

**DISCOVERY LESSON 1**  
**GOD, MAN AND CREATION**  
Bible Texts: Genesis I and 2

**I. Introduction**

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

**II. The Seven Days of Creation / The Importance of Word of God**

- 1) READ: Genesis 1:1-2.
  - a) Was there anything in existence before the creation of the world? No
  - b) Was there any power in existence before the creation of the world? Yes, God
  - c) When God began creating the world, what was its condition? Formless, empty confusion, darkness.
- 2) READ: Genesis 1:3-5.
  - a) What did God create on the first day? Light.
  - b) How did He create it? Did He use tools? No. He spoke and it happened. The Word of God is the foundation to the existence of everything. Everything is built upon the Word of God
- 3) READ: Genesis 1:6-25.
  - a) How did God create everything? By His Word.
  - b) There was an order and a purpose to God's creation?

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

**III. Creation of Man/God's Love for Man**

- 1) READ: Genesis 1:26-27.
  - a) Was man created in the image of God?
  - b) Are animals created in the image of God?
  - c) What does it mean that we are created in the image of God? Do we resemble God physically?  
No. God has given man abilities greater than the rest of creation. God has distinguished man by giving him some of His (God's) characteristics.
  - d) What are some of the ways that man is created in the image of God?
    - i) Man has authority.
    - ii) Man has absolute responsibility.
    - iii) Man has the ability to communicate.
    - iv) Man can distinguish between good and evil.
    - v) Man can have a relationship with God.
    - vi) Man has life after death.
- 2) READ: Genesis 1:28-31.
  - a) Do you see anything that points to the value of man and God's love for him?
  - b) What did God mean when he said his creation was good? Perfect, complete. No sickness, war, pain, sadness, crime, or even death. The relationship between God and man was perfect. Man was close to God. He had fellowship with God.
- 3) READ: Genesis 2:1-3.
  - a) What did God do on the seventh day? He rested.
  - b) Why did He rest? Was He tired? No. He rested because He had finished.
    - \* It is very important that we notice the condition of creation at this time. It was perfect. It was

complete. God rested because there was nothing else for Him to do.

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

#### **IV. The Garden of Eden/Man's Freedom to Choose**

1) READ: Genesis 2:8-9.

- a) Where was the Garden of Eden located? In the East. (If necessary read vv. 10-14. Point out that the Garden of Eden was located on earth. It was part of creation.)
- b) How many kinds of trees did God put in Garden? Three: the Tree of Life, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and all of the normal trees. The trees we shall focus on are the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil Tree of Life.

2) READ: Genesis 2:15-17.

- a) Which trees did God allowed them to eat from? All of them except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- b) This meant that they could eat from the Tree of Life. What was the importance of this tree? If they ate the fruit of this tree they would never die.
- c) What was God's command to them? Do not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- d) What would happen if they did? They would die.
- e) What was man's responsibility before God? responsibility of obedience. Man has a choice, he has freedom. He can obey or disobey. Man has complete freedom to choose.
- g) Was God's command difficult? No. He gave Adam and Eve thousands of trees to eat from. Only one was forbidden. Even today God's commands are not difficult. Man makes religion difficult.

#### **Application**

- 1) God created this world out of darkness and confusion. Because He is the Creator; He can take the darkness and emptiness of our lives and give us new and beautiful lives. His Word is the foundation of spiritual life.
  - 2) God created us to have fellowship with Him. Close fellowship. He created us so that we can glorify Him with our lives. God loves us. We have value.
  - 3) The original condition of man in the Garden was perfect and complete.
    - a) He was physically complete (no sickness or death).
    - b) His relationship with God was complete (no separation because of sin).
    - c) The environment around him was complete.
    - d) The marriage relationship was complete (respect between husband and wife, no divorce).
    - e) No sin, pain, suffering, sickness, death, or problems.
  - 4) Man has complete freedom to obey or disobey God.
- \* The things we see in the world today that are not right were not that way in the beginning. When we read about the perfect life in the Garden of Eden, we are reading about God's will for us. He wants us to have a perfect, complete life.
- \* In the next lesson we will see how man destroyed the perfect world God gave him, and in the lessons that follow, we will see how God has made a way to restore us to our original condition with a perfect, complete life.

