

Jesus Christ

Part 2

Introduction

No name has been or will ever be more important than Jesus Christ. The message of the Bible centers around His life; history climaxed at His death and resurrection; every human being's eternity hinges on the decision to surrender to Him. The person of Jesus Christ is the main focus of this Bible study. Revelation 1: 8 provides the outline; it reads, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

While Part One focused on how Jesus is represented in the Old Testament, Part Two concentrates on studying Christ as the One "Who is." Throughout these ten lessons we will look closely at the life and teachings of Jesus as presented in the New Testament, primarily the first four books—the Gospels. *(It is imperative that we recognize the Bible as the only true source for information on Jesus. While other books may corroborate the facts of scripture, we should be wary of any source which contradicts the Bible or claims to have "more insight" of Jesus.)* Each lesson will be divided into three days, so that you may supplement your personal devotional time. Please be encouraged to also read in preparation for Sunday and Wednesday Bible studies.

Jesus fulfills every promise and foreshadowing of the Redeemer, the Promised One mentioned in the Old Testament. The entire New Testament focuses on the life, death, resurrection and prophecies of the second coming of the Messiah. He is our Friend, our Shepherd, our Lord, our King, our Teacher, our Rock, our Hope, our Intercessor, our Master. O to trust Him! That is the desire of my heart and my prayer for you. May we open our hearts to Christ as He longs to reveal Himself more and more.

Part 1 of 1

Pray

Write your favorite scripture regarding Jesus Christ.

1. What questions do you have regarding Jesus?

2. How do you hope this study will help you to grow in your relationship with the Lord?

3. In which aspect(s) of your character do you hope to become more Christ-like?

(for example: Jesus is faithful; He is merciful; He is obedient to the will of the Father, etc.)

4. Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead you as you commit to this study.

Jesus Christ Beloved Son

Lesson 1

Well-Pleased

The relationship between a parent and child can determine much of an individual's personality, character, and outlook on life. Every child longs for love and approval from her parents. Every nurturing parent loves his child and wants to teach her to do what is right. Could it be that this innate desire to please our parents indicates that we were created for our heavenly Father's pleasure (*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.* Revelation 4:11 KJV)?

One of the marks of the Promised Messiah in the Old Testament is that He would be well-pleasing. Christ fulfills this prophecy, even reading from Isaiah 42 during His ministry, "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will declare justice to the Gentiles." (Matthew 12:18) What a beautiful and descriptive passage of the Trinity! God the Father expresses how God the Son, Jesus, is well-pleasing in the power of God the Spirit.

But what does that look like in our lives? We have been given a new identity in Christ; part of which is being well-pleasing to God. May we resemble more and more our beautiful Savior! Let us (you and me) be characterized by this "well-pleasing" heart as we surrender to the Spirit.

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read John 1:26-36

1. What does John the Baptist *testify* of Jesus in these verses? (testify: to bear witness, i.e. to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration)

Keeping in mind that John the Baptist is Jesus's cousin and His forerunner (1:23), why is his testimony significant?

2. Fill in the following chart to record the details of Christ's baptism as described in the four Gospels.

Matthew 3:11-17	Mark 1:9-12	Luke 3:21-22	John 1:32-34

3. David Guzik points out how the religious leaders were offended by John's teaching because at the time, baptism was only practiced by Gentiles who wanted to become Jews. Thus, the Jewish individuals who were baptized by John were associating themselves with Gentile converts—a true sign of repentance. Now, Jesus enters the scene and although He is perfect, asks to be baptized. Why would the Messiah, having no sin or blemish, asked to be baptized ?

4. What does God the Father say when Jesus is baptized (Mt. 3:17; Mk 1:11; Lk 3:22)?

Personal Application: God the Father says He is well-pleased with Jesus before His ministry even begins. Christ had yet to preach a sermon, to heal a sick woman, to raise a man from the dead; He had not accomplished one thing regarding His work. Why was God the Father well-pleased? How does this affect my view of what pleases God?

Asking the Lord to show you how to be well-pleasing, write a prayer of commitment to be (not just to do things that are) pleasing to the Lord.

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read Mark 9:2-8

1. For a moment, Christ's glory shines through the human clothing He bore to come down from Heaven to Earth. Keeping in mind that Jesus tells His disciples of His death and resurrection, how could glimpsing His glory encourage them?
2. Notice verse 2, in what state were Christ's disciples that allowed them to witness His glory?
3. Peter says something without knowing what to say. Why? (vs. 5-6)

Explain the danger of speaking or reacting in fear. How can today's disciple of Christ not allow fear to determine her words or actions?

