, care-givers and more importantly to God. Do not keep company with unbelievers, they will influence you to disobey God's word. Your duty is to preach the love of Jesus to them.

(iii) Aaron and Miriam – They were Moses' elder brother and sister, yet they murmured against him because of their pride, envy and position seeking. They wanted to be the leader of the people in place of Moses. They forgot that God is the one that chose Moses and not man. Children must not rebel or murmur against the leaders in the family – (parents), school, community, nation and church. You are encouraged to obey God's word, respect, honour the leaders and pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

2. PUNISHMENT FOR MURMURERS:

Numbers 11:1-3,18-24,31-34; 2:4-10

The murmuring of the people made God unhappy. Complaining hearts often displease God especially when they show little gratitude for what He did in the past, and little faith for what God could do at the moment. In response to Moses' complaints, God instructed him to choose seventy men among the people that will assist him in his work. He obeyed and God poured out His Spirit upon those elders and were empowered to work with Moses.

On the other hand, God responded to the murmuring of the people with fierce judgment. Israel had enjoyed the presence of the pillar of God's fire every night. Here, the fire became something of two-edged sword. God's fire was present with Israel to comfort them, but it was also present to deal with their sin. The people that murmured against God received instant judgment. (a) The fire of the Lord burnt the first set of murmurers. (b) The people that craved for meat were consumed with plague (strange sickness). (c) For Miriam, she became leprous and was sent out of the camp until God had mercy on her.

Murmuring is a serious sin before God. It always attracts His displeasure and judgment. As believers, we must not murmur or complain, rather commit everything to God in prayer.

3. PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION:

Numbers 11:2; 12:11-16

When the children of Israel realised that they have done bad in murmuring against God, they became sorry. They cried unto Moses who in turn prayed unto the Lord on their behalf. Also, in the case of Aaron and Miriam, Moses prayed to God and He answered. The fire of judgment was quenched and Miriam became well after spending some days outside the camp.

The lesson we should meditate on is that obedience is the best way to please the Lord. It is better not to disobey because of its serious consequences. Do not be in the company of murmurers and disobedient children. Believe the word of God and trust Him to fulfil His promises in your life. If you are not a friend of Jesus yet, you belong in the company of mix-multitudes. Come out and surrender your life to Jesus now.

You must confess your sins to God. Repent of your sins and ask Jesus to wash you clean in His blood. Invite Him into your heart to be your Saviour and Friend. Continue to follow and serve Him and He will give you the grace to overcome all bad habits.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were the three sets of people that murmured against God and Moses?
2. State three reasons for the murmuring.

3. How were the murmurers punished?
4. God is not happy when you murmur or complain. Yes/No?
5. What is the way out of murmuring?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.**" (Numbers 11:1).

LESSON: God is not happy when we murmur and complain.

THOUGHT: I will not murmur or complain so as to escape God's judgment.

ACTIVITY: Prayer of repentance.

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

CHORUSES: (1) Oh wait meekly and murmur not. (2) See me through Lord. (3) I will never let the devil win the battle.

HOMEWORK: Warn sinners of the danger of remaining in their sinful ways.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	10:9-12
TUESDAY	EXODUS	16:1-3
WEDNESDAY	EXODUS	17:1-3
THURSDAY	EXODUS	17:1-4-7
FRIDAY	NUMBERS	14:1-4
SATURDAY	NUMBERS	14:5-8
SUNDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	10:1-6

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary:1. Habit 2. Multitude 3. Delicacies 4. Murmured 5. Uttermost.

LESSON 44

THE SPIES' REPORT AND ISRAEL'S REBELLION

Numbers 13:1-33; 14:1-45

The children of Israel came near the land of Canaan after crossing the Red Sea. Soon they would march into the Promised Land. God told Moses to send twelve spies ahead to survey the land to find out some things. Spies are people who try to get confidential information and keep a secret watch on the movements and affairs of others. These twelve heads of the tribes of Israel were sent to search and find out the following facts about the land of Canaan

(i) To know whether the land was good or bad, rich or poor.

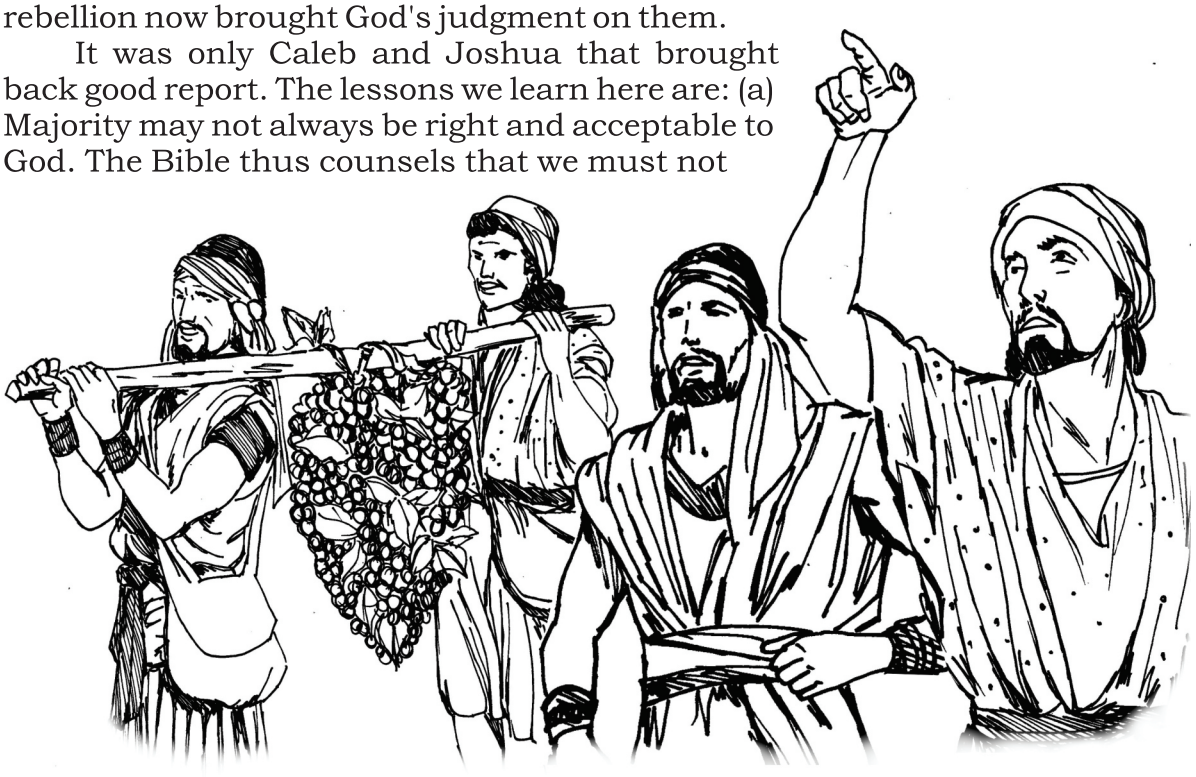
(ii) To examine the state of the people that lived there whether they are strong or weak.

(iii) To see their dwelling place whether they lived in tents or cities with strongholds.

(iv) Lastly to bring the fruits of the land.

These twelve spies went up and searched the land in obedience to Moses their leader. They even brought back the fruit of the land after searching for forty days. If the story had ended this way, it would have been better for them. However, they spoilt their testimony by bringing back evil reports. Their actions arose out of unbelief and disregard for all that the Lord had done in their midst. They made the whole congregation to rebel against God. Their rebellion now brought God's judgment on them.

It was only Caleb and Joshua that brought back good report. The lessons we learn here are: (a) Majority may not always be right and acceptable to God. The Bible thus counsels that we must not



follow multitude to do evil. (b) Rebellion is evil and will always attract divine punishment. Therefore, children must not rebel against God's word no matter what happen. (c) There is reward for exercising faith and absolute trust in God.

1. THE SPIES' REPORT:
Numbers 13:1-33; 32:7-9

After searching out the land for forty days, the spies came back with different reports. Ten of them which was the majority brought back an unfavourable, fearful and discouraging reports. They confessed their inability to go in and possess the land of promise because (i) There were giants in the land. (ii) They see themselves as grasshoppers before the giants. (iii) The cities were walled and well protected. (iv) The people were stronger than they are.

These evil reports made the people of Israel to weep all night (Numbers 14:1). The ten spies forgot all the miracles God did among them in the wilderness. On the other hand, Caleb and Joshua presented a minority report which shows their faith in God's power and faithfulness to His covenant promise. These two people acknowledged God's sovereignty and power over all His creatures. They confessed that they are well able to go in at once to possess the land flowing with milk and honey. They remembered how God has kept His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their own generation.

God was not happy with the evil reports of the ten leaders, so He pronounced judgment upon the ten spies and the whole congregation of Israel. Do not join others to doubt or disobey God's word. Be on the side of those who believe and exercise faith in God's unfailing promises. There are rewards for the faithful as well as punishment for being unfaithful.