#### **The First Marriage**

1) READ: Genesis 2:18-25.

- a) Marriage is a gift from God.
  - b) Marriage and sex within marriage are holy
  - c) The will of God from the beginning concerning marriage is one man for one woman for life.
- 2) Why did Adam and Eve feel no shame even though they were naked? Because there was no sin. When there is no sin, there is no shame. Shame and guilt are consequences of sin.

**Discovery Lesson 2**  
**GOD, MAN AND CREATION**  
**Genesis 3**

**Introduction**

- \* Go over again with the student that the purpose of this course is to help them understand who Jesus Christ is.
- \* Review last week's lesson - creation. The three main points to remember about last weeks lesson are:
  - All of creation and man's relationship with God were complete.
  - God's will for man is that his life should be complete and perfect.
  - God gave man a choice. READ: Genesis 2:16-17. What was that choice?
- \* The story could have ended here and man would have lived in the perfect will of God for eternity, but the world we live in today is not perfect or complete. Today we will see what happened. We can divide this lesson into four parts.
  - Satan's temptation of Eve (Genesis 3:1-6).
  - The sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:7).
  - The punishment and consequences of that sin (Genesis 3:8-24).
  - The promise of reconciliation (Genesis 3:14-15; Genesis 3:21).

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

**I. The Temptation**

- 1) READ: Genesis 3:1-6.
  - a) Who was the snake? Satan. Satan used the snake. Satan came to Eve in the form of a snake.
  - b) What do we mean by the word "temptation"? A temptation is when the desire or will of man goes against the will of God. When a man wants to do something against his conscience or against the Word or will of God, it is temptation. Temptation is not sin, but it can lead to sin if we do not resist it.
- 2) How did Satan tempt Eve? What way did he use?

Read the passage verse by verse and notice the five steps Satan uses.

  - \* He causes doubt to the Word of God (vs. 1). "Did God really say...?" This question transmits doubt. This is Satan's first step. Even today he wants to bring doubt concerning the Word of God.
  - \* He exaggerates the command of God (vs. 1). 'You must not eat from any tree in the Garden...'  
Was this God's command? No! Satan makes God appear difficult and strict. He wants to lessen our confidence in God.
  - \* He contradicts the command of God (vs. 4). 'You will not die.' He calls God a liar.
  - \* He lies (vs. 5). Satan says that the created ones can become like the Creator! Satan is the Father of Lies.
- 3) What was Eve's response to the Devil? Was her response correct? She added to God's command as well. God never told her not to TOUCH the tree in the middle of the garden but he only said don't eat from it.

**II. Sin**

- 1) READ: Genesis 3:6.
  - a) What were the three things that attracted Eve to break her obedience to God?
    - It was good for food.
    - It was beautiful to the eyes.
    - It was desirable.

- b) Are these things bad? Not necessarily, but if they are against the will of God they are sin.
- c) What did Eve do after she ate? She gave some to Adam. When Adam and Eve disobeyed, the relationship between God and man was broken. It is not only adultery, stealing, and killing that are sins. Anything that is disobedience to God is sin. Anything before God in our lives is sin.

\*The root of the problem is not disobedience, but lack of faith and confidence in the Word of God ("... don't eat from the tree or you will die"). Adam and Eve did not believe what God said about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If man's problem is bad works, what is the solution? Good works. If man's problem is lack of faith, what is the solution? Faith. The focus of the true believer is faith in God's Word.

### III. The Punishment and Consequences of Sin

- 1) READ: Genesis 2:17-punishment.

