

GOD'S PLAN
FOR THE NATIONS

Bible Study 101

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson One: Creation

1. Introduction to the Bible

- Inspired by God through men.
- Old Testament written 1500-400 B.C., New Testament written 50-100 A.D.
- Old Testament written in Hebrew, New testament written in Greek.
- Old Testament has 39 books, New Testament has 27 books (66 in total).
- Written by about 40 different authors (king, doctor, farmer, shepherd, etc.).

2. Chapter/Verse (*numbering system*)

- First (big) number: chapter, second (small) number: verse.
- Added by men to help study; not part of the original manuscript. (The chapter numbers were added in 1250 and the verse numbers in 1551.)

3. Chapter 1 & 2: Creation

Comment: Gen. 1:1-2:3 is an account of the 6 days of creation

- Look at Gen. 1:1 (Comment: *"the heavens and the earth" = universe*)
If this is true (if God created the universe), what would God be like?
 - (1) Creator, (2) perfectly intelligent, (3) perfectly powerful, (4) the Lord (or "boss"), (5) spirit (existed before the material universe, has no physical body and transcends our time and space system, and probably existing in many more dimensions than we do).

Illustration: **Mr. & Mrs. Flat.**

On a piece of paper draw Mr. & Mrs. Flat.

Explain: *"I created Mr. & Mrs. Flat. They live in a 2 dimensional world and I live in 3 dimensions (one more dimension than them). What are the major effects of my being in just one more dimension than them? Keep in mind that God (who is spirit) exists in probably more dimensions than our 3 dimensional world".* Three main effects:

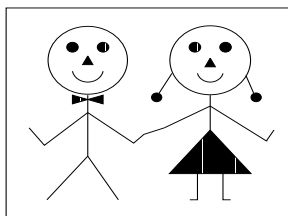


Figure 1: Mr. and Mrs. Flat

- They (Mr. & Mrs. Flat) cannot see me even if I'm very close to them. (*Illustrate this by placing your thumb very close to Mr. & Mrs. Flat without touching the paper.*) In the same way, we cannot see God, even though he is here.
 - I must tell them (Mr. & Mrs. Flat) what I'm like (*because they cannot see me*). In the same way, God must tell us what He's like through the **Bible** because we cannot see Him.
 - They (Mr. & Mrs. Flat) cannot fully understand me (*because their thinking is limited by two dimensions*). In the same way, we cannot fully understand everything God tells us in the Bible because our thinking is limited to 3 dimensions.
- (b) **Comment: verses 1:5, 1:8, 1:13, etc refer to day.**
The word **day** in Hebrew is *yom* which has three meanings:
- Sun up to sun down (12 hrs.).

- ii. Twenty four hours.
- iii. Indefinite *long* period of time.

Comment: *Many Christians believe day means (ii) and many believe day means (iii). The Hebrew word for morning and evening also means beginning of the day and ending of the day.*

(c) **Look at verses 1:6-8**

What did God do and how would you draw it?

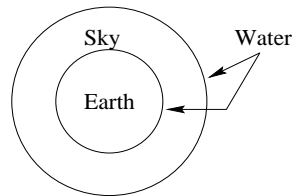


Figure 2: Gen. 1:6-8

(d) **Look at verses 1:11-25**

What is the order of creation?

- Vegetation, water animals, birds, land creatures, man.

(e) **Look at verses 1:26-27**

How are we made in God's *image & likeness*?

- Spirit (animals have no spirit).
- Moral: able to discern between right and wrong (unlike animals).
- Ability to communicate complex messages, express deep emotions, etc.

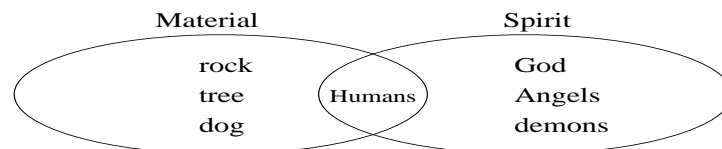


Figure 3: Humans

(f) **Read verse 1:29**

What was the first diet for humans?

- Vegetarian diet.

(g) **Verses 2:2-3 say God rested.**

What does *rested* mean? Was God tired?

- Stop normal activity; in this case stopped creating new species of plants & animals.

(h) **Comment: Verses 2:4-25 go back and add more information about the 6th day.**

(i) **Read verses 2:4-7**

- i. What does it say about rain?
- ii. Where did man come from?
- iii. What process did God use?
- iv. Is this difficult for God?

(j) **Read verses 2:8,9,16,17**

- i. What two trees were in the middle of the garden?
- ii. What did God say about each tree?

- iii. What is the punishment for disobeying God (sin)?
- iv. What do you think God meant when He said, “you will die”? Are there other kinds of death besides physical death?
- v. What is the significant about God putting many trees in the garden from which Adam & Eve could eat and only ONE from which they could not eat?
 - Many opportunities to obey; only one to disobey.

(k) **Read verse 2:16**

- i. What do we learn about God? *A communicator.*
- ii. What do we learn about man? *Has the ability to choose between good and evil.*

(l) **Read verses 2:18-25**

- i. God established the first social institution (*pattern*). What is it? *Marriage*
- ii. Does verse 2:24 teach that we cannot live with parents after marriage?
 - Not at all, *leave* can mean *emotionally*, i.e.; we must have our 1st emotional relationship with our mate after marriage.

** END OF LESSON ONE **

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson Two: Sin

(Genesis 3,4)

1. Review major truths from last lesson: *Creation*.

2. The beginning of evil.

(a) The Bible says God created angels.

They are *like* humans in that:

- i. They were created, and
- ii. They can choose to *obey* or *disobey* God.

They are *not like* humans in that:

- i. They have no physical body,
- ii. They have greater power and intelligence, and
- iii. They are not created for the same purpose.

(b) Satan wanted to be like God which was an act of rebellion or sin. Many other angels joined in the rebellion. Satan (or the devil) has authority over the fallen angels. Satan means “enemy” of God.

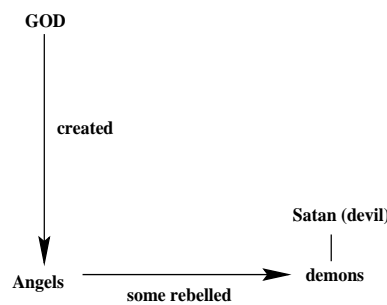


Figure 4: Origin of demons

(c) These angels are now called *demons*. They hate God and His will. They try to deceive people into rejecting God and His will as shown below. This results in harm to people. This is the struggle of life.