4. The baptism of Christ that we discussed on Day 1 is mentioned in all four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). The transfiguration of Christ (Day 2) and the parable of the wicked vinedressers (Day 3) are mentioned in the first three Gospels. How does the repetition of these two events highlight their importance?

Personal Application: Luke 9:30-31 tells us that Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about “His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” They could have spoken with Christ about anything. Moses and Elijah could have asked Him about Creation, how He spoke life into existence and sustains it; or maybe they could have asked Him about why certain things happened (or did not happen) in their life and ministry. They could have asked Him about the end of time, when the final days of Earth would take place. But no! They spoke with Him about His death, His sacrifice, and what that would accomplish.

How can focusing on the cross help you in times of distress or of joy?

Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Honestly, evaluate how much importance your salvation (accomplished by Jesus’s decease) has in your life. Write down what He speaks to you.

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read Luke 20:1-18

1. The chief priests, scribes, and elders joined together to confront Jesus. What did they say to Him (vs. 1-2)?

The enemies of Jesus will always challenge His authority. How do His enemies attempt to undermine Christ's authority in these (the last) days?

2. Jesus silences the priests, scribes and elders. He then begins to teach the people through a parable. How is God's patience revealed in the parable? How is His authority expressed in the same parable?
3. Jesus uses the title "beloved Son" to describe Himself—the same title God, the Father, spoke from heaven during His baptism and transfiguration. "Beloved" in the original greek is *agapētos*. The same word is translated to "dear" in Ephesians 5:1, and it means: beloved, esteemed, dear, favourite, worthy of love. Read Ephesians 5:1. What description do we share with Christ? How should we respond?

Jesus Christ

Son of Man

Lesson 2

... yet without sin.

Is Jesus fully God? Is Jesus fully man? The answer to both is YES! Since the beginning, in order to redeem man, God promised Jesus—the Savior, God in the flesh—would come even from the first Messianic promise announcing Satan's defeat (*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.* Genesis 3:15).

When we finished our study, [Part 1: Jesus](#), I experienced Sight & Sound Theatres' production titled, *Jesus*. My sisters, what a beautiful, meaningful show! This awe-inspiring musical performance of Christ's life moves you from opening to closing, when rather than curtain call, the gospel is shared. Many moments gripped my heart. One of the most poignant was the song, "Always the Plan." The actress playing Mary sings during the scene of the crucifixion. She ponders, remembering Christ's birth at His death. Mary's heart-breaking song fills the theater, "Was this always the plan? Son of God and Man." The centurion sings back, "This was always the plan." Tears well-up just writing it. May we remember that our sinless Savior died and come boldly to Him!

Seeing then that we have ... Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace...

Hebrews 4:14-16

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Matthew 4:1-11

1. The Judean wilderness is the physical setting where Satan tempts Jesus. Think of words to describe a wilderness (dessert). What can this represent spiritually, emotionally, or mentally? Record in the chart below.

Physical Wilderness	Representation (spiritually, emotionally or mentally)
(e.g.) remote location	(e.g.) feeling separated from friends, family, God; lonely; isolated

2. Fill in the blanks: (vs. 3) Satan attacked Jesus and tempts Him to question His identity with the words, “ ____ You are the _____ of _____ .”

(vs.4) Jesus answers, “ ____ is _____, _____”

Satan tried to provoke Christ, challenging His deity. Jesus does not “play the game.” Although fully God, He chose to overcome as a Man, using the Word of God. What does this say of the importance and power of the word of God (the Bible)?

Why should believers not attempt to overcome temptation in their own strength?

3. These three temptations, as 1 John 2: 16 tells us, are the three categories of spiritual attack: the lust of flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Choose one. Think of two examples of how we can be tempted in that area. What are at least two verses that express how to overcome those specific temptations? (Tip: Use <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> as a concordance resource.)

Category (circle one)	Specific Temptation	Bible Verse
Lust of the Flesh		
Lust of the Eyes		
Pride of Life		

Personal Application: In His humanity, Christ felt hunger pains (vs. 2). Satan knew this and suggests He satisfy that need in a way that was self-serving, contrary to Jesus’s nature. Jesus does not succumb. Knowing the enemy will attack the areas where you feel pain and need, what can you do to strengthen yourself against his tactics?