2. SEVERE CONSEQUENCE FOR ISRAEL'S REBELLION:
Numbers 14:1-23,25-37,39-45; 32:10-13

The negative reports from the ten spies made the children of Israel to rebel against God. Their rebellion was manifested in their words and actions. They (i) Wept and cried all night in unbelief. (ii) Murmured against Moses and Aaron their leaders. (iii) Complained and expressed desire to die instead of living to enjoy the good plan of God for them. (iv) Wanted to return to Egypt, the land of bondage and suffering. (v) Were ready to stone Moses and the two spies who gave good reports.

The children of Israel had experienced redemption and God's miracle among them. Yet they complained against God, hardened their hearts, rebelled against the Lord, rejected Him in unbelief, refused to listen to His voice, ceased to obey His commandments and turned back from following the Lord. Their rebellion brought upon them the wrath of God, death and destruction, failure to enter the land of Canaan and loss of God's rest. What a

tragedy! It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The counsel of God to us as friends of Jesus is in Hebrews 3:12 which says "**Take heed, brethren,** (boys and girls) **lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God**." Rebellion and unbelief come from an evil heart. Therefore, you must never at any time give in to unbelief or rebellion against God and His word. If you are rebellious against your parents, constituted authorities and God's word, it is time for you to repent. Ask God for forgiveness and cleansing of your sin with the blood of Jesus. Believe the word of God, obey it and you will be blessed.

3. SPECIAL BLESSINGS FOR THE OBEDIENT:
Numbers 14:24,38; 32:12

Both Joshua and Caleb stood against the majority opinion of the spies. They had firm commitment to God and full confidence in His promises to Israel as a people. They refused to join others to rebel against God even at the risk of their lives. What was the result of their exemplary behaviour? God pronounced special blessings on them. Joshua later became the leader who led them to the Promised Land and shared the land for the younger generation.

Both of them lived long enough to enter the land flowing with milk and honey and possessed their inheritance. They died at a very old age and went to heaven for their eternal reward. There are great blessings for now and eternity for children who will remain faithful and loyal to Christ and His word. Be counted among such children. Be obedient to God's word so you can eat the good of the land (Isaiah 1:19).

QUESTIONS:
1. How many spies were sent out to spy out the land of Canaan?
2. How many of the spies brought evil reports?
3. What were the evil reports brought by the unbelieving spies?
4. Who were the spies that brought back good reports?
5. How were the disobedient people punished?
6. What are the blessings for the obedient?

MEMORY VERSE: "**If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not**" (Numbers 14:8,9).

LESSON: God desires that we believe and claim all His promises for our own good.

THOUGHT: I trust God to fulfil all His promises in my life.

ACTIVITY: Read Numbers 13:25-33 and summarize the reports of the spies in the spaces provided. The question below serves as guide.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

(1) The spies came to _____
(2) The land flourished with _____
(3) The people be _____ that dwell in it.
(4) The _____ _____ _____ _____ and _____ dwell there.
(5) Caleb stilled the people and said _____
(6) All the people we saw in it are _____
(7) We were in our own sight as _____

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 177 - SEARCH ME, O GOD

CHORUSES: (1) Be careful little mouth what you say. (2) I am ready to obey Thy word. (3) Through it all I have learnt to trust in Jesus.

HOMEWORK: Preach the love of Jesus to one child during the week.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	NUMBERS	32:1-5
TUESDAY	NUMBERS	32:6-9
WEDNESDAY	NUMBERS	32:10-13
THURSDAY	JOSHUA	14:6-10
FRIDAY	JOSHUA	14:11-13
SATURDAY	JOSHUA	14:14,15
SUNDAY	ISAIAH	1:16-20

BIBLE WORD SEARCH
Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Spies 2. Rebellion 3. Strongholds 4. Faithfulness 5. Redemption.

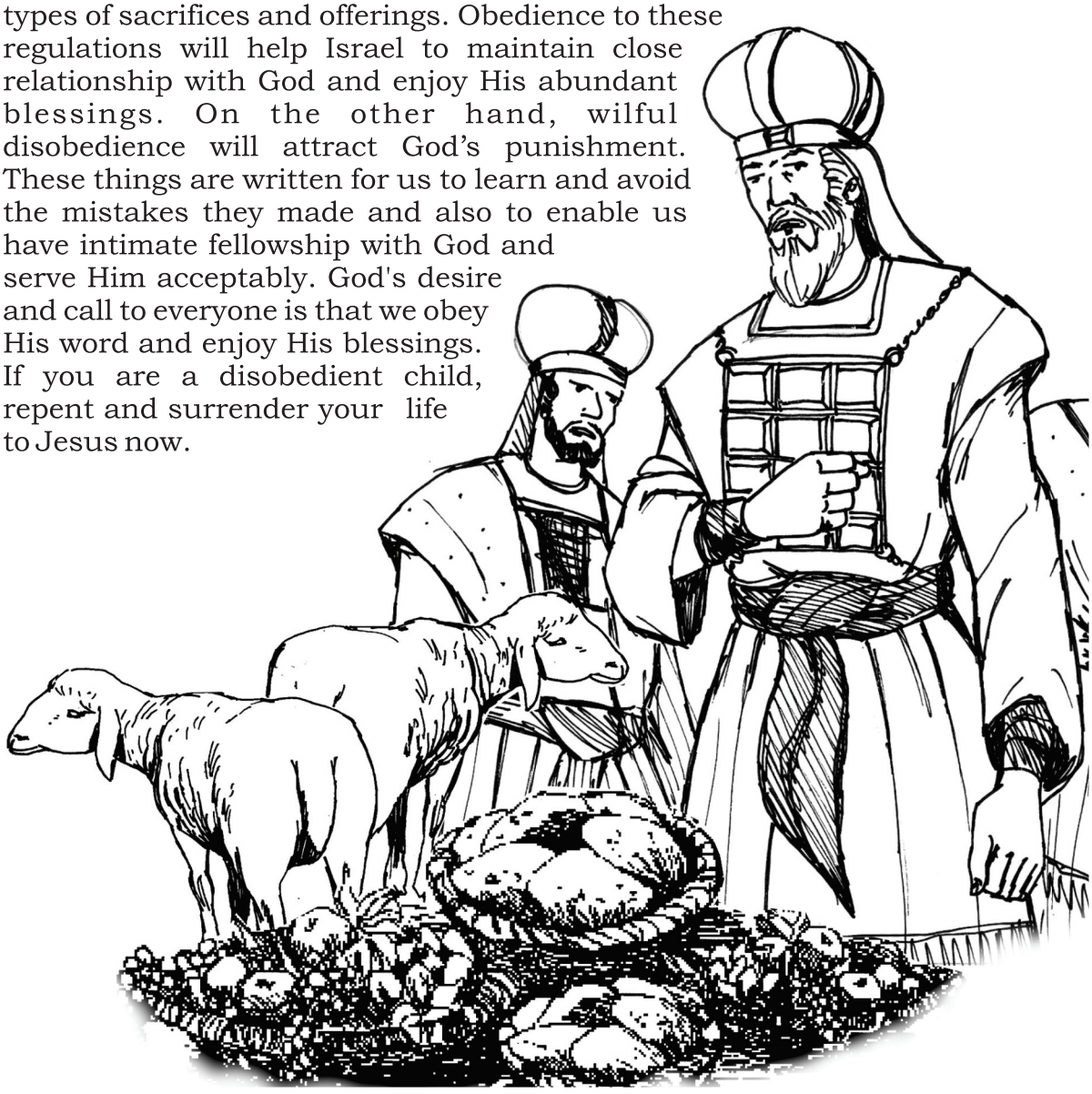
LESSON 45

SUNDRY OFFERINGS AND INTENTIONAL SIN

Numbers 15:1-41

Sundry means several, more than one or two. Sundry offerings therefore mean different kinds of offerings prescribed by God to bring a worshipper closer to Him. Our study will (i) Examine various offerings in relation to God's expectation for New Testament believers. (ii) Identify intentional and unintentional sins and their prescribed punishments.

As the children of Israel continued their journey to the Promised Land, God through Moses gave them commandments, rules and regulations concerning their mode of worship. These acts of worship consist of different types of sacrifices and offerings. Obedience to these regulations will help Israel to maintain close relationship with God and enjoy His abundant blessings. On the other hand, wilful disobedience will attract God's punishment. These things are written for us to learn and avoid the mistakes they made and also to enable us have intimate fellowship with God and serve Him acceptably. God's desire and call to everyone is that we obey His word and enjoy His blessings. If you are a disobedient child, repent and surrender your life to Jesus now.



1. SUNDRY OFFERINGS AND THEIR PURPOSES:

Numbers 15:1-21; Genesis 8:20,21; Leviticus 1:1-4

Offerings were dedicated gifts brought to God as acts of worship. The following are the offerings and their purposes.

(i) Burnt offering – Numbers 15:1-21; Leviticus 1:1-17; 6:8-13; 8:18-21; 16:24. Purpose – it is an atonement for unintentional sin in general. It also serves as an expression of devotion, commitment and complete surrender to God.