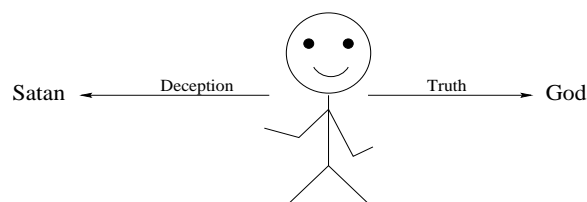


Figure 5: Struggle of life

3. Questions

(a) Read Gen. 3:1-7

- i. Since snakes (serpents) don’t talk, who do you think was speaking through the snake?
- ii. What was Satan trying to do in verse 1 when he said, “*Did God really say ...?*”
 - Create doubt about God’s command.

- iii. In verses 3:4,5 What does Satan do?
 - He lies (“*You will not surely die*”) and does not tell the truth about the consequence of sin (i.e., he does not mention death).
 - iv. What did Adam & Eve do in verse 3:7? Why? Whose idea was this? Would these be effective?
 - They tried to cover up by making fig-leaf clothes because they felt shame and guilt.
 - v. What change in attitude do you see between 2:25 and 3:7? Is there evidence here of spiritual death without physical death?
 - vi. What is spiritual death?
 - Separation from God.
- (b) Read Gen. 3:8-13
- i. What do we learn about God from these verses?
 - Merciful, a communicator (even to disobedient people).
 - ii. What change in relationship do you see between 2:19-22 and 3:8?
 - Friendship/harmony to fear/distrust.
 - iii. What is the similarity between our response to sin and Adam’s in verse 3:10?
 - We feel guilt, fear, shame so we try to hide (from God and other people).
 - iv. What is Adam really doing in verse 3:12?
 - Blaming Eve and God (“*the woman you put here with me ...*”).
 - v. Are we like that today? (i.e., Do we say “*I was wrong*” or do we try to blame something or someone else for our mistakes?)
 - vi. What does the woman try to do in verse 3:13?
 - Blame the serpent (and God who made it).
 - vii. Why do you think God waited to bring about physical death for Adam and Eve?
 - Give them time to repent.
- (c) Read Gen. 3:14-20
- i. What is the result of sin for the snake?
 - Crawl on its belly.
 - Hatred between snakes & people. (is this still true today?)

Comment: *3:15 is seen (on another level of meaning) as the first prophecy (prediction) that the Savior (Messiah) will come and defeat Satan, although Satan will hurt Him.*
 - ii. What is the result of sin for the woman?
 - Pain in child birth. (This might have helped lead her to repentance.)
 - Disturbance in proper relationship with her husband. The loving **servant-leadership** of the man which was there before the fall was now replaced with a power struggle which the man wins because of his physical strength. So, he “*rules over*” her.
 - iii. What is the result of sin for the man?
 - Difficulty in work, e.g. weeds in the field. (This might have helped lead him to repentance.)
- (d) Read Gen. 3:21-24
- i. Did God accept Adam & Eve’s clothes? What did God do? Would these be effective?
 - No, God re-clothed them with animal skins. This is the first animal sacrifice in the Bible.
 - ii. How would you react to the first sight of death, especially if you realized that you were responsible for it?
 - iii. What was the major lesson God was teaching Adam and Eve about the relationship between sin and punishment?
 - Punishment for sin is death represented by the death of the animal.
 - iv. God stopped people from eating fruit from the tree of life. Why?

- He did not want people with a sinful nature living forever.
(*Can you imagine Hitler living forever?*)
 - v. It may at first seem unkind that God did this, but why do you think it may have been an act of kindness?
 - It made SALVATION possible.
 - vi. What was another effect of being thrown out of the garden?
 - All people are now born outside the garden, and therefore, are separated from God from birth.
- (e) Read Gen. 4:1-8 (*Retell the account after the people finish reading it*).
- i. What did Abel have that Cain did not have? (see Heb. 11:4)
 - Faith, so he brought a blood sacrifice that was accepted by God.
 - ii. From the context of Gen. 1-3, what might the “offering to the Lord” in 4:3 refer to? (see Gen. 3:21-24).
 - iii. What implies that Cain also knew how he should have approached God in verse 4:7?
 - God says, “If you do what is right ...”
 - iv. Did Cain repent and bring an acceptable sacrifice/offering?
 - No, he later killed his brother.
 - v. What do we learn about God in this account?
 - He is merciful; he comes to Cain & gives him a chance to repent.
 - He is just and must punish sin.
 - He still communicates with sinful people; he instructs Cain about sin & tells him that he needs to master it.
 - vi. What are four major lessons from this account?
 - All people sin.
 - The punishment for sin is death.
 - Humans must have faith to please God and be saved.
 - Humans can come to God only according to God’s plan (which involves blood sacrifice).
 - vii. Why is blood sacrifice important?
 - It’s *symbolic* in that it points to the future *perfect* blood sacrifice of the Promised One.
 - It shows that death is the unavoidable result of sin.
 - It is God’s provision for atonement (*see Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22*).
 - It pictures the death of the innocent for the guilty (substitutionary death).

Next lesson: Please read Genesis 6, 7, 8, 9 before next meeting.

**** END OF LESSON TWO ****

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson Three: The Flood

(Genesis 6-9)

1. **Review major truths from last lesson:** *Sin*.

2. **Comment:** There are at least 213 ancient flood accounts found in places all over the Earth. All contain points (a)-(c) and almost all contain point (d).

- (a) Universal destruction of humans and animals by water.
- (b) There was an **ark** or **boat** as a means of escape.
- (c) A few people were saved to continue the human race.
- (d) The evil of people was the cause of the disaster.

Next week we will study why this flood account is found in so many places in the World.

3. **Read Gen. 6:5-22**

- (a) Why was God going to send the **flood**?
 - To destroy mankind because of their sin.
- (b) How does God feel about sin?
 - He hates it; it makes Him sad.
- (c) How was **Noah** different from the other people? (*see Heb. 11:7*)
 - Noah had **faith**; he listened to God’s word and obeyed; he was **righteous**.
- (d) How many arks (*places of salvation/safety*) were there? How many doors?
 - **ONE**.
- (e) What do you think Noah was doing while building the ark? (*see 2 Peter 2:5*)
 - He was warning people that God would send judgment soon. God gave the people a chance to repent and trust Him.

4. **Read Gen. 7:1-16, 22-23**

- (a) Where were the people who had faith?
 - Inside the ark.
- (b) Where were those without faith?
 - Outside the ark.
- (c) **Comment:** **Clean animals** (verse 7:2) were those that could be sacrificed and eaten (after Gen. 9:3).
- (d) Where did the water from the flood come from?
 - From underground and above (see Figure 2, Lesson 1).
Comment: Rain is mentioned (see Gen. 2:5) for the 1st time here.
- (e) How many people were in the ark?
 - Eight (8).
- (f) What do you think some of the people outside the ark did after it started to rain?
- (g) Who shut the door to the ark? Why is this important?
 - God. Once the rain (**JUDGMENT**) started, there could be no transfers. Similarly, once we die, we cannot change our mind and go from hell to heaven.