We know Satan will attack weak spots first. Watch for his tricks. You can know what to expect. Expect to be tempted by the Devil. Forty days of fasting left Jesus famished, so Satan began with the topic of bread. Jesus’ stomach was empty, so to the stomach Satan turned. Where are you empty? Are you hungry for attention, craving success, longing for intimacy? Be aware of your weaknesses.

Bring them to God before Satan brings them to you!

-Max Lucado

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read John 11:1-46

Allow me to encourage you to soak in this passage. Perhaps you are very familiar with these events; maybe it's the first time you are reading these verses. Either way, please *take your time*. It is a longer portion of scripture, but please don't rush. See your Savior! Don't just take a peak at this moment, but place yourself in the sandals of these disciples. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and understanding. He will speak to your heart.

1. The first five verses emphasis Jesus's special connection with the siblings Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. On what is their relationship with Jesus based?
2. Beware of any doctrine or philosophy which spreads the idea that those loved by God never experience hardships or suffering. How do the first sixteen verses teach that "in the world you will have tribulation." (John 16:33)?

For what purpose are these trials allowed in the believers life? (John 11:4,15)

3. Think of Mary and Martha. Their brother, Lazarus is dead. Their loss is emotionally, mentally, and physically overwhelming. As each one grieves, she struggles spiritually with why Jesus did not spare him. Choose Mary or Martha. Re-read verses 17-34. Summarize your observations from this sister's perspective.

4. In his commentary on John 11:35, David Brown writes, “Is it for nothing that [John], some sixty years after it occurred, holds up to all ages with such touching brevity the sublime spectacle of the Son of God in tears? What a seal of His perfect oneness with us in the most redeeming feature of our stricken humanity!”

Jesus knew what would happen in just a few moments: He would raise Lazarus from the dead, and He would be glorified. Yet, He still wept. How does this reveal Christ’s humanity?

5. Notice that in the miraculous, raising the dead to life, there were practical instructions for those receiving and witnessing this supernatural event (vs. 39-41, 44). What is the connection between obedience and surrender?

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

1. Luke points out that Christ came to this mountain to pray on the night He was to be betrayed “as was His custom.” What does this suggest about Jesus’s commitment to prayer? Why should the disciple of Christ make prayer her custom?

2. Mark, in his gospel, highlights that Jesus prayed three times. Write down His prayer.

3. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine:

Hematohidrosis is a very rare condition in which an individual sweats blood. It may occur in an individual who is suffering from extreme levels of stress. Fear and intense mental contemplation are the most frequent causes. Around the sweat glands, there are multiple blood vessels in a net-like form, which constrict under the pressure of great stress. Then, as the anxiety passes, the blood vessels dilate to the point of rupture and goes into the sweat glands. As the sweat glands produce a lot of sweat, they push the blood to the surface, which comes out as droplets of blood mixed with sweat.

Luke describes Christ’s agony grew to the point that His sweat became like blood. This happens even though angels ministered to Him. What caused Jesus’s agony?

4. The disciples slept while they should have been praying. What is the warning in Luke 22:46 against this behavior?

Jesus Christ

Friend of Sinners

Lesson 3

Closer than a brother

It doesn't take much time to find multiple studies recognizing the many benefits of healthy friendships. Some suggested benefits include stronger immunity, lower stress, improved self-confidence, increased happiness, and better overall health. Imagine the growth, the peace, the satisfaction available to us, if we would only invest in our friendship with Jesus! Like the song says:

*What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
And what a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer*

*Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer*

As sweet as it is to have good friends, there is something considerable about being a true friend. As Jesus teaches His disciples hours before His arrest leading to His crucifixion, He says, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." Jesus is the greatest friend you can have. In the very next verse, He invites you to share in this friendship by being His friend: "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you." (John 15:13-15) What continually astounds me about this invitation is that Jesus does not gain one thing by having a friendship with any of us—not one thing. It is simply because He loves us that He bids us to be friends with Him! May we respond with a resounding "yes" to His call to friendship!

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Matthew 9:9-13; 10:2-4

1. David Guzik provides the following comments: [During Christ's time on earth, the Romans had set forth] *the practice known as tax farming, the collector made his profit on whatever extra he could get away with charging his victims. A tax collector was highly motivated to make the taxes as high as possible.*

What was Matthew's profession before Christ called him? How would he have been regarded by other Jews?