(ii) Meat offering – Numbers 15:1-21; Leviticus 2:1-9

Purpose – It is a gift presented to God as an act of worship symbolising the dedication to God of the fruit of a person's labour. This is to show that all human work should be done as unto the Lord and that our daily food should be received with thanksgiving unto God.

(iii) Sin offering – Leviticus 4:1-5; 6:24-30

Purpose – God required a sin offering in order that those who sinned without deliberate intention could receive forgiveness. It requires confession of sins, forgiveness from God and cleansing from all defilements.

(iv) Peace offering – Leviticus 3:1-17

Purpose – The peace offering was brought before God in order to have fellowship with Him, to express thanksgiving, make a vow and to celebrate the sinners' reconciliation with God. This offering points forward to the peace and fellowship that believers have with God and other believers on the basis of Christ's death on the cross (Colossians 1:20).

Have you made peace with God or you are still rebellious and disobedient to His word? The Bible does not discriminate between Israel and strangers. The door of salvation is still open to everyone who will come to Jesus and surrender to Him.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF GOD'S APPOINTED OFFERINGS:

Numbers 15:1-31

An offering is a form of dedicated sacrifice made to God as an act of worship or surrender. Many offerings and sacrifices were prescribed by God for Israel in order to distinguish them as His own chosen nation.

The people presented their offerings in order to express thanksgiving and faith, renew fellowship and ask for forgiveness. In most cases, these offerings involved animal sacrifice where its life is taken. All these taught the children of Israel that (i) All have sinned and merit death. (ii) Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Leviticus 17:11). (iii) God's holiness must control and direct every area of human life. (iv) God desires to be merciful, to forgive and to have fellowship with everyone.

Jesus Christ has fulfilled and perfected all the sacrifices and offering needed to bring a sinner back to fellowship with God. He came into the world,

suffered, died and shed His blood for the remission of our sins. On the third day, He rose from the dead to give us victory over judgment and eternal death. His suffering and death offer the perfect substitute for the sinner than the Old Testament offerings. All a sinner needs do is to sincerely pray to God, be sorry and turn away from sin and surrender his life to Christ.

3. SALVATION FOR REPENTANT SINNERS:
Numbers 15:22-41; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 1:7-9

Two boys named Stephen and Simon were sent to buy groceries from the store. Stephen kept the money given to him in his pocket and ran quickly to the store. After picking the items from the shelves, he discovered that the money is no more in his pocket. He became disturbed and started weeping. The sales man had to ask somebody to follow him home.

When Stephen got home, he was still crying because he was afraid of the outcome of what has happened to him. However, when his father learnt that the money got missing through Stephen's leaked pocket, he forgave him. The father could also see that Stephen was sorry for the loss of the money and that his action was not intentional. Simon on the other hand collected money from his mom, went off to a snack shop and bought a piece of cake and chocolate bar. After eating the snacks, he returned home and told lies that the money was stolen. The mother discovered his lies and he was duly punished. Simon's sin was intentional, a wilful disobedience to the word of God. Therefore, he has to suffer for it.

This story illustrates the instruction given by God concerning intentional and unintentional sins. Sins that show a deliberate and rebellious attitude to God and His word are referred to as intentional sins. The punishment prescribed for such in the Old Testament is death by stoning. The New Testament confirms that the **wages of sin is death** especially for the rebellious and unrepentant sinner (Romans 6:23a). The other part of this verse shows that there is opportunity for the sinner to receive pardon if he repents. **For the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord** (Romans 6:23b).

Jesus has offered Himself as atonement for our sins. Sinners have no excuse to remain in sin. It is a wise decision to choose life rather than death. Sinners should therefore repent of all forms of rebellion and disobedience. Turn to God, ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Then accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord.

QUESTIONS:
1. What is the meaning of sundry offering?
2. Mention three types of offerings and their purposes.
3. Explain the significance of the Old Testament offerings.

4. How can a sinner receive salvation through Christ's sacrifice and Offering?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And the priest shall make an atonement for all the congregation of the children of Israel, and it shall be forgiven them; for it is ignorance: and they shall bring their offering, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD, for their ignorance**" (Numbers 15:25).

LESSON: God offered His only begotten Son as sacrifice for our sins.

THOUGHT: I surrender all to Jesus.

ACTIVITY: Read Leviticus 4:16-21 and John 3:16. Then write out in your homework book, the importance of Christ's death on the cross.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 37 - WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD

CHORUSES: (1) Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life. (2) On the way to Calvary. (3) Jesus is the sweetest Name.

HOMEWORK: Tell a sinner about the love of Jesus and invite him/her to church.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	LEVITICUS	4:1-4
TUESDAY	LEVITICUS	4:5-7
WEDNESDAY	LEVITICUS	4:14-17
THURSDAY	LEVITICUS	4:18-21
FRIDAY	ROMANS	3:20-23
SATURDAY	ROMANS	3:24-26
SUNDAY	1 JOHN	1:7-9

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Sundry 2. Regulations 3. Atonement 4. Significance 5. Substitute.

LESSON 46

KORAH'S REBELLION AND APPROVAL OF AARON'S PRIESTHOOD

Numbers 16:1-50; 17:1-13

The focus of this study is on a very sad experience that occurred during the wilderness journey of Israel to the Promised Land. They often fail to learn from their past mistakes. As believers, we are on a journey through this sinful world going to our promised land – Heaven. We must be careful and walk in obedience and fear of God.

The sad occurrence was a rebellion against Moses and Aaron by a group of leaders led by a man named Korah. The tribe of Levi from which Korah came were given privileged responsibilities in handling the most sacred (holy) objects of the tabernacle. Yet for Korah that authority and privilege was not enough, he led the rebellion. He was joined by Dathan, Abiram and two hundred and fifty influential leaders.

They were jealous of Moses and Aaron's leadership and priestly position. These rebels failed to take into account that the Lord had appointed Moses and Aaron. What was the result of this open rebellion? God brought an unusual judgment on them as the earth opened and swallowed up Korah, Dathan and Abiram with their families.

God also proved to the rest of the murmuring congregation that He has chosen Aaron as high priest. He performed a miracle of making Aaron's dry rod to blossom amidst the rods of twelve other leaders. Rebellion or murmuring against spiritual leaders (pastors, teachers, preachers) is a rebellion against God. Children must accept the leadership of anointed ministers of God and be obedient to the word of God they teach. Do not be in the company of murmurers and rebellious children. If you have been a rebellious child, repent now before it is too late. For God is going to judge everyone who rebel against His word.



1. THE PLANNED REBELLION OF KORAH AND HIS COMPANY:

Numbers 16:1-14; 14:1-11; 1 Samuel 15:22; 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Rebellion is an act of open or deliberate refusal to obey constituted authorities either in the family, community, school or the nation. Our Bible passage is a story of the rebellion of certain groups of people among the children of Israel. Korah a member from the tribe of Levi, Dathan and Abiram from the tribe of Reuben and two hundred and fifty men who were powerful leaders among the tribes rose up to challenge the authority of Moses, their political and spiritual leader.

They criticized Moses' leadership style and Aaron's priestly office. They also influenced the congregation of the people to insult Moses and rebel against his authority. It was an open confrontation that made God unhappy that He was determined to wipe them off. Moses and Aaron had to intercede for them. These group of people rebelled against God's anointed leaders because of the following reasons:

(i) Envy – They were envious of Moses and Aaron's position as the leaders of God's chosen people.

(ii) Position seeking – Their action was an ambitious attempt to get more power and a higher position for themselves as priests.

(iii) Lack of regard for God, His word and His appointed leaders. They failed to accept that Moses and Aaron were appointed and empowered by God to lead Israel.

(iv) Pride – They lack respect for constituted authority and they want others to respect them. They also want to place themselves higher than the others.

By their action, they rejected God and His revealed word regarding who would lead God's people. Consequently, they received God's just condemnation and punishment. Children must not rebel against their parents, school authority, community and political leaders and ministers of the gospel. Do not seek to lead others when you have not been chosen to do so. Rebellious children will suffer in this world and will end up in hell if they fail to repent. God's call to all boys and girls is that they love Him with all their hearts, obey and serve Him all the days of their lives.

2. PUNISHMENT FOR THE REBELLIOUS:

Numbers 16:15-50; 14:11,12,20-23; 1 Samuel 15:22-26;
Isaiah 1:5-15,20; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

Leaders are chosen by God and no individual is expected to challenge or rebel against God's choice. Failure to obey God's chosen leaders will lead to damnable consequences as it happened to Korah and his company. There were different degrees of punishment for the rebels.

(i) For Korah, Dathan, Abiram and their families, Moses demanded that God should execute an uncommon judgment on them. God hearkened unto Moses

and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up alive
(Numbers 16:31-33).
(ii) The two hundred and fifty men that joined in their rebellion, real fire came from the Lord and consumed them. They were burnt on earth and went to everlasting punishment in hell-fire (Numbers 16:35).
(iii) The congregation that murmured and gathered against Moses and Aaron – a strange disease (plague) came upon them and killed fourteen thousand and seven hundred people (Numbers 16:49).