- (h) Since God closed the door, did Noah have the right to open it? What might this tell us about God’s plan of salvation?
- (i) What do we learn about judgment?
 - It is complete and awful as God promised.

5. Read Gen. 8:1-5, 18-22

- (a) Where did the ark land?
 - On the mountains of Ararat in present-day eastern Turkey. Not necessarily Mount Ararat, which is the tallest mountain in that mountain range.
- (b) What did Noah do after coming out of the ark?
 - He built an altar and offered a blood sacrifice (3rd blood sacrificed mentioned in the Bible).
- (c) How did God feel about this?
 - God was pleased, not because the people and animals died but because Noah and his family had the right attitude about sin and its punishment.

6. Read Gen. 9:1-17

- (a) What command did God give twice to Noah and his descendant?
 - Increase in number and fill the Earth (not only that area).
- (b) How did God now change the diet of humans?
 - From vegetarian to non-vegetarian.
Comment: The vegetarian diet and the fact that the earth had been protected from harmful cosmic radiation (e.g., gamma rays, uv) contributed to longer life spans.
- (c) How does God feel about **capital punishment** (executing proven murderers)? Why?
 - They should be killed because they have killed someone made in God’s image. Note: This was given to the community, not to individuals.
- (d) What promise did God make to Noah?
 - That God would never again destroy the Earth by a flood.
Comment: 2 Peter 3:7 says God will judge the World again but by fire.
- (e) What was the sign of this promise?
 - A rainbow.
Comment: There were probably no rainbows before the flood since they require direct sunlight and rain. The water layer around the Earth blocked the sun’s rays.
- (f) What should people after this time have thought about when they saw a rainbow?
 - If God was disappointed with sins in the past, He will also punish our sins.
- (g) What do we learn about God from the flood?
 - God hates sin.
 - God is loving and merciful - He gave people a chance to repent before He brought judgment.
 - God is faithful and just - He said He would bring punishment and He did.
- (h) What do we learn about humans from the flood?
 - We are sinful.
 - Do not have to be influenced by the evil behavior of other people around us (*Noah was surrounded by an evil culture but continued to trust God*).
 - Accountable to God for our behavior.

The film/video **The World That Perished** deals with scientific questions about the flood.

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson Four: Tower, Abraham

(Genesis 11-22)

1. **Review major truths from last lesson:** *flood*

2. **Comment:** Noah’s descendents left the mountain range (*the mountains of Ararat*) and moved south-east where they settled in a plain called **Shinar** which we call **Babylonia**. They probably named the two large rivers they found in Babylonia with names their ancestors (**Adam & Eve**) had known in the **Garden of Eden** - *Tigris* and *Euphrates* (Gen. 2:14).

3. **Read Gen. 11:1-9**

(a) Review: What command did God give Noah and his descendents **twice** (Gen. 9:1,7)?

- Increase in number and fill the whole earth.

(b) How can we describe the people living in **Babel**?

- Self-centered (“let us” mentioned 3 times and “we” twice).
- Proud -They wanted to become famous (“*make a name for ourselves*”).
- Disobedient -They did not want to obey God’s command to fill the earth (“*not be scattered over the face of the earth*”).

(c) What did God do to prevent this unified rebellion?

- God confused their languages.

(d) What was the effect of this?

- They were scattered over the whole earth.

(e) Those leaving Babel had different _____ but the same _____.

(*What word would you put in each blank?*)

- languages, culture (which can be defined as “*shared information and values*”).

4. **Comment:** This explains why we find information from Genesis 1-11:9 (creation, sin, flood, tower, etc.) in ancient cultures all around the world. For example, in ancient China when the people arrived and finally wrote down pictographs to express their ideas, they wrote the following characters (and many more) which show the cultural knowledge they had of Genesis 1-11:9. [Because of natural, geographical barriers, the ancient Chinese culture has been well-preserved.]

- Which means “a large boat” comes from three characters meaning “eight” “people” in a “boat” (ark).
- Which means “righteousness” comes from two characters meaning a “lamb” over “me” (blood sacrifice).
- Which means “blessing, happiness, or good fortune” comes from four characters meaning “God”, “one”, “person” in a “garden” (Adam in the garden of Eden with God).
- Which means “happiness” or “auspicious” comes from characters meaning “God” and “lamb”.
- Which means “forbid, warn, prohibit,” or “ban” comes from characters meaning “two trees” and “command or notify (a God radical)”.
- Which means “desire, covet,” or “greed” comes from characters meaning “two trees” and “woman”.
- Which means “migrate” comes from characters meaning “great” or “large”, “division”, “west”, and “walking”.

5. **Read Gen. 11:27-32**

(a) Where was Abram born?

- Ur (eastern modern Iraq, near Kuwait).
Comment: **Abram** means “*exalted father*” while **Abraham** means “*father of many*”. (see Gen. 17:5)

- (b) What was his wife’s name and what was her/their problem?
- Sarai (later changed to Sarah); she was barren (unable to have children).
- (c) Where did Abraham and Sarah settle down and what happened there?
- They settle down in Haran. His father died there.

6. Read Gen. 12:1-3

- (a) What command and promises did God give to Abraham?
- (b) Which is the most important promise and how does it apply to you?
- “all people on earth will be blessed through you”; it is talking about the **Promised One** or Messiah who was to come. We now know he is **Jesus Christ** who has been a blessing to people from all nations. It shows God’s plan for the nations (all of them) which really starts right here with this promise and ends up being fulfilled through Jesus Christ, Abraham’s descendant.

7. Read Gen. 12:4-7

- (a) Do you think Abraham believed God? Why? (*see Heb. 11:8*)
- Yes, because he left Haran, not knowing where he was going, and ended up in Canaan.
Comment: This may help you to better understand how much faith Abraham had in God: Before you came to the U.S., you probably already knew a lot about the U.S. (due to books, magazines, movies, television, friends). Abraham did not have such a variety of information. Also, before you left, you knew where you were going. Abraham did not. If you were told to pack your suitcase and get on a plane, not knowing where it would take you, would you get on it if you knew you might never return home?
- (b) What promise did God give Abraham when he got to Canaan?
- His descendants would be given this land by God.
- (c) Then, what did Abraham do? Why?
- He built an altar in order to offer a sacrifice to God as Noah did after coming out of the ark, showing that he agreed with what God said about sin and its punishment.