2. Now that Matthew has decided to follow Christ, he hosts a gathering. Who was present?
3. Why did the Pharisees question Jesus's decision to eat with tax collectors and sinners?
4. What is the purpose of this gathering? (v. 12)

Lord, grant that if ever I am found in the company of sinners, it may be with the design of healing them, and may I never become myself infected with their disease!

Charles Spurgeon

Personal Application: The gospel of Luke notes that before Jesus chose the twelve apostles from among the disciples, He prayed all night (6:12). This group included failed fishermen, a tax collector, a doubter, men with bad tempers, a zealot, and a traitor. None of these disciples were perfect, yet they were still called. Jesus prayed to the Father, and these were the exact men intentionally and specifically invited to share in Christ's ministry.

How does knowing Jesus calls ordinary people to Himself to be His disciples speak to you?

How did the transforming power of the cross change these men into instruments for the gospel? What hope does this same transforming power offer believers today?

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read Luke 19:1-10

1. What was Zacchaeus's profession? How would he have been regarded by others?
2. Because of his short stature and his job, perhaps Zacchaeus endured many cruel insults. What might have been significance for him to hear Jesus (kindly) call him by name?
3. Sharing a meal had important cultural implications: a host would protect his guest with his life; with no refrigeration or electricity preparing a meal was very labor intensive; as meals were served family-style with no utensils, eating together was reserved for the intimate family and friends. What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus eating with Zacchaeus? (v. 7)

What was Zacchaeus's reaction after sharing a meal with Jesus—representing entering into a closer relationship with Christ? (v.8-9)

Dig Deeper: The section in Luke we covered in this study is followed by an interaction of accusations, worship, and forgiveness. If you have time, read Luke 7:36-47. Write down your responses in the chart below.

	Observations (actions & words)	Interpretations (meaning)	Applications (personal instruction)
Jesus			
Pharisee			
Woman			

How does Christ’s reputation of being a “friend of sinners” welcome this woman to come and to fully worship Him?

How do you imagine this woman’s life is different after meeting Jesus?

Jesus Christ

Savior of the World

Lesson 4

Taking away our sins!

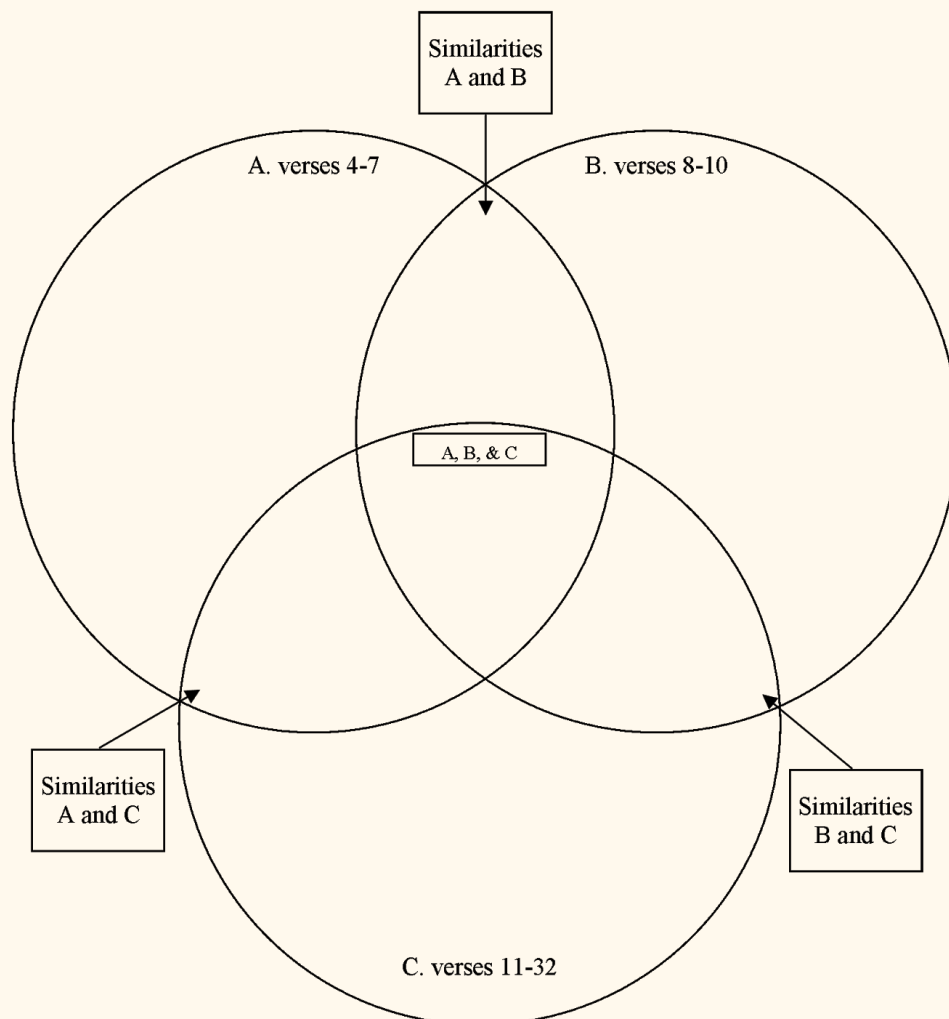
If you were in danger, what animal would you want to rescue you? Perhaps an eagle would make you feel safe, swooping to whisk you out of harm's way. Or maybe you would prefer a galloping horse, a mighty steed carrying you away where trouble can't find you. But what if you were in danger from yourself, your sins? God, in His eternal wisdom, power and love sends Christ, the Messiah, as a Lamb to rescue the world from sin-its power, penalty, and eventually presence. In one of my all-time favorite books, *The Calvary Road*, Roy Heisson compellingly describes part of the reason the Savior of the world came as the Lamb:

He is the Lamb in that He is meek and lowly in heart (Matt 11:29)...all the time surrendering His own will to the Father's (John 6:38) for the blessing and saving of men. Any one but the Lamb would have resented and resisted the treatment men gave Him. But He, in obedience to the Father and out of love for us, did neither...No standing up for His rights, no hitting back, no complaining! How different from us! When the Father's will and the malice of men pointed to dark Calvary, the Lamb meekly bowed His head in willingness for that too...The scourging, the scoffing, the spitting, the hair plucked off from His cheeks, the weary last march up the Hill, the nailing and the lifting up, the piercing of His side and the flowing of His Blood - none of these things would ever have been, had He not been the Lamb. And all that to pay the price of my sin! So we see He is not merely the Lamb because He died on the Cross, but He died upon the Cross because He is the Lamb...Let every mention of the Blood call to mind the deep humility and self-surrender of the Lamb, for it is this disposition that gives the Blood its wonderful power with God. . . . For this disposition has ever been of supreme value to God. Humility, lamb-likeness, the surrender of our wills to God are what He looks for supremely from man. It was to manifest all this that God ever created the first man. It was his refusal to walk this path that constituted his first sin (and it has been the heart of sin ever since). It was to bring this disposition back to earth that Jesus came.

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Luke 15:1-10

1. Who is in the audience as Jesus teaches these parables (vs. 1-3)?
2. Easton's Bible dictionary defines a *parable* as: "a placing beside; a comparison of earthly with heavenly things, an earthly story with a heavenly meaning," as in the parables of our Lord. Luke 15 contains possibly the most well-known parables in all of Scripture. As you study this chapter over Part 1 & 2 of Lesson 4, write down the similarities and differences you observe in the three parables in the chart below.



3. In the first parable, Jesus confirms His words from John 10:11 and 14 that He is the Good Shepherd. Why would only the goodness of the Shepherd cause Him to seek the lost sheep?

4. What is paradoxical (a seeming contradiction) about the coin being lost at home?

5. How is the woman's response similar to the Shepherd (vs.5-6, 9-10)?

Personal Application: Charles Spurgeon describes who the Shepherd is in the first parable and the identity of the woman in the second parable as follows:

Beyond a question, we see in the first parable the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. The second parable is most fitly placed where it is. It, I doubt not, represents the work of the Holy Spirit, working, through the church, for the lost but precious souls of men. The church is that woman who sweeps her house to find the lost piece of money, and in her the Spirit works his purposes of love. How the work of the Holy Spirit follows the work of Christ. As here we first see the shepherd seeking the lost sheep, and then read of the woman seeking the lost piece of money, so the great Shepherd redeems, and then the Holy Spirit restores the soul.