Rebellion is a grievous sin that will always attract God's displeasure and judgment anywhere it is found. Today, rebellion is still common in the society especially among youth and children. It is a destructive attitude that can affect the future of any child that engages in it. Rebellion and other sinful acts should not be found among children of God.

Friends of Jesus are called to be subject to parental control, submissive to godly counsel, obedient to constituted authority in the family, school, church and nation. They are to be humble, lowly in spirit, holy and obedient to God's word in all they do. In doing all these and more, they will enjoy God's special and abundant blessings.

3. PRONOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S APPROVAL OF AARON'S PRIESTHOOD:
Numbers 17:1-7; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17

God judged and punished the rebellious while He exalted His obedient servants. God loves justice and righteousness and He will honour those who are righteous. Having destroyed the rebels (Korah, Dathan, Abiram and others), God now gave clear proof that the tribe of Levi was His specially chosen tribe, and the family of Aaron, His specially chosen for the priesthood.

God instructed Moses to collect one rod each from the twelve tribes and set them up before Him in the tabernacle. God then showed His approval of Aaron's priesthood by making his rod to blossom and bring forth fruit. To blossom means to grow and do well. Like Aaron's dry rod, God wants us to grow and do well. From this miracle of the rod, we learnt that: (a) Leaders are appointed by God and must be accepted and obeyed. (b) God can do all things, so we must fear and obey Him. (c) Obedience brings blessings and honour. The rod was a symbol of authority. Though other tribes had their own rods, Aaron's authority superceded that of the other tribes.

When the children of Israel saw the miracle of the blossomed rod, they became humble. They came to Moses to acknowledge their wrong doings. This is the attitude expected from every rebellious child. He must acknowledge his sinfulness. Sincerely repent and ask for pardon and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Ask Jesus into his heart to be his Lord and personal Saviour. This is the right step to receiving favour and approval from the Lord. Then your life will blossom and bring forth fruit of repentance and righteousness.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is rebellion?
2. Mention the names of the leaders of those who rebelled against Moses and Aaron.
3. How many people did they gather to rebel against God's appointed leader?
4. How did God punish the rebels?
5. How did God show His approval of Aaron's priesthood?
6. What should a child do to gain God's approval?

MEMORY VERSE: "And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared" (Numbers 16:42).

LESSON: Obedience brings blessings while rebellion attracts God's judgment.

THOUGHT: I will not rebel against the word of God.

ACTIVITY: Prayer session: pray for forgiveness and cleansing from every rebellious attitude.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 205 - HAVE YOU COUNTED THE COST?

CHORUSES: (1) Obedience is the very best way. (2) Make me a good child. (3) I will never let the devil win the battle.

HOMEWORK: Write out in a tabular form, the blessings for the obedient and punishment for the disobedient according to these Bible passages: Deuteronomy 28:1-13; Isaiah 1:19; Numbers 16:49; Revelation 21:8

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ISAIAH	1:1-3
TUESDAY	ISAIAH	1:4-6
WEDNESDAY	ISAIAH	1:7-9
THURSDAY	ISAIAH	1:10-12
FRIDAY	ISAIAH	1:13-20
SATURDAY	ROMANS	13:1-3
SUNDAY	ROMANS	13:4-7

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Rebels 2. Blossom 3. Exalt 4. Justice 5. Leadership.

LESSON 47

CHRIST'S CALL TO SOUL-WINNING

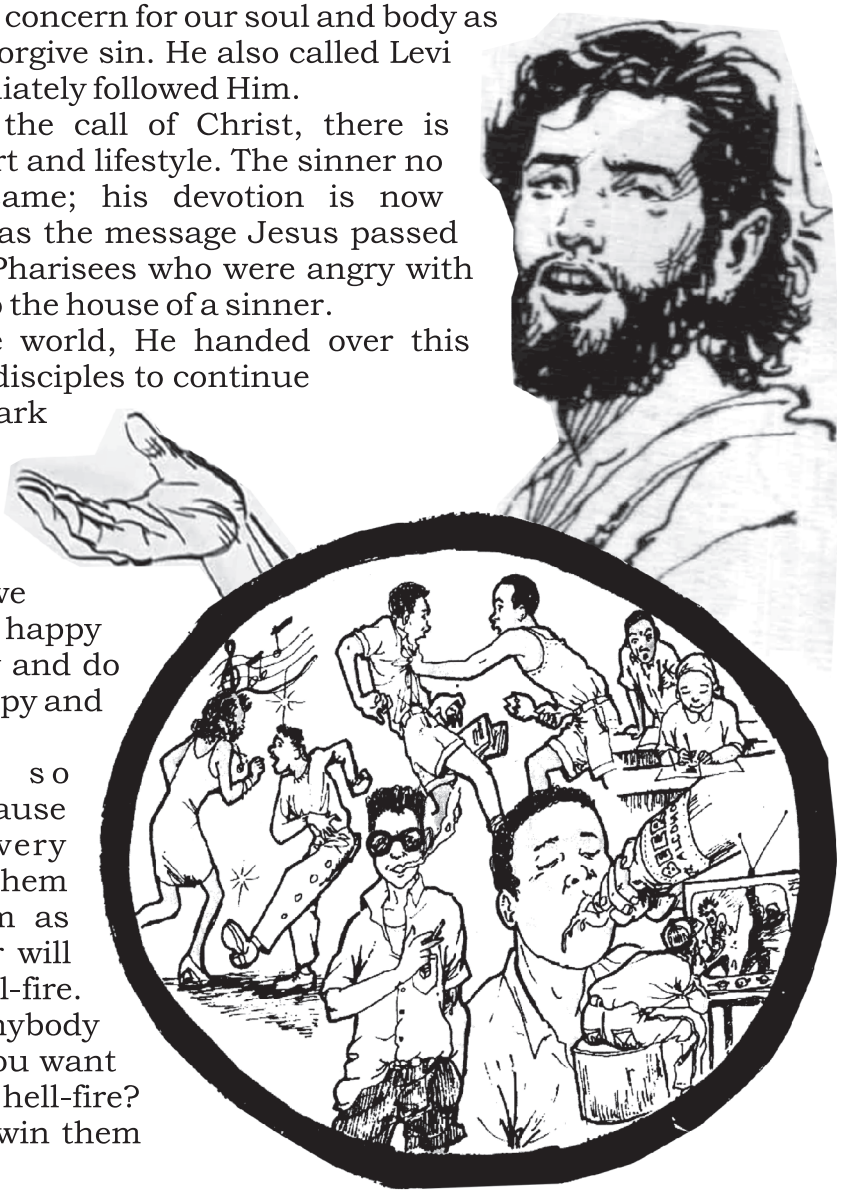
Luke 5:1-39

Soul-winning means the preaching of the gospel with the aim of making sinners to repent and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. This is the most important assignment given to all believers. Jesus Christ our Saviour used every means (method) available to win sinners because of the importance He attached to souls. When He was on earth, He went about preaching the gospel and called people to repentance.

In our Bible passage, Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow Him. They obeyed. At another time, He forgave a sinner and healed him, showing that Jesus has concern for our soul and body as well and has power to forgive sin. He also called Levi (a publican) who immediately followed Him.

When one obeys the call of Christ, there is always a change of heart and lifestyle. The sinner no longer remains the same; his devotion is now towards Christ. This was the message Jesus passed on to the Scribes and Pharisees who were angry with Him because He went to the house of a sinner.

Before He left the world, He handed over this unfinished task to His disciples to continue (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16: 15, 16). He expects His disciples today (born again boys and girls) to do as He did while here on earth. If we fail Him, He will not be happy with us. But if we obey and do the work, He will be happy and bless us.



This task is so important to Jesus because souls are dying every second and many of them who do not know Him as their Lord and Saviour will spend eternity in hell-fire. Jesus does not want anybody to go to hell-fire. Do you want your friends to go to hell-fire? That is why you must win them to Jesus.

1. WHO CAN WIN SOULS?

Luke 5:1-11,27-32; John 3:3-5

A man was travelling from his village to another village. Along the way, he fell into a well with his co-travellers. The man was in the well and tried very hard to bring out other people in the same well. He could not, because he was in the well himself.

Before Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach, He called them first to repent. Thereafter, they were qualified to preach the gospel. If you are still doing bad things like fighting, stealing, cheating in examinations, lying, you cannot win souls because you are like the man in the same well who could not save himself and others. The work of soul-winning is for those who are saved.

Before you can obey this command to win souls you must first acknowledge yourself as a sinner who cannot save himself. Confess all your sins to God, tell Jesus to forgive you and wash you with His blood; ask Him to come into your heart as your Lord and Saviour. Now you can go out and win others.