8. Read Gen 15:4

- (a) What promise did God give Abraham and Sarah?
- They would have a son who would be his true heir.
Comment: *Abraham was about 75 and Sarah 65 at this time*

9. Read Gen. 16:1-4, 11-12

- (a) What was Sarah’s plan to help God?
- Give her maidservant to Abraham.
- (b) Was this God’s plan or human planning?
- Human planning (based on human reasoning, not God’s guidance). Later we will see the conflict that sometimes happens by following natural reasoning and not God’s ways.
- (c) Did this plan come from faith in God or a lack of faith?
- (d) Who is the son born from Sarah’s plan and what is his importance today?
- Ishmael, from whom the Arab people have come.

10. Read Gen. 17:1-8 & Gen. 17:15-22

- (a) How did God respond to Abraham and Sarah’s actions in chapter 16?
- (b) When God repeated His promise, what was Abraham’s response? Belief or doubt?

11. Read Gen. 18:10-14

- (a) When Sarah heard of God’s promise, what was her reaction?
 - She laughed in unbelief.

12. Read Gen. 21:1-5

- (a) How old were Abraham and Sarah at the time of the birth of Isaac?
 - Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 years old.
- (b) What do we learn about God here?
 - God is **faithful** to keep His promises.
 - God works even when something is not naturally possible.
 - Nothing is too difficult for God.
- (c) Why did Sarah laugh after the birth of Isaac?
 - She laughed with joy, not unbelief, about what God had done.

13. Read Gen. 22:1-14

- (a) What was the test God designed for Abraham?
 - God made Abraham think that He wanted him to sacrifice his “only son”.
Comment: *This shows God did not accept Ishmael as a true son of Abraham.*
- (b) Did Abraham pass the test? Why?
 - Yes, he demonstrated faith that pleased God.
- (c) How much faith did Abraham have? What was he thinking when he was about to kill Isaac?
 - He had so much faith in God that he believed that God would make Isaac come alive again (see Heb. 11:17-19).
- (d) What did Abraham sacrifice instead and where did he get it?
 - A male sheep (or goat); God provided it.
- (e) What is significant about the sheep being caught by its horns?
 - Its body would still be perfect (see Exodus 12:5, Leviticus 4:32, Hebrews 7:26; 9:14).
- (f) Which blood sacrifice is this as mentioned in the Bible? (1st, 2nd, etc.??)
 - The fifth.
- (g) Comment: Abraham and Isaac are the beginning of the Jewish people. Muslims teach that God told Abraham to sacrifice Ishmael (not Isaac). From this time the Arab and Jewish people have been in conflict.

Next lesson: Read Exodus 1-11.

**** END OF LESSON FOUR ****

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson Five: The Passover

(Exodus 12:1-14, 29-36)

1. Review major truths from last lesson: *Tower, Abraham*

2. Introduction (from Storyteller’s Bible Study by Bill Perry, pp.62-63)

- (a) In our last lesson we looked at how God chose Abraham to become a famous ancestor of the **Promised One** (Messiah). Abraham’s grandson (through Isaac) was Jacob. Jacob had 12 sons. His name was changed to Israel, and his sons’ descendants became the 12 tribes of Israel. A severe famine drove them all down to Egypt where there was food. They were internationals there, and the Egyptians later turned them into slaves. The Egyptians kept the Israelites slaves for 400 years!
- (b) But God had not forgotten about His people. His concern is shown in the second book of the Bible, Exodus, meaning “**going out**” (or exit). It is the book that tells HOW God brought His people out of Egypt. The events of today’s lesson probably happened around 1450 B.C.
- i. God chose a prominent Jewish man named Moses. Moses was the son of a Jewish slave family, but was raised by the daughter of the Egyptian king (called “Pharaoh”). When God called him, he had already left Egypt and was living in the Sinai desert. He then returned to Egypt with his brother Aaron.
 - ii. God sent miraculous plagues through Moses’ obedience. A **plague** is a widespread natural disaster; many times they involve famine or sickness. God sent these plagues to convince Pharaoh that He alone was God and wanted His people to be freed. Pharaoh was very stubborn, and would not give up the Jewish slaves. These **nine** plagues happen in chapters 7-10. In order, they were
 - A. water turned to blood
 - B. frogs
 - C. gnats (small biting flies)
 - D. flies
 - E. animal sickness
 - F. boils (painful, pus-filled inflammations of the skin)
 - G. hail
 - H. locusts
 - I. darkness
 - iii. The last seven of these plagues did not affect the Jews, who were living in the northeast part of the Nile River delta called Goshen (8:22; 9:4,6,26; 10:23; 11:7). God’s protection of His people emphasized how powerless the Egyptian “gods” were and how powerful the TRUE GOD is.
- (c) Just before the last (10th) plague, God gave His people some specific instructions in Chapter 12. This is where our study will be today.

3. Read Exodus 12:1-14

- (a) What is the last plague God is going to bring on the Egyptians?
- The death of the firstborn male (of people and animals -see 11:5).
- (b) What did the Jewish people have to do to be saved from this plague?
- They had faith in God and demonstrated their faith by obeying Him. They killed a lamb and put the blood on the doorframe.
- (c) God said, “When I see the blood, I will _____?”
(What words goes in the blank?)

- “pass over you”.
- (d) What was this lamb called?
- The Passover lamb
- (e) What were some characteristics of the Passover lamb?
- chosen
 - male
 - no defects
 - observed for four days (perhaps to make sure it had no defects)
 - killed (it was killed as a substitute who died in place of the firstborn male).
 - its blood was put on the door frame (with the family already inside).
- (f) What do Jews call the holiday in remembrance of this event?
- Passover

4. Read Exodus 12:29-36

- (a) What do we learn about God from this event?
- He loves those who trust Him and fulfills His plan for them.
 - He is faithful to His promises.
 - When He sends JUDGMENT, it is terrible.
- (b) How did the Jews (who were poor slaves) leave Egypt?
- They left with silver, gold, Egyptian clothing, etc.
- (c) Why did God send the ten plagues?
- To free the Jewish people.
 - To demonstrate He is the **ONLY** true God.
- (d) Can anyone fight against God and win?

5. Read John 1:35,36; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18,19

- (a) What is Jesus called?
- Lamb of God, Passover lamb, a lamb without blemish or defect.
- (b) How is the lamb in Exodus 12 a prophetic symbol of Jesus Christ?