How are you as the bride of Christ lighting the lamp and sweeping for the “lost coins” (friends and family who are not walking with the Lord)? Write down the names of “lost coins” and pray for them.

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read Luke 15:11-32

1. The father in the parable illustrates God's love. When the younger son asks for his inheritance, the father grants him this greedy and foolish request. How does God's love respect human choice?
2. Notice all the crushing events that took place before the younger son "came to his senses." Some were clearly the results of his bad choices-he had spent all; others were out of his control-there was a famine and no one gave him anything. How is grace expressed in these events?
3. Often these parables are titled to emphasize the state of the sheep, coin and the younger son—"lost," considering all you have learned of the state of Christ in each of these teachings, write a different title for each parable.

Personal Application: Considering the first question in Day 1 of 1, to which member of Christ's audience do you most relate right now in your walk with the Lord? What lesson is the Holy Spirit teaching you from these parables?

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read 1 Corinthians 1:18; Matthew 27:26-56

1. Thayer's Greek Lexicon and the Strong's New Testament word for *cross* (4716: σταυρός) is defined as:

a well known instrument of most cruel and ignominious punishment, borrowed by the Greeks and Romans from the Phoenicians; to it were affixed among the Romans, down to the time of Constantine the Great, the guiltiest criminals, particularly the basest slaves, robbers, the authors and abettors of insurrections

Consider the meaning and intended use of the cross. Write 1 Corinthians 1:18 in your own words. How does Christ's sacrifice change even the cross itself?

2. List all that Christ endured before being crucified (vs. 26-34).

Personal Application: Christ refused the numbing drink given to those about to be crucified (v. 34). This means He endured the full extent of anguish in the hours of His death. How does this serve as an example to us, His followers, when offered numbing elements to deal with pain?

3. In adding insult to injury, the two robbers, the chief priests, the scribes, the soldiers, the crowds each took their turn in mocking Christ on the cross. Consider verse 42, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save." Knowing Jesus is God and had the power to "save Himself" from the cross, why didn't He?

4. Re-read verses 45-46. Allow the truth of what Christ suffered on the cross to pierce your heart. Notice Jesus did not say, "He felt forsaken." He was, in fact, forsaken. This is the only time in scripture where the Son does not refer to the Father as such but as "My God." What happened when Christ, the perfect, spotless Lamb, bore the weight of our sin? (Isaiah 59:2)

Because of His sacrifice, what promise are we given in Romans 8:38-39?

How then does sin separate us from God, although nothing separates us from His love (John 15:4-8)?

5. Jesus gave up His spirit; no one took it from Him. The results were numerous and supernatural. Compare and contrast the tearing of the temple veil* and the guards realizing that Jesus is the Son of God. Why are each of these events supernatural?

Veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (v. 51)	Similarities	Guards saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (v.54)

*Background information: The Veil of the Temple

(Hebrews 9:3) as it hid from the eyes of all but the high priest the inmost sanctuary, where Jehovah dwells on his mercy-seat, between the cherubim above the ark. Hence "to enter within the veil" is to have the closest access to God. It was only passed by the high priest once a year, on the Day of Atonement in token of the mediation of Christ, who with his own blood hath entered for us within the veil which separates God's own abode from earth (Hebrews 6:19).

-Smith, William. "Tabernacle - Smith's Bible Dictionary." Blue Letter Bible. 14 Dec, 2010. Web. 8 Sep, 2019.

Jesus Christ

Rabboni

Lesson 5

Good Teacher

The influence of a teacher, good or bad, can be difficult to measure. According to the article, "Teachers Matter: Understanding Teachers' Impact on Student Achievement:"

Many factors contribute to a student's academic performance, including individual characteristics and family and neighborhood experiences. But research suggests that, among school-related factors, teachers matter most.

Perhaps, you can think back and remember one particularly amazing teacher in your life. Was it her patience or the fact that she cared about you which impacted you? Maybe his love of the subject taught inspired you? In my case, one of the most influential teachers in my life helped to shape my profession. I remember sitting in my 9th grade English class and deciding "I'm going to be a high school English teacher when I grow up." Sure enough, by God's grace, eight years later, I was teaching 9th grade English. She was my English teacher for three years. She taught me to analyze literature; she instilled in me a love for writing; she modeled how to care for students without trying to be their friend; she's a wonderful person.