2. WHERE AND HOW TO WIN SOULS?

Luke 5:18-39; Matthew 28:19,20; 2 Timothy 4:1,2

When Jesus was on earth, He travelled long distances to different towns and villages to preach the gospel in order to win souls. Even His disciples travelled far and near to do the same but we thank God today we may not need to travel far before we can win souls. In our neighbourhood, schools, hospitals, streets, markets, orphanages, there are many souls there waiting for us to reach out to them with the gospel. Jesus personally spoke to individuals, groups of people and crowd at different times. He forgave sinners, healed the sick and set the captives free. He has given us authority to do the same as we get involved in the work of soul-winning.

Today, sinners can be reached in different ways: we can share tracts, give out Tender Life Magazines or other Christian Magazines and books. We can also send short messages (SMS), posts on Facebook and WhatsApp and pray for sinners to be saved. We can also preach to other children and invite our friends to fellowship. God will help us to win souls in all these ways. Get involved and you shall be blessed for doing that.

3. WONDERFUL BENEFITS FOR WINNING SOULS

Luke 5:1-6; 15:10; Matthew 25:21; Daniel 12:3

A song writer wrote thus:
"Obedience brings a blessing (2x)
It always works, it never fails, I've found;
Just daring to step out upon the promises of Jesus;
Will always work, it never fails to bring the blessing down".

Truly obedience brings blessings. God will be happy with you as a soul-winner and shower a lot of blessings on you: (i) Many sinners will repent and be made fit for heaven; (ii) there will be growth in the Church; (iii) you will be

happy that you have won souls; (iv) God's protection, provisions, success, good health, prosperity and many other blessings shall be your portion. At last, you will have many stars in your crown when you get to heaven. Arise now and enlist into the army of soul-winners.

QUESTIONS:
1. Why is soul-winning a very important task?
2. Who commands friends of Jesus to win souls?
3. Can sinful boys and girls win souls? Yes/No?
4. Mention five methods we can use to win souls.
5. Mention three benefits of obeying Christ's call to win souls.
6. Are you a soul-winner?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men**" (Luke 5:10).

LESSON: Friends of Jesus are called to win souls.

THOUGHT: I will win souls for Christ.

ACTIVITY: Search the Scriptures and write out two other passages where Christ commands His disciples to go and win souls.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 107 - GO AND TELL THEM

CHORUSES: (1) I will go o o, (2x) I will go and tell them Jesus is alive! (2) Go and tell them (2x), Jesus died for sinful men … (3) Isaiah heard the voice of the LORD …

HOMEWORK: Teachers should arrange and go out for evangelism with the children during the week.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW	4:18-22
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	4:23-25
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	9:9-13
THURSDAY	MARK	2:1-5
FRIDAY	MARK	2:6-12
SATURDAY	MARK	2:13-17
SUNDAY	MARK	16:15-20

BIBLE WORD SEARCH
Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Commission 2. Neighbourhood 3. Audience 4. Soul-winning 5. Task

LESSON 48

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY OVER SICKNESS, DEATH AND SIN

Luke 7:1-17,36-50

The fall of man brought three great problems which man has no power to overcome. They are sin, sickness and death. Jesus proved during His earthly ministry that He has authority over these problems, and actually came to set man free from them. The demonstration of this authority attracted much people to Jesus and He never disappointed whoever came to Him. No problem was impossible for Him to solve. He was eventually crucified on the cross at Calvary where He died to set us free from the power of sin, sickness and death. If you are a sinner, open your heart to Jesus now, He will save you. And if you are sick and afraid of death, Jesus will heal and deliver you from sickness and the power of death.



1. CAUSES OF SICKNESS:

Luke 7:1-3;
Genesis 3:1-24;
Deuteronomy 28:15,21,22,27,35

Sin is the cause of man's problems. When Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden before they disobeyed God, they enjoyed divine health. The fall of man brought sickness to the world. Therefore, as sin such as lying, disobedience, stealing, gossiping, fighting and jealousy came into the world, sickness also came. Sickness can also come through our life style, lack of good personal hygiene

and what we eat. The good news is that no sickness can withstand the power of Jesus. On the cross at Calvary, He declared "**... It is finished ...** (John 19:30). This is the joy of every boy or girl who is a child of God.

2. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY OVER SICKNESS AND DISEASES:
Luke 7:1-10; Exodus 15:26; 1 Peter 2:24

Authority means power to do something. It also means power to control all things. Jesus has power to heal all kinds of sicknesses, raise the dead and forgive sins. At Capernaum, Christ showed His power over sicknesses and diseases when He healed the Centurion's servant. The Centurion surprised Jesus when he asked Jesus to speak the word only and his servant would be healed. Jesus did just that and the servant was healed. The faith of the Centurion teaches us that no matter our problem, our faith is very important. There are other instances in the Bible where Christ exercised His authority over sicknesses. (i) The woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:20-22). (ii) He opened blind Bartimaeus' eyes (Mark 10:46-52). (iii) He forgave and healed the man sick of the palsy (Matthew 9:2-8).

Only Jesus Christ has power to heal all sicknesses and diseases. "**But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed**" (Isaiah 53:5). When we fall sick, we should quote God's promises of divine healing in prayer and have faith in God's power to heal.

3. CHRIST GIVES US VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH
Luke 7:11-17,36-50; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

The raising from the dead of the son of the widow in the city of Nain shows the power of Jesus over death. No human being has power to raise the dead. When somebody dies, the only thing people around could do is just to show sympathy. Jesus went beyond that by raising the dead to the amazement of the sympathizers. Even today, at the mention of the name of Jesus, dead people are being brought back to life. In John 14:12, Jesus said that whosoever believes in Him will do the works that He did and even more. Born-again children who are involved in doing the work that Jesus did will draw more souls to Jesus. Christ has given all His friends power to heal the sick and raise the dead "**Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you**" (Luke 10:19). It is for you to use the power to the glory of God.

Only Jesus has power to forgive sin. The woman with the alabaster box of ointment who anointed Jesus' head with oil was a sinner. Jesus forgave all her sins. To enjoy victory over sin, sickness and death, a sinful child must repent of his sins by acknowledging himself as a sinner, confessing all sins and forsaking them. Then, he will invite Jesus into his heart as Lord and personal

Saviour. After this, he should read the Bible, pray always, live a holy life, preach the gospel and avoid objects of temptations.

QUESTIONS:
1. How did sin, sickness and death come into the world?
2. What is authority?
3. In what city was the widow woman's son raised back to life?
4. By whose stripes are we healed?
5. How can a sinner be free from sin and sickness?

MEMORY VERSE: "And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise" (Luke 7:13,14).

LESSON: Jesus Christ has power to heal all kinds of sicknesses, raise the dead and forgive all sins.

THOUGHT: I will abide with Jesus so as to enjoy victory over sin, sickness and death.

ACTIVITY: Children are to mention three people in the Bible that Jesus healed apart from those in our study today.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 19 - CHRIST JESUS HAS THE POWER

CHORUSES: (1) What manner of man is Jesus hallelujah (2) In the name of Jesus I have my victory (3) Since I touched the hem of His garment.

HOMEWORK: Pray daily and exercise authority like Christ over challenges of life.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW	9:18-22
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	9:23-26
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	12:14-18
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	17:14-18
FRIDAY	JOHN	11:21-23
SATURDAY	JOHN	11:24-27
SUNDAY	JOHN	11:39-44

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can you your dictionary: 1. Authority 2. Centurion 3. Sympathy 4. Hygiene 5. Palsy

LESSON 49

CHRIST TEACHES AGAINST DIVISION IN THE CHURCH

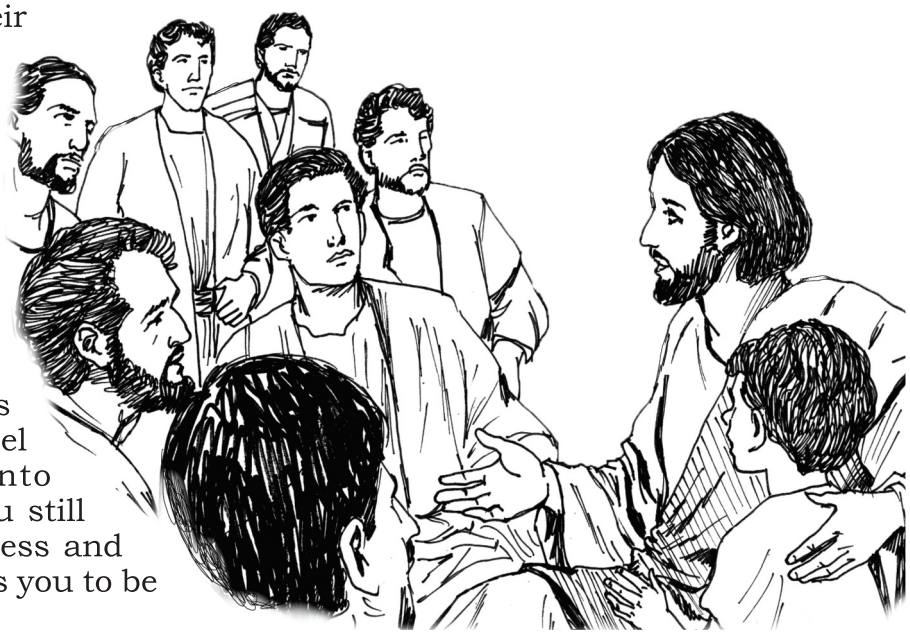
Luke 9:46-56

The church is the assembly of people who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. They have one purpose and one goal. This goal is to worship God in truth and holiness and promote Christ's kingdom on earth till He comes in the rapture. The New Testament church started with the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. He went about doing good and saving sinners. Those who responded to His call, He made them His disciples.