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

- a) What is the punishment if man disobeys God? Death.
  - b) What is the meaning of death here? Death is the only punishment or recompense for disobedience and sin. But there are three types of death:
    - \* Spiritual death-separation from God.
    - \* Physical death-the age of man is limited.
    - \* Eternal death-damnation in hell for eternity with no hope for reconciliation with God.
- READ: 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

- 2) READ: Genesis 3:7-the feeling of guilt.

- a) What does it mean that their eyes were opened after the fall into sin? They experienced inner emptiness, guilt, shame, the need to hide, impurity, uncleanness.
- b) What did they do to try to cover their shame? They made coverings of leaves.

- 3) READ: Genesis 3:8-9-destruction of the relationship between God and man.

- a) What was God's question? "Where are you?" This was not because God did not know where man was, but because the close relationship between God and man had been broken.
- b) Why were Adam and Eve hiding? They were ashamed. This is the normal response when we sin. We want to be far from God.
- c) Do you see anything that points to the value of man? God was searching for him. Even today God searches for sinners.

- 4) READ: Genesis 3:11-12-blame in the relationship between husband and wife.

- a) What was Adam's response? He blamed his wife.
- b) Who else did he blame? He even blamed God: "The woman you gave me."

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

- a) What are the specific curses against men and women? Women will have pain in childbirth. Women will be subject to their husbands. Work will be difficult for men, and it won't be satisfying.
- b) Have these things affected you? We have all been affected by sin.

- 6) READ: Genesis 3:22-2-banishment.

- a) What did God do to Adam and Eve? He banished them from the Garden of Eden.
- b) Why? If they remained in the Garden they could eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.
- c) By being banished from the Garden, from what three things were they being banished?
  - \* The presence of God.
  - \* The Tree of Life (eternal life).
  - \* The perfect life/environment in the Garden of Eden.

#### **IV. The Promise of Reconciliation**

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

1) READ: Genesis 3:14-15-the promise.

- a) What is the prophecy here? An offspring of Eve will crush the head of Satan, and Satan will strike the heel of this same offspring.
- b) In your opinion what is the meaning that the offspring of Eve will crush the head of Satan? This prophecy is a promise to all mankind that God will send some one to defeat Satan and overcome the effects of sin in our lives. It is a promise that even though we are far from God because of sin, God will reconcile us to Himself someday.

(At this point you may want to mention that later on we will see how Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy, but remember we are laying a foundation and details about Christ will come later.)

2) READ: Genesis 3:21-the provision.

- a) What did God do for Adam and Eve? He gave them clothes made of animal skin.
- b) Why did God give them clothes made of animal skin rather than leaves? Two reasons:
  - Only God can provide cover for the shame and guilt of sin.
  - God provides this cover through sacrifice: the shedding of blood. God shows them that truly the result of sin is death.

Application:

- a) How many sins did Adam and Eve commit? One
- b) How many good works did God say they do to return? None. No good work that they could do would make returning possible. Even today people believe that if they have more good works than bad they can go to heaven. This is not true. Because of one sin, Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden. Only one sin will block way to heaven for us as well. Only God can bring us back to our original condition.

Summary:

- a) Satan tempts us by decreasing our confidence in the Word of God.
- b) Sin has separated us from God.
- c) All of the problems we see in the world have come as a result of sin.
- d) God has promised to solve the problem of sin, reconcile us to Himself, and overcome death.

Closing:

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

**Discovery Lesson 3**  
**Fundamentals of the Bible**  
**Various Bible Texts**

**The Purpose of the Lesson:**

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

\* Remember that the goal of the course is to help the student understand who Christ is. To do this we must understand the Bible since it is the source of our knowledge of Christ.

**I. Structure of the Bible**

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

**II. The Old Testament**

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

**III. The New Testament**

- 1) There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament. Each is complete on its own.
- 2) The New Testament was originally written in Greek.
- 3) The New Testament includes the Gospels, Acts, Letters of the Apostles, and Revelation.
  - a) The Gospels give details about the life and teaching of the Messiah.
  - b) Acts tells of the growth of the Church in the first century. The focus is on the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.
  - c) Letters instructing believers regarding the Christian life.
  - d) Revelation tells us about the second coming of the Messiah.