The Passover Lamb

Exodus 12	Jesus Christ
Chosen	Chosen by God the Father
male	male
no defects	perfect without sin
observed	observed by God & men for 33 years
killed	killed as an innocent man
blood on door frame	blood shed for our sins
blood on door frame leads to salvation	blood shed for our sins leads to salvation

**** END OF LESSON FIVE ****

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson Six: The Ten Commandments

(Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-17)

1. **Review major truths from last lesson:** *The Passover*

2. **Introduction:** As Moses and the Jewish people were about to leave Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind. Gathering his army together, Pharaoh pursued them and caught them when they were beside the Red Sea. God did a miracle by parting the water so that the Jewish people could pass through. When the Egyptian soldiers pursued them, God brought the water back to its original place and all the Egyptian soldiers were drowned. At this point the Jews became a whole nation of **internationals**. It was probably around 1450 B.C.

3. **Read Exodus 19:1-6**

(a) Where were the Jewish people? Where is that today?

- the Sinai Desert; in eastern Egypt, east of the Suez Canal.

(b) What agreement/covenant (the Old Testament) did God and the Jewish people make?

- They would obey God fully and be accepted by Him as His “treasured possession”.

Comment: On Mount Sinai God gave to Moses the Ten Commandments which the Jewish people were to obey. The first four commandments deal with our relationship with God and the last six deal with our relationship with other people.

(c) Read Exodus 20:1-17

- What is the 1st commandment (verse 3)?

Comment: This does not imply that there are other gods.

What are some examples of things people may treat as if they were a god?

- What is the 2nd commandment (verses 4-6)?

Comment: God’s jealousy does not mean He is emotionally insecure. He knows the best thing for us is to worship Him, the only true God. He desires this worship very strongly because He desires our best very strongly. If God lets us worship anything or anyone other than Himself, He would also be promoting idolatry (worshipping a false god).

- What is the 3rd commandment (verse 7)?

What are some examples of how people “misuse” God’s name?

- What is the 4th commandment (verses 8-11)?

What is “work”? What is the purpose of the Sabbath?

- What is the 5th commandment (verse 12)?

How might you “honor” your parents differently as you grow older?

- What is the 6th commandment (verse 13)?

Comment: The Hebrew word here means “MURDER” not just “kill”. Jesus (in Matthew 5:21-22) not only forbids murder but also unrighteous anger toward another person. God is concerned not only with the outward action (murder) but also with the inward attitude (anger).

- What is the 7th commandment (verse 14)?

Comment: Jesus (in Matthew 5:27-28) not only forbids adultery but also lust. God is concerned not only with the outward action (adultery) but also with the inward thought (lust).

- What is the 8th commandment (verse 15)?

What is the definition of “steal”? What are some current examples? (*unauthorized software duplications, cheating on exams, plagiarism, etc.*)

- What is the 9th commandment (verse 16)?

Does this imply it’s okay to tell lies out of court?

- What is the 10th commandment (verse 17)?
What does “covet” mean? Why is it bad?
- (d) Why do you think God gave such high standards?
- Because God is PERFECT and we are imperfect, so they seem high to us. They reflect His perfect nature (Holiness) and He cannot lower His standards. If God gave us something less, He would have devalued Himself.

4. Pass out the sheet on the 10 Commandments test and work through it.

**** END OF LESSON SIX ****

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson Seven: Kings, Temple, Prophets

(2 Samuel 7:5-16, 2 Chronicles 6:32-33)

1. **Review major truths from last lesson:** *Ten Commandments.*

2. **Read Numbers 21:4-9**

- (a) The Jewish people had seen many miracles of God (e.g., plagues in Egypt, parting of the Red Sea, provision of manna and quail, etc) but still not all trusted Him. How did God punish them for disbelieving Him?
 - God sent poisonous snakes to bite them.
- (b) In response to the repentance of the people (verse 21:7 - “we sinned”), what provision did God make for them? How was faith related to their actions?
 - Healing by looking at the bronze snake on the pole. They needed faith that God would heal them.
- (c) What does a snake on a pole symbolize? (in hospitals & doctors’ offices; in John 3:14-15)
 - Healing; Christ on the cross.

3. **Introduction:** (Storyteller’s Bible Study, pp. 76) [About 500 years have passed from our last lesson with Moses to today’s lesson.]

- (a) Moses led the Jewish nation from Egypt back to the land of Canaan (Palestine or Israel today). This was the land originally promised to Abraham’s descendants long ago. [*Books of Exodus through Deuteronomy*]
- (b) After Moses died, a man named Joshua became their leader. Joshua led the Israelites into Canaan. [*Book of Joshua*]
- (c) After Joshua died, God raised up various men (and one woman) to be leaders, one at a time. They were called **Judges**. The Judges ruled over the nation of Israel for approximately 300 years. [*Book of Judges*]
- (d) Then the people wanted a king to rule them because the countries around them had kings too. God told Samuel, a great spiritual leader to anoint the first king. His name was Saul. [*Book of 1 Samuel*]
- (e) Saul did a pretty good job at first, but it wasn’t long before he became disobedient, and didn’t care about the Lord’s commands.
- (f) God then told Saul that his job as king was over, and some time later Saul died in a battle with an enemy army. God is the same, He requires death for sin.
- (g) Before Saul died, God chose a new king and told Samuel to anoint him. A young shepherd boy named **David** was chosen. He grew up to be a famous soldier and won the admiration of the people. As king, he defeated the remaining enemies of Israel around the countryside, and peace came upon the land. [*Book of 2 Samuel*]
- (h) David wanted to build a more permanent “house” in which the people could worship God. Before this time, God was worshiped in the **Tent of Meeting** (Tabernacle).
- (i) David lived around 1000 B.C.

4. **Read 2 Samuel 7:5-16**

- (a) What message did God have for David regarding the temple?
 - His son Solomon who would become king after David would build the temple.
- (b) What promise did God make about David’s kingdom?

- That his kingdom would “ENDURE FOREVER”.
Comment: God fulfilled this promise of an enduring kingdom in **Jesus Christ**, a descendant of David. Jesus Christ was called “Son of David”. His kingdom is an eternal one with no end.

5. **Although David gathered the material for the temple, Solomon (his son) built it (as God promised he would).**

6. **Read 2 Chronicles 6:32-33**

(a) *This is the part of Solomon’s prayer of dedication for the newly built temple.*

What do we learn about God and His desires?

- God always wanted people from every cultural group (not only the Jewish people) to know Him and pray to Him.

Comment: This area for internationals, **The Court of the Nations** (also known as *The Court of the Gentiles*), was the largest area of the temple. This shows that God was serious about having the nations to hear about Him. By the time when Jesus came, this area had been turned into a market and Jesus cleansed it one day.