After His death, resurrection and ascension, His disciples continued with the church. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, the church grew and has become a big gathering of saints. This growth is expected to continue till Jesus comes. During His earthly ministry, Jesus taught His disciples many important truth and principles that should govern their lives and fellowship so as to fulfil His purpose for the church.

One of such principles is His teaching about the danger of division in the church. The will of God for the church is that we all remain united, live holy, preach the gospel to draw sinners into the kingdom and prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Some children like to separate themselves from other children, may be because their parents are rich. Some may be because they are brilliant and are doing well in their academics than others. They form clique while they look down on others. God expects us to esteem others better than ourselves and live a humble life. Is your life a channel of blessing unto others or are you still living in selfishness and pride? God wants you to be like Jesus.



1. PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DIVISION IN THE CHURCH:

Luke 9:46-50; 1 Corinthians 3:4,5

There are many religious groups with different beliefs springing up everywhere but God expects the church to be one. Division among friends of Jesus will lead to loss of fellowship and presence of God. There will be no growth and this can lead to backsliding among the members. A divided church cannot receive answer to their prayers nor experience the manifestation of the power of God. This is why Jesus warns us of the danger of allowing disunity among us.

The church is not the building we see. Everyone who has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour belongs to the Church of Christ. As the body is one, so also the church should be one. Every part of our body is important. We cannot separate our eyes from our nose likewise, there should be no division among the Church if the Church is to function effectively. There should be no case for comparison or superiority complex among boys and girls as the disciples of Jesus exhibited when they asked Jesus who was the greatest among them (Luke 9:46).

We should regard others better than ourselves and treat everyone equally. There is need for sanctification of heart if saved boys and girls will remain as one. Children must ensure that they do not cause division or quarrelling among members of the church but should work towards the unity of the Church (Ephesians 4:3).

2. PURPOSE AND PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:

Luke 9:55,56; John 17:17-23; Psalm 133:1-3

Jesus has purpose for establishing His church and He prayed so that that purpose will be fulfilled. He spent time to pray for the church to be one so that they can continue to evangelise the world and win many souls to the kingdom. Their unity must be based on (i) knowing and experiencing the love of the Father and the fellowship of Christ. (ii) separation from the world. (iii) sanctification and holiness of life. (iv) receiving and believing the word of God. (v) obeying the word and desiring to lead sinners to Christ.

Friends of Jesus must unite with one another to make Christ's purpose to be fulfilled. They should be source of encouragement to one another. It is only then that we can witness growth as well as enjoy God's blessings.

3. PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM CHRIST'S TEACHING:

Luke 9:46-56; Mark 9:33-40; John 13:3-5,12-15

Jesus demonstrated to His disciples the kind of heart every one of them should possess. He took a child to His side and told them that if they want to be great, they have to humble themselves like a little child and treat others the same way they will treat Him, their Master. In the same chapter, John tried to stop another person who was casting out demons because he was not one of the twelve. This act was condemned by Jesus.

The man casting out demons was using the same name of Jesus and this shows that he was not against Christ but was for Him. You should not look down on other friends of Jesus because they do not attend the same assembly or church as yours. If you find other children who are living a holy life and preaching the gospel, you should not look down on them but rather encourage them (Acts18:24-28).

Disunity does not encourage love among children; rather it breeds division and hatred. James and John wanted to command fire to destroy the Samaritans because they did not receive Jesus (Luke 9:54). Jesus again had to correct them, reminding them that He came to save lives. If we are to be like our Master Jesus, we must behave like Him in everything. It does not matter how people treat us, we must never retaliate or hurt them in any way (Romans12:21). We should overcome evil with good.

From Christ's teaching against division in the church, we learn that: (i) We should be humble and treat others the way we would treat Christ, irrespective of age, colour, social status of the children or their parents, tribe or educational level. (ii) We should not discourage other friends of Jesus who are not in our own local assembly, from serving Christ. (iii) We should always have the mind of helping others and saving them. (iv) The Lord can use people other than those who are members of our church. (v) We should learn to overcome evil with good.

QUESTIONS:

1. The church is _____
2. What are the problems associated with growth in the church?
3. What lessons can we learn from Christ's teaching on division among friends of Jesus?
4. The unity that Jesus prayed for is based on _____, _____, _____ and _____.
5. How can a sinner become a member of the church?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us**" (Luke 9:49,50).

LESSON: Jesus wants His church to be united in order to fulfil His goal of saving the world.

THOUGHT: I will unite with the church to fulfil Christ's purpose for the world.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill: John 17:21; 10:38; Ephesians 4:3; Mark 9:40

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 75 – THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

CHORUSES: (1) Give me love for my brethren (2) I will love, I will love (3)We are heirs of the Father.

HOMEWORK: Visit children who were absent from the church.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MARK	9:33-35
TUESDAY	MARK	9:36,37
WEDNESDAY	MARK	9:38-41
THURSDAY	MARK	9:42-44
FRIDAY	EPHESIANS	4:1-3
SATURDAY	EPHESIANS	4:4-6
SUNDAY	JOHN	17:20-22

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Exalt 2. Unity 3. Exhibit 4. Superiority 5. Ascension.

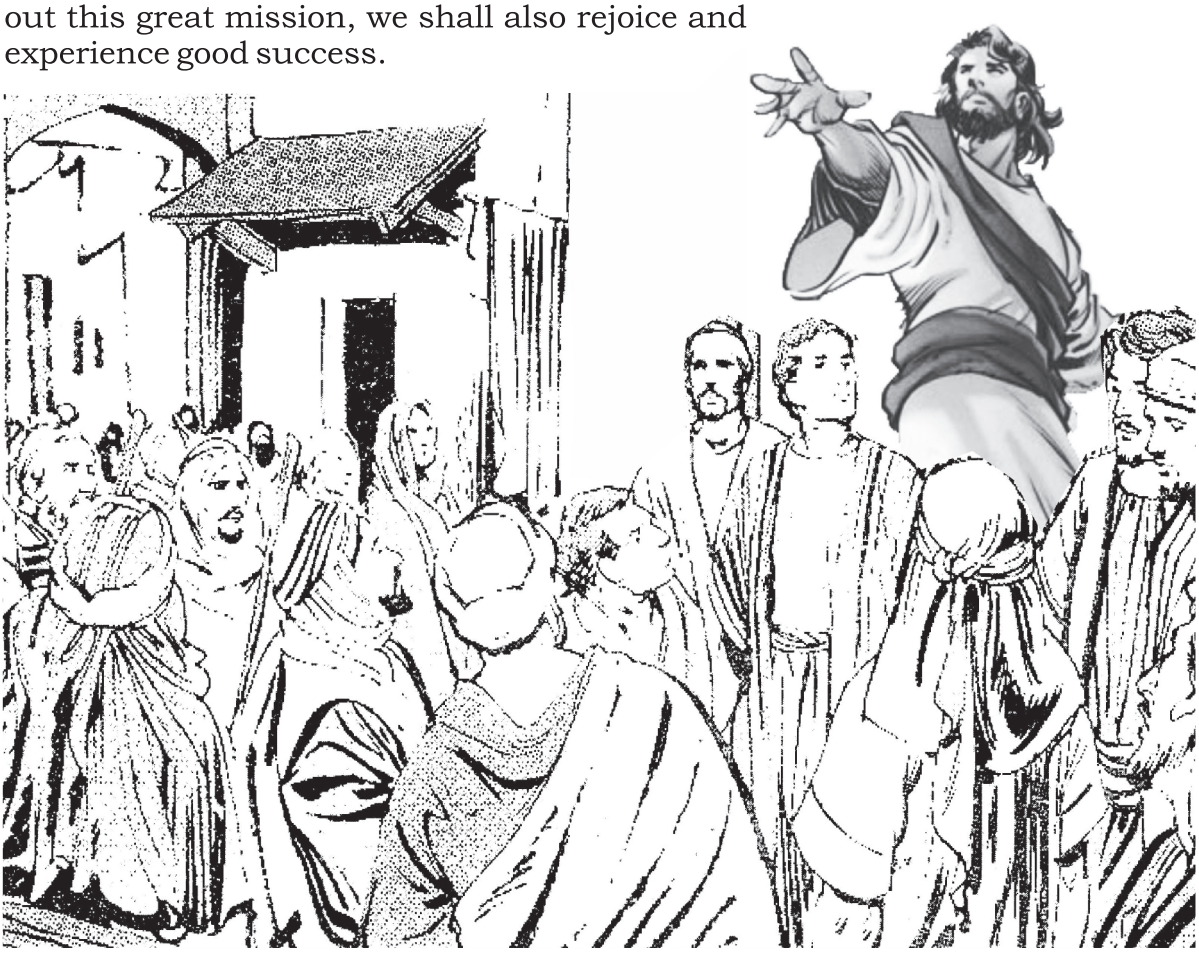
LESSON 50

MISSION OF THE SEVENTY

Luke 10:1-24

Our Lord Jesus Christ's purpose on earth is to seek and save the lost. He went from one place to another preaching the gospel. In Luke chapter 9, He sent out His twelve disciples to go and tell others about the good news of the kingdom. He knew that the work was much therefore, He decided to send another seventy of His followers to go out again and preach. Today, Christian boys and girls are followers of Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are given an important assignment known as "The Great Commission" (Mark 16:15-20). However, this assignment is not for everybody. It is only for those who have become friends of Jesus through repentance and faith in Christ.