**IV. The meaning of the word "gospel".**

- a) The gospel is not a doctrine or religion that came down from heaven.
- b) The gospel is not a means of communication or group of commands or laws about how to go to heaven.
- c) The word gospel is a Greek word meaning "good news".  
What is this good news? READ: 1 Corinthians 15:3-5.

## **V. The Inspiration of the Bible**

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

## **VI. The Purpose of the Bible**

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

Closing: READ: Hebrews 1:1-2.

- \* True knowledge of God cannot come through books, it is through Christ alone.

**Discovery Lesson 4**  
**Redemption in the Old Testament \ The Necessity of Blood for Salvation**  
**Leviticus 16:15-19; 29-34; Isaiah 52, 53**

**Introduction**

**Review of Lesson 2.**

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

**I. The Problem of Sin**

- 1) What God's Word says about sin:
  - a) READ: Psalm 14:3. Does this describe people today?
  - b) READ: Psalm 143:2 (optional). Who is righteous?
  - c) READ: Ecclesiastes 7:20. Who is righteous?
  - d) READ: Isaiah 59:2. What is the worst consequence of sin? Separation from God.
- 2) What are some of the things that man has done to solve the problem of sin? Religion, science, good works, etc. Man looks for salvation from good works.
  - a) READ: Ephesians 2:8-9. What does it mean to be saved? What are we saved from? From the consequences of our sin.  
Can good works save us? No.
  - b) READ: Romans 3:20. Can we become righteous through the Law? No, the Law only shows us sin.
- 3) The greatest problem in the world is sin. Because sin is a spiritual problem, we cannot solve it alone. We must depend on God.

This week we will look at the solution which God gave in the Old Testament and in the following study we will see the solution God gave in the New Testament.

**II. God's Plan for Salvation**

**The Law and the Prophets point forward to Christ.**

- 1) All through the Old Testament we read about the men of God offering sacrifices, e.g. Noah, Abraham, Moses, David. Why are these sacrifices necessary? According to the Law, forgiveness and redemption from sin only comes through the shedding of blood.
- 2) READ: Leviticus 16:15-19; 29-34 - the Day of Atonement.
  - a) What was the sacrifice? A goat.
  - b) Why was this sacrificed? For sin.
  - c) What did the sacrifice do? Atoned for sin, covered sin, purified the people from sin.
  - d) Who was this sacrifice for? The whole nation.
- 3) READ: John 1:29 - the Perfect Sacrifice.  
An animal does not have the same value as a man. Therefore we need a more perfect, final sacrifice.
  - a) Who is the lamb that John is referring to?
  - b) Why did he call Jesus the Lamb of God? Jesus Himself was a sacrifice like the Old Testament sacrifices.
  - c) For whom was He a sacrifice? The whole world
- 4) READ: Romans 5:18.  
How could one man be a sacrifice that purifies the whole world?
  - a) What was the one act of disobedience that brought death to the world? Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden.



- b) What was the one act of obedience that brought life to the world? The death of Christ Cross.
- c) Through Adam all of the problems of sin entered our lives. Christ brought the solution.

5) READ: Hebrews 9:22.

What is the relationship between the shedding of blood and forgiveness? According to the Bible, there must be the shedding of blood for forgiveness of sins.

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

The following prophecies from Isaiah help us to understand this:

- a) READ: Isaiah 52:13. Who is the servant? Jesus.
- b) READ: Isaiah 52:14-15. How does Isaiah describe Christ's body?
- c) READ: Isaiah 53:1-3. Describe the physical appearance of the Messiah. Even today people do not recognize the greatness of the Messiah. They think He is only a prophet or teacher.
- d) READ: Isaiah 53:4-5. Why did the Messiah die?
- e) READ: Isaiah 53:6. How are we like sheep?
- f) READ: Isaiah 