7. **From Solomon to the prophets (Storyteller’s Bible Study, pp.83)**

- (a) After some time, Solomon began disobeying God. After he died, the nation became divided as to who should be the next king. After fighting among themselves, the nation split into two separate countries-
- i. 10 northern tribes called “Israel”
 - ii. 2 southern tribes called “Judah”
- (b) None of the kings of Israel did what God said was right. Half of the kings of Judah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, although they did not destroy the “high places” where false god’s were worshiped. These kings did trust God and continued to look for the Promised One that God said He would send.
- (c) With most of the leaders being evil and corrupt and wicked, most of the common people followed their bad example. The people had turned away from following the true and living God, and continued worshiping idols. Thus they changed their concept of and understanding about God. This practice became very common, and disobedience became widespread. Remember that their worship of idols broke the 1st and 2nd Commandments that God gave thru Moses. God was very displeased about this development.
- (d) But God was still communicating with them! He is faithful! He sent many prophets to them.
- (e) Look at the table of contents in your Bible. The last seventeen books are prophetic (Isaiah - Malachi).
- (f) The prophets had 2 major messages: bad news and good news.
- i. The bad news was that if the Jewish people didn’t repent and return to following God, He would send JUDGMENT. This actually happened when Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. and Judah was conquered by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.
 - ii. While the prophets had negative messages about the futures of their own respective countries, they had a positive message about the Promised One. There are more than 300 predictions about the Promised One recorded in the Old Testament. The following chart lists only 20 of some of the better known ones. God gave them so that no one could miss Him when He showed up. (Storyteller’s Bible Study, pp.85)

Predictions About Jesus Christ

No.	Predictions	Reference	Date (B.C.)
1)	Descendant of King David	Isaiah 9:6-7	700
2)	Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	700
3)	Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	700
4)	Called a light to the Nations	Isaiah 42:6	700
5)	Called back from Egypt	Hosea 11:1	725
6)	Rode on a baby donkey	Zechariah 9:9	515
7)	Betrayed by a companion	Psalms 41:9	1000
8)	Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12-13	515
9)	Accused by false witnesses	Psalms 27:12	1000
10)	Hit and spit upon	Isaiah 50:6	700
11)	No response to accusations	Isaiah 53:7	700
12)	Hated for no reason	Psalms 69:4	1000
13)	Rejected by the Jews	Isaiah 53:3	700
14)	Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16	1000
15)	Clothing was gambled for	Psalms 22:18	1000
16)	Died with evil men	Isaiah 53:12	700
17)	Mocked and insulted	Psalms 22:6-8	1000
18)	The cry of separation	Psalms 22:1	1000
19)	Buried among the rich	Isaiah 53:9	700
20)	Returned to Heaven	Psalms 68:18	1000

8. In the next three lessons we will study the life of Jesus Christ and see how all these predictions were fulfilled in His life.

9. Review of major events and people of the Old Testament:

- (a) Creation
- (b) Sin
- (c) Flood
- (d) Tower
- (e) Abraham
- (f) Passover
- (g) Ten Commandments
- (h) Kings
- (i) Temple
- (j) Prophets

10. In preparation for next weeks lesson, please begin reading through the Gospel of Luke as quickly as possible.

**** END OF LESSON SEVEN ****

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson Eight: The Birth and Early Life of Jesus

(Matthew Chapters: 1,2; Luke Chapters: 1,2)

1. Review major truths from last lesson: *Kings, Temple, Prophets.*

2. Introduction:

- (a) We come now to the second major division of the Bible – the New Testament (NT). The focus of the Old Testament (OT) was basically on the future, especially on the **Promised One** whom God was going to send to earth to save His people from the penalty of sin. In the NT we learn that this Promised One (also called the Christ or Messiah) was named Jesus. The NT is basically focused on the past recalling what Jesus did and said and applying that teaching to the lives of His followers – called the **church**.
- (b) Unlike the OT which was written over a very long period of time, the NT was completed in about 50 years.
- (c) The 27 books of the NT can be divided into three different types: 5 books of history, 21 books of doctrinal teaching in the form of letters, and 1 book of prophecy.
- (d) To begin our study of the life of Jesus Christ, we will look at two of the five historical books – Matthew and Luke. These two books along with Mark and John are called **Gospels**. Gospel means “good news” and the subject of each one is the good news about Jesus Christ who came to live a perfect (sinless) life and then die as a substitute for us – that is for the punishment of our sins.

3. The Birth and Early Life of Jesus

- (a) Luke 1:1-4
 - i. Luke was the only non-Jewish author of the NT. He was also a medical doctor and proved to be an excellent historian. His two books, Luke and Acts, are the largest contributions to the NT by any author, although the thirteen letters of Paul are normally considered more significant.
 - ii. In Luke 1:1 and Acts 1:1 what does Luke indicate were the subjects of his two books?
 - iii. Where did Luke get the information for his book about the life of Jesus (1:2)? Why is this significant?
 - iv. How well did Luke prepare for writing his book (1:3)?
 - v. What was Luke’s purpose in writing (1:4)?
- (b) Luke 1:5-25
 - i. What kind of people were Zechariah and Elizabeth and what was their problem?
 - ii. What happened to Zechariah while he was burning incense in the temple (1:8-13)?
 - iii. What significant work for God would John accomplish in his life (1:14-17)?
 - iv. What was Zechariah’s response to the angel’s message (1:18)?
 - v. What happened to Zechariah and why (1:19-20)?
 - vi. What happened to Elizabeth and to whom did she attribute this miracle (1:24-25)?
- (c) Luke 1:26-38
 - i. What word describing Mary do you think is most significant and why (1:26-29)?
 - ii. Does the statement in 1:30 that God was pleased with Mary indicate she was perfect? Why or why not? See also 1:47.
 - iii. What is very significant about what was said about the child Mary would bear (1:31-33)?
 - iv. What is different between Zechariah’s reaction in 1:18 and Mary’s in 1:34?