In our Bible passage, we are given specific instructions on how to carry out the great commission. We are to be peaceful, loving and be mindful of the purpose for which we are sent out. The disciples who first received these instructions simply did what Jesus asked them to do. God worked wonders among them. They were all filled with joy and came back to testify of the great success they had. As we also respond positively and carry out this great mission, we shall also rejoice and experience good success.



1. MISSION AND COMMISSION OF THE SEVENTY:
Luke 10:1-11; Matthew 10:5-16; Mark 16:15

Our Lord Jesus appointed seventy other Christians and sent them to go two by two into every place and city to share the good news of the Kingdom. This is the mission of the seventy and our own mission too as friends of Jesus. The need for the preaching of the gospel is more today than it was when Jesus was on earth. This is because the population of the world has increased tremendously. Then the activities of Satan also is increasing every day.

His goal is to deceive many souls and lead them to hell-fire. Therefore, Jesus has commissioned not only the seventy but everyone (men, women, boys and girls) that has received pardon and forgiveness through the blood of Jesus. It is our duty to share the love of Christ to sinners and lead them to the Saviour.

As you go in obedience to Christ's command, you must take note of the following: Be a lamb among wolves. This means you must be gentle and humble. Be a peacemaker. Gently persuade sinners who are stubborn. Preach Jesus only. As you go, Jesus will be with you and you will come back rejoicing.

2. MOTIVE OF CHRIST FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION:
Luke 10:1,2; Matthew 9:35-38; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Peter 3:9

The work of winning sinners to Christ is a great one. Jesus knew that He has a short time on earth for the work. This was the reason He sent out His disciples two by two. (i) Sinners who die in their sin will be eternally lost. God is not willing that sinners should perish (2 Peter 3:9). (ii) Sinners need people to show them the way of salvation. (iii) Many sinners will be saved from the punishment of hell when friends of Jesus do their work. (iv) The time is short and the judgment of God is coming upon disobedient and unrepentant sinners.

Therefore, friends of Jesus must arise and obey this great commission. This can be accomplished through: (i) The two-by-two principles – pairing of friends of Jesus for the purpose of reaching out with the gospel. (ii) Literature evangelism – tracts distribution and sharing of other Christian literature. (iii) Praying for labourers in the vineyard of God. (iv) Praying for the unsaved to be saved. God will reward all our efforts.

3. MANIFOLD BENEFITS OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL:
Luke 10:17-24; 15:7,10; Daniel 12:3

The disciples went out in obedience to the instruction of Christ. The Lord worked with them through signs and wonders. They came back rejoicing saying "**Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name**". All born-again Christians who go out to preach the gospel have the promise of God to enjoy. Isaiah 55:11 says, "**So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it**". As you obey, you too will have a testimony.

If you are still a sinner, the Lord wants you to surrender your life to Him as you confess your sins. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Forsake your sins, invite Jesus into your heart and live a holy life. Pray for the grace of God to help you as you promise to give your life and time to preach the gospel.

QUESTIONS:

1. How many disciples did Christ send out? _____
2. What did Jesus send His friends to do? _____
3. Mention reasons Christ commissioned the disciples _____
4. What are the benefits of preaching the gospel?
5. What must a sinful child do to be saved?

MEMORY VERSE: "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come" (Luke 10:1)

LESSON: Evangelism is every believer's duty.

THOUGHT: I will obey the Great Commission so as to make Jesus happy.

ACTIVITY: Each born again child is to pray for 5 minutes for God's grace to be faithful in evangelism. Those who are not born again should spend 5 minutes to pray for their Salvation.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 110 - TILL THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS

CHORUSES: (1) Obedience is the very best way (2) I will go and tell them Jesus is alive (3) Go tell it on the mountain.

HOMEWORK: Write in your homework book, the names of at least two children you want to preach to this week. Go out to witness to such children.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	2 TIMOTHY	4:1-3
TUESDAY	2 TIMOTHY	4:4-6
WEDNESDAY	ACTS	1:6-8
THURSDAY	ACTS	4:1-4
FRIDAY	ACTS	4:33-35
SATURDAY	ACTS	4:17-20
SUNDAY	ACTS	8:4-8

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Mission 2. Commission 3. Accomplish 4. Instruction 5. Appointed.

LESSON 51

PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-42

The parable in our Bible passage was told by Jesus Christ when answering questions from a certain lawyer. The lawyer tempted Jesus by asking Him two important questions. (i) "…**Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**" (Luke 10: 25). To answer the question, Jesus pointed him to what was written in the word of God. By pointing the lawyer to the word of God, Jesus was teaching him and all friends of Jesus a good lesson that our salvation depends on how serious and obedient we are to the word of God. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ. And, "**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**" (Romans 10:17). When we listen to, study, meditate on and obey the word of God, we become wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3: 15). Also, our love for God and our neighbours will grow as we love the word of God. (ii) "**…, And who is my neighbour?**" (Luke 10: 29). To answer this second question, Jesus told the lawyer the parable of the Good Samaritan that we shall examine in our lesson.



1. THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN:

Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus patiently answered the question of the lawyer by telling him a story of a certain man who was attacked by robbers. He was wounded as a result of the attack. There came a certain Levite (worker in the church) who went that way and passed him by. A certain priest (pastor) also came by that way and looked to the other side without paying attention to the wounded man. Then the Samaritan came and seeing the wounded man immediately had compassion on him. He went to him, washed his wounds and took him on his ass to an inn. He instructed them to take care of the wounded man at his expense.

Jesus commended the action of the Samaritan who took care and paid the hospital bills of the wounded man. The lawyer clearly understood from the story that the Samaritan was a good neighbour. Jesus expects all His friends to be like the Good Samaritan because he showed love and care to the wounded man. However, if you are still a sinner you cannot love God with all your heart, soul and strength. Until you have the new birth experience, you cannot love God and your neighbour.

For the sinner to possess the love for God and for the neighbours around him, he must first realise and accept that he is a sinner; confess to God all the bad things he has done, repent of them, ask Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing in His blood. He must ask Jesus to come into his heart and be his Saviour, Lord and Friend. Believe that He has saved you and continue in fellowship with other friends of Jesus. The new birth experience will grant you the power to become a child of God and grace to love your neighbours as yourself.

2. SAINTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO NEIGHBOURS:

Luke 10:29-42; Ezekiel 3:17-21; Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 13:8-10; 1 John 4:7-21

From the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is drawing the attention of all His friends to their duties and responsibilities to their neighbours. A neighbour is somebody living near you. They may be sinners or friends of Jesus. In the present day of advanced technology in communication, our neighbourhood has extended to cover the whole world. Our neighbours now include any person living near you or anyone you come across on your way, or you can interact with either by phone, text messages or email. Friends of Jesus are saved to serve as watchmen over their neighbours. God is commanding all born again boys and girls to love their neighbours as themselves. When you will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, you will not only give account of your soul but also of your duties and responsibilities to your neighbours. Let us examine some of our duties and responsibilities to our neighbours:

a. Showing concern for the salvation of their souls and giving them warning

against sin (Ezekiel 3:17-21). Share the good news of salvation with them and lead them to become friends of Jesus.

b. Rescuing them from Satan, the thief, by interceding on their behalf for their salvation, healing and deliverance (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 10: 1)
c. Inviting them to fellowship and church programmes (Luke 14: 23).
d. Giving to the needy as much as you can (1 John 3:17).
e. Assisting them in their homework
f. Visiting and praying with children who are sick, or who failed an examination.

The Priest and the Levite, though very righteous outwardly and were respected leaders, refused to show love, kindness, pity and compassion on the man that fell among thieves on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho. This unconcerned attitude and action is condemned by Christ in Matthew 25: 41-45. The parable also helps us to know and understand the depth of love God has shown to us by sending Jesus to save, redeem and deliver us from the power of sin and Satan. Jesus calls us to accept His love and also show the same to others. The command is, "**... Go and do thou likewise**" (Luke 10: 37).