In Mark 1:38, Jesus says to His disciples, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." Notice the emphasis of His ministry was not His works but His words. He is the Good Teacher, and we have much to learn from Christ. May we sit at His feet as dedicated students longing to be like Him.

*Take My yoke upon you and **learn from Me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. -Matthew 11:29*

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read John 3:1-21

1. In this chapter, John records a conversation between Jesus and _____.
What does this chapter say about him?

2. As Jesus instructs Nicodemus, He compares entering the kingdom of God to birth (vs. 3-8). Write at least two ways in which physical birth and being born-again are similar.

Traits of Physical Birth	Similar Traits of Being Born-Again

3. Read Numbers 21:4-9. How were the people to be saved from the fiery serpents?

What would happen to those who might have thought it too foolish to do such a thing?

As it says in Isaiah 45:22: "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." We might be willing to do a hundred things to earn our salvation, but God commands us to only trust in Him – to look to Him.

-David Guzik

4. Re-read verses 16-21. Here Jesus explains the gospel-the good news of how everyone and anyone in this world can be restored in his or her relationship with God. Christ describes the reason He is sent to the world, and the reason so many reject Him.

a. Write below all the verb phrases associated with God. (*Verb: a word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence*)

Verse 16 *God, He:* _____

Verse 17 *God, through Him:* _____

Verse 19 *light:* _____

b. Write below all the verb phrases associated with man (humanity). What is the result of that action?

Verse 16 *whosoever:* _____ *Result:* _____

Verse 18 *he:* _____ *Result:* _____

he: _____ *Result:* _____

Verse 19 *men:* _____ *Result:* _____

Verse 20 *everyone (practicing evil):* _____ *Result:* _____

Verse 21 *he (who does truth)* _____ *Result:* _____

c. What do we learn from the truth in these verses?

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read Matthew 22:35-40

1. In Matthew 22 we see that many of the religious leaders in Jesus's day came to test Him, and this lawyer came with the same heart at first. Do you think he was sincere in calling Jesus "Teacher?"

2. What is the lawyer's question?

Personal Application: David Guzik comments, *"This question was also planned to trap Jesus. In asking Jesus to choose one great commandment, they hoped to make Jesus show neglect for another area of the law."* In other words, the Pharisees were trying to trick Christ into picking one specific law over the others in an effort to show that He was "promoting one command over another." So often we come to Jesus with the wrong question. We might think we have to choose between one good thing or another good thing. When the reality may be that Christ wants us to surpass what seems good and choose what is best—the calling He has for us.

Think of a question or of a decision you have to face. Write it down. Are you willing to surrender this issue to the Lord? Does He want you to have a different question or option?

3. Jesus not only answers this question, He also teaches what is the second greatest commandment. How do these two commandments summarize the whole of a Christian's life?

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read Mark 10:17-27

1. Some Bible translations will add a subtitle over verse 17—“Jesus Counsels the Rich Young Ruler.” At first glance, this description of his life may seem like he had it all (money, youth, power), but what is he missing?

We know that God does not play favorites or change His standards based for some as opposed to others. How does Christ show no partiality, in other words completely impartial treatment towards this rich, young ruler?

2. Notice verse 17 the young ruler calls Jesus, “Good Teacher;” then in verse 20 he refers to Him as solely, “Teacher.” What may have caused this shift?
3. The young ruler leaves the scene saddened even though Jesus told him the one thing he lacked. Why?

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.”

G.K. Chesterton

4. Why is entering the kingdom of God impossible for man? How is it possible with God?

Dig Deeper: When Christ rose from the dead, one of the women who was present at the empty tomb does not recognize Him at first. Mark writes that Jesus had delivered her from demonic rule (16:9). If you have time, read John 20:1-18. Write down your responses in the chart below.

Mary Magdalene Character Analysis

What are her actions?

Include verse references with your description.

What conflict(s) is she facing?

Include verse references with your
Description.

**How do others respond to and feel
about her?**

Include verse references with your description.

**What does she say? What might
she think?**

Include verse references with your description.

How does Mary change? Why?

Include verse references with your description.

Keeping in mind that Christ delivered Mary Magdalene from unimaginable torment, why is it significant that instead of calling Him “Savior” or “Deliverer,” she calls Him *Rabboni* meaning “Master and Teacher”?

How does this interaction show Christ’s love? What can we learn of Jesus in these verses?