- v. Why would Mary’s baby be called the Son of God (1:35) and how would he be different from every other person ever born?
 - vi. What similarities do you see in the pregnancies of Mary and Elizabeth (1:36-37)?
 - vii. What do you think is significant in Mary’s attitude in 1:34 & 38? What did Elizabeth say in 1:45?
- (d) Luke 1:57-80
- i. What was Elizabeth’s attitude about the birth of her son (1:57-58)?
 - ii. What do you think the people in the area were talking and wondering about (1:64-66)?
 - iii. What did Zechariah tell the people would happen (1:67-69)?
 - iv. What did he say his son John would do (1:76-77)?
- (e) Matthew 1:18-25
- i. Matthew was probably a well-educated and wealthy man. His gospel seems intended especially for the Jews. Notice that his family history of Jesus goes back to Abraham (Mt 1:1), the father of the Jewish people, while Luke’s goes back to Adam (Lk 3:38), the father of all people. Also notice how Matthew often refers to the fulfillment of the OT prophecies in the life of Jesus (1:22-23; 2:5-6, 15, 17-18, 23) of which the Jews would be much more aware than the non-Jews.
 - ii. What did Joseph think had happened to Mary (1:18-19)?
 - iii. What did the angel tell Joseph about Mary’s being pregnant (1:20)?
 - iv. What is significant about the name Jesus (1:21)?
 - v. How did Joseph show his faith in God (1:24-25)?
- (f) Luke 2:1-7
- i. Notice how much detail Luke includes in 2:1-3. Due to this, many skeptics such as Sir William Ramsey have tried to find historical errors in the writings of Luke and thus prove him and his story not to be reliable. However, no errors have ever been found in Luke’s writings and he is widely regarded as an honest and reliable historian.
 - ii. Since Mary did not have to go to Bethlehem to be registered, why do you think she would travel more than 80 miles late in her pregnancy over rough roads probably walking or riding on a donkey? (She knew that her child must be born in Bethlehem or she did not want to be dependent on critical women to help her in delivery.)
 - iii. Notice that although it was God’s will that Jesus be born in Bethlehem, that it was not easy for Joseph and Mary. What important lessons can we learn from this?
- (g) Luke 2:8-21
- i. Why do you think God chose to announce one of the greatest events in history to a group of simple shepherds?
 - ii. What can we learn from this about our own ministry of sharing the gospel?
- (h) Luke 2:22-38
- i. In 2:22-24 Mary and Joseph showed themselves to be faithful and obedient to the law of Moses. Read Exodus 13:11-16 and Numbers 18:15-16. What is the significance of offering “every firstborn male to the Lord” and then redeeming them?
 - ii. What do you think is the most significant fact stated about Simeon in 2:25 and why do you think it is so important?
 - iii. What was there about what Simeon said in 2:29-32 that would have caused many Jews to be amazed?
 - iv. What significant fact about the effect Jesus will have is brought out in 2:34-35?
 - v. What two groups of people does 2:38 indicate existed and what effect would that have later?
 - vi. There is evidently a gap of several years between 2:38 and 2:39. See Matthew 2 below to fill in the gap.

(i) Matthew 2:1-23

- i. Although artwork often depicts the wisemen as being present immediately after the birth of Jesus, what important facts in this passage indicate that this is not true? Especially look at 2:11, 16.
- ii. Notice how the wisemen (2:12) and Joseph (2:13-14, 19-23) responded to God’s warnings. What lesson can we learn from them?

(j) Luke 2:39-52

- i. Read 2:40 & 52 along with Joshua 1:7-9. What conclusions can we make about the life of Jesus?

**** END OF LESSON EIGHT ****

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson Nine: The Ministry of Jesus Christ

1. Review major truths from last lesson: *The Birth and Early Life of Jesus.*

2. Introduction:

- (a) It is impossible to adequately cover such an important ministry as that of Jesus Christ in one short lesson. Therefore, we will only be able to look at some of the most significant or representative highlights. Read John 21:25 and see what he said about the ministry of Jesus after writing 21 chapters.
- (b) The Bible says nothing directly about what Jesus did between age 12 and about age 30. However, we can assume that since his “earthly” father, Joseph, was a carpenter (Mt. 13:55), and since he too was a carpenter (Mk 6:3), that Jesus probably worked with Joseph and learned the trade and then took over his business when he died. (The death of Joseph is not mentioned in Scripture but assumed since he is never mentioned later on.) Jesus was probably the economic provider (bread winner) for his family that included at least four half-brothers and two half-sisters (Mk 6:3).
- (c) For the sake of simplicity, we will divide the ministry of Jesus into two broad areas – *what he did* and *what he taught*.

3. The Ministry of Jesus Christ

(a) What he did

- i. Jesus called 12 men to be his disciples (Mk 1:14-20; 3:13-19).
 - A. In 1:14-15 what does it say that Jesus said was the main theme of his ministry?
 - B. In 1:16-17 when Jesus began calling his disciples how did he characterize the work he wanted them to do?
 - C. In 3:14-15 what else did Jesus say about what he wanted his disciples to do?
 - D. How do these things apply to present-day disciples and their ministries?
- ii. Jesus displayed authority and power over evil spirits (Mk 1:21-28).
 - A. Why do you think the people were amazed about the authority of Jesus?
 - B. How does what the evil spirits said and did show the power of Jesus?
- iii. Jesus had power to heal serious physical diseases (Mk 1:40-45).
 - A. What is very important about the man’s attitude toward Jesus?
 - B. Why do you think Jesus told the man not to tell anyone what had happened?
- iv. Jesus even had power to heal the blind (Mk 10:46-52).
 - A. What is the significance of the phrase “Son of David”? See Isa 9:6-7.
 - B. Do you see anything significant about the statement in 10:50 that Bartimaeus, a blind man, threw his cloak aside before going to Jesus?
 - C. What did Jesus say was the cause of his healing? Is there a lesson for us to learn here?
- v. Jesus even had power to bring dead man back to life (Lk 7:11-17).
 - A. If a widow’s only son died, what do you think might be true about her future economic well-being?
 - B. Why did the people think Jesus was a great prophet? See 1 Kgs 17:17-24; 2 Kgs 4:18-37.
 - C. What spiritual parallels can you see between Jesus giving the widow’s son life after death and his giving us eternal life?
- vi. Jesus had power to control nature (Mk 4:35-41).
 - A. What important fact about Jesus is pointed out by his sleeping in 4:38?
 - B. What opposite characteristic is brought out in 4:39?
 - C. Jesus rebuked his disciples for having no faith. How does your faith stand up during the storms of life?