3. SUNDRY LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE:

Luke 10:28,37-42; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Matthew 25:34; Revelation 22:12

There are many lessons that you can learn from this story. Firstly, you should never look down on others like the priest and the Levites did. Rather, associate and identify with those who are in need and help them find solution to their need if you can. For instance, you can assist your friends in their school work by teaching them to understand difficult subjects, copy notes for a sick friend. Secondly, you should never be too holy not to associate with other children who are not members of your fellowship. Thirdly, you must be concerned about the affairs of other children who may be orphans. Fourthly, you should daily pray for grace to live like Jesus. Fifthly, through love and care, friends of Jesus can bring other people to believe in Jesus too. 'Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.' Every faithful service, to our neighbours, rendered in love and with compassion will receive rewards now and in eternity. There are other blessings for the faithful who obey this command of Jesus. There must be genuine salvation, and love for the word of God. Mary chose that which is needful by sitting with Jesus to listen to the word of life. As you hear the word of God, also put it into practice and your service will be rewarded.

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the question that the lawyer asked Jesus?
2. How did Jesus answer the lawyer's question?
3. Jesus wants us to follow the good example of the _____
4. Mention three things you can do for your neighbours.
5. Can a sinner render acceptable service to God? Yes/No?

6. What should a sinner do to render acceptable service?

MEMORY VERSE: "**Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise**" (Luke 10:36,37).

LESSON: Jesus wants all His friends to show love and kindness to others.

THOUGHT: I will always show love and compassion on everyone I come across.

ACTIVITY: From Matthew 25:34-40, mention practical ways of showing compassion and deeds of kindness to others.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 117 - SHOW A LITTLE BIT OF LOVE AND KINDNESS

CHORUSES: (1) Give me love for my brethren (2) Jesus loves the little children (3) Jesus loves me, He died for me.

HOMEWORK: Children are to demonstrate compassion on their neighbours by preaching the gospel to them and visiting others.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	JAMES	2:14-17
TUESDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:12-14
WEDNESDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:15-17
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	22:34-36
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	22:37-40
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	25:40-43
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	25:44-46

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find out the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Responsibilities 2. Victim 3. Redeem 4. Neighbourhood 5. Compassion.

LESSON 52

JESUS TEACHES ON PRAYER

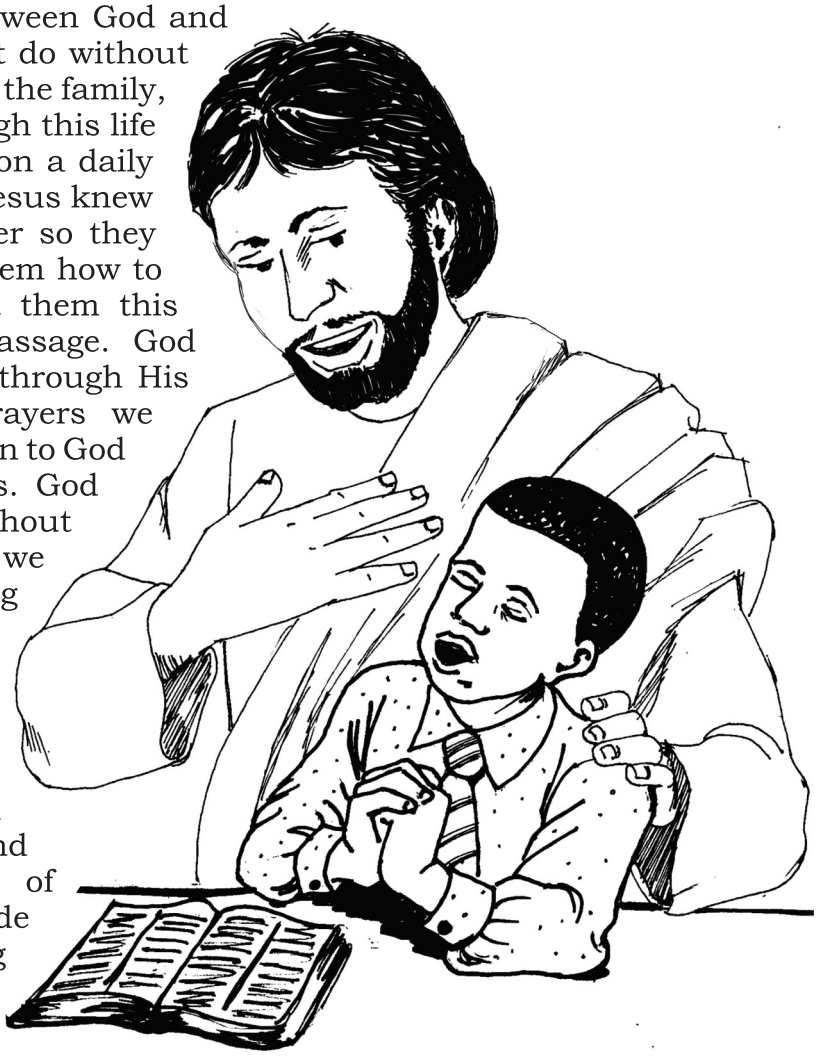
Luke 11:1-13

The act of praying is one of the most important duty of a Christian. During His earthly ministry, Jesus spent quality time to pray and also taught His disciples how to pray. It is not every prayer that receives answers. This was why Jesus gave us a model of how to pray and what the content of our prayers should be. If you follow this model and sincerely commit yourself to the act of praying, you will experience great wonders in your life. Remember, you can only learn to pray by praying.

1. PATTERN OF PRAYER:

Luke 11:1-13; 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer means talking to God or communicating with Him. Prayer is a two-way communication between God and man. Just as we cannot do without talking to our parents in the family, we cannot also go through this life without talking to God on a daily basis. The disciples of Jesus knew the importance of prayer so they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray and Jesus taught them this prayer in our Bible passage. God speaks or instructs us through His word, and through prayers we make our requests known to God and claim His promises. God expects us to pray without ceasing and everywhere we find ourselves. Following the pattern of this prayer of Jesus, we start our prayers by praising God first after which we pray for spiritual things, followed by our physical needs and praying for the needs of others too. We conclude our prayers by praising God again. If we pray in faith, in the Name of



Jesus and with a holy heart, God will answer our prayers.

2. PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO PRAYED:

Luke 11:1-4, Mark 1:35; Genesis 32:25-30; Acts 12:5,12-13

Jesus Christ is our perfect example and as His friends, we are expected to follow in His steps. It is only through this we can be like Him and also please Him. We see that Christ did not only pray while He was in the temple but He also prayed at other times. Christ rose up early to pray "**And in the morning rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place and there prayed**" (Mark 1:35). Other scriptural examples of people who prayed include: (i) Jacob, he prayed and God blessed him. (ii) Hannah, she prayed and God gave her Samuel (iii) Daniel was always praying even while in captivity. He therefore received uncommon revelations. (iv) Rhoda joined the church to pray and God released Peter from prison. You too can pray and God will answer you. (v) Apostle Paul was a prayer warrior. This is why he experienced great success in ministry. Cultivate the attitude of praying and God will bless you.

3. POWER OF PRAYER:

Luke 11:5-13; Matthew 7:7; 18:18,19

Hezekiah was a righteous king. At a time, he became very sick. Prophet Isaiah was told to go to Hezekiah with a prophecy about his death. Feeling that his life and work were incomplete, Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed for God to give him more time. God sent Isaiah back to Hezekiah, assuring him of healing and fifteen more years (2 Kings 20:2-6; Isaiah 38:2-6). This shows the power of prayer. The word of God has assured us that when we pray in faith, no mountain can stand before us.

Through prayers (i) a repentant sinner receives pardon, cleansing and full salvation from sin and its effects. (ii) Spiritual blessings are poured upon believers (iii) Miracles, healing, wonders are made manifest in the church and the life of believers. (iv) All needs are met, problems rolled away, the oppressed are set free and promises of God are established in our lives.

If you want to become strong and do exploits for Jesus, you must be a prayerful child. As it is often said, a prayerless child is a powerless child,. while a prayerful child is a powerful child. Follow the example of Jesus our Saviour and pray every day. Pray for the church, your country, family, friends, neighbours and yourself. God will answer your prayers.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is prayer?
2. Explain the pattern of prayer as given in our Bible passage.
3. Mention 4 people in the Bible who prayed and received answers to their prayers.
4. What are the benefits of praying?

5. Are you a prayerful child?

MEMORY VERSE: "**And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.**" (Luke 11:1)

LESSON: Jesus commands His friends to pray.

THOUGHT: I will be a prayerful child.

ACTIVITY: Children should design a prayer schedule for the week.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 170 – SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

CHORUSES: (1) I will pray, I will pray (4x). (2) Prayer is the key (3) Nothing prayers cannot do.

HOMEWORK: Children should write out the Lord's pattern of prayer and learn it by heart.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW	7:7,8
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	7:9-11
WEDNESDAY	MATTHEW	6:5-8
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	6:9-11
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	6:12-15
SATURDAY	MARK	1:35-38
SUNDAY	LUKE	18:1-7

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find out the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Prayer 2. Scriptural 3. Solitary 4. Instruct 5. Communication.