(b) What he taught

- i. He was the Christ, Messiah, or Promised One from God who came to save the people of the world from the punishment of sin (Jn 10:22-30).
 - A. In 10:24-25 Jesus said that he had told them that he was the Christ. What other proof did he offer them?
 - B. What was their response to his claim to be the Christ? Why did they not believe him?
 - C. Since he was the Christ, what did he say was true about his relationship with God in 10:30?
- ii. He was the good Shepherd (Jn 10:11-18).
 - A. What significant fact does Jesus repeat five times about himself in this passage? (10:11, 15, 17, 18)
 - B. From what you have studied in the OT, what is the spiritual significance of Jesus laying down his life for us?
 - C. In 10:17 why do you think Jesus says that the Father loves him for laying down his life?
- iii. He is the only way to the Father (Jn 14:1-6).
 - A. Some people think that there are many ways to please God or make ourselves right with God. What does Jesus think? (*Comment:* Remember Abel and Cain.)
 - B. Why does it make sense that there could only be one way to make ourselves right with God?
- iv. He came to help sinners, not the righteous (Lk 5:29-32).
 - A. Are the “healthy” and “righteous” people that Jesus refers to really healthy and righteous?
 - B. What is the spiritual meaning of 5:31-32?
- v. God loves the people of the world very much (Jn 3:16-18).
 - A. How did God show his love for us?
 - B. What does God require of us?
 - C. If someone does not believe in Jesus, what is already true about that person?
- vi. If we love God we will obey him (Jn 14:15-21).
 - A. Notice carefully what Jesus said in 14:15 & 21. How should we show our love to those who love us? Should not the same be even more true of our relationship with God?
 - B. Who does Jesus promise will be given to all believers?
- vii. There are different kinds of responses to the **Good News** (Lk 8:4-15).
 - A. What does the seed represent?
 - B. What do the four kinds of soil represent?
 - C. What kind of soil would you classify yourself as?

** END OF LESSON NINE **

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

Lesson Ten: The Death And Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. **Review major truths from last lesson:** *The Ministry of Jesus Christ*
2. **Introduction:** When reading the biography of any great person, one can judge which part of his life was considered most significant by the amount of text which is devoted to it. This is certainly true in the life of Jesus. Of the four gospel accounts, almost all the text is devoted to the last three years of his life and about half the text is focused on the last week of his life. This alone should tell us what the gospel writers thought was most important about the life of Jesus – his death! As we saw in the last lesson about his ministry, he taught and said much indicating that the main purpose of his life was to die as a substitute for us, PAYING THE PENALTY for our sins that we might be cleansed of our sins and live forever in heaven with God.
3. **Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Lk 19:28-44)**
 - (a) Up to now, Jesus had not made any public declarations as to who he really was. However, it is now the beginning of the last week of his life, and he wants the Jews to know who he is. Since it is the Passover, Jerusalem is crowded with Jews from all over. Since Jesus has always walked when traveling by land, why do you think he now “needs” a donkey¹ on which to ride? (See Zechariah 9:9) Do you think the crowd and the Pharisees understood what Jesus’ actions meant?
 - (b) Why do you think Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem? The prophecy of Jesus in 19:43-44 came true about forty years after he spoke these words when the Roman army under Titus destroyed Jerusalem.
4. **Jesus’ Confrontation with Jewish Leaders in Jerusalem (Lk 19:45-21:4)**
 - (a) In 19:47 what is the reaction of the Jewish leaders to Jesus?
 - (b) Why could they not do what they wanted to do (19:48)?
 - (c) What do you think was the purpose of the question in 20:2? Why do you think Jesus declined to answer it (20:3-8)? (See Lk 22:66-71 for a similar situation a few days later.)
 - (d) What was the reaction of the Jewish leaders to the parable Jesus told in 20:9-19?
 - (e) Why do you think the Jews asked Jesus a question about taxes rather than a religious issue in 20:20-26?
5. **Jesus’ Prophecy about Jerusalem (Lk 21:5-36)**

In this section Jesus expands on what he said in 19:43-44. See Mt 24 & 25 for a longer account of what Jesus said.
6. **Jesus’ Trial and Death (Lk 22 & 23)**
 - (a) For what were the Jewish leaders looking (22:2)?
 - (b) Who agreed to help them? Why?
 - (c) According to 22:19, what do you think Jesus wanted his followers to remember?
 - (d) What do you think Jesus meant by the phrase “new covenant in my blood” in 22:20? (See Jer 31:31-34; Heb 9:23-28; Jn 1:29)
 - (e) In 22:31 what did Jesus reveal that Satan wanted to do to Peter? Do you think Satan has similar desires for other Christians?
 - (f) Do you think that Jesus’ assurance to Peter in 22:32 also applies to us? Why?
 - (g) What do you think Jesus was referring to when he used the phrase “this cup” in 22:42?

¹In the past, riding on a horse symbolized worldly power, fame, and pride (e.g. pharaohs, kings). On the other hand, riding on a donkey symbolized gentleness and humbleness (e.g. a servant), but by no means weakness.

- This means more than just the physical suffering but being separated from God for the first time.
- (h) It is good to share our true feelings with God in prayer, but what other important lesson can be learned in 22:42?
- (i) Notice for whom and for what Jesus urged his disciples to pray in 22:46?
- (j) Why do you think the Jewish leaders arrested Jesus when and where they did? (22:47-53)
- (k) What do you think Jesus meant by the phrase “when darkness reigns” in 22:53?
- (l) What significant connection do you see between 22:31, 40, 46, & 57-60? What lesson can we learn from this?
- (m) Notice Jesus’ answer in 22:67 and the Jewish leaders response in 22:71. In light of the many fulfilled prophecies in the life of Jesus, what could be said about the spiritual conditions of these men?
- (n) In 23:1-25 neither Pilate nor Herod found Jesus guilty of any of the charges brought against him. For what reason (or reasons) then was Jesus condemned to death?
 - The Jews hatred and Pilate’s weakness in the text, but ultimately due to God’s will.
- (o) How do the two criminals in 23:32-43 represent all the people of the world?
- (p) In what ways does one criminal express his faith in Christ?
- (q) The curtain mentioned in 23:45 divided the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. How does this event symbolize Christ’s work on the cross?

7. Jesus’ Resurrection (Lk 24)

- (a) Notice that the resurrection and all the post-resurrection appearances occur on the first day of the week. That is why Sunday became known as the **Lord’s Day** and early Christians who were Jews began to treat it like a Sabbath.
- (b) Did the women or the disciples expect Jesus to come back to life? What reasons can you give for your answer? (24:1-12)
- (c) Why do you think Jesus appeared to the two men on the road to Emmaus (24:13-35)?
- (d) Why do you think Jesus called them “foolish” (24:25)?
- (e) Many times people say that it is hard to believe in Jesus because they have not seen him. Did the disciples in 24:36-43 find it easy to believe when Jesus appeared to them? What do you think their real problem was?
 - The real problem was their lack of faith.
- (f) In 24:44-49 what was the key to the disciples being able to understand the Scriptures? What lesson can we learn from this?
- (g) What did Jesus indicate would be the key to their ability to serve him? Is that still true today?
- (h) What should be the main message that Christians proclaim to the rest of the world?
- (i) Do you think the disciples were as sad and frightened to see Jesus leave them in 24:50-53 as they were when he died on the cross? Why or why not?

** END OF LESSON TEN **

*Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (Jn 8:31-32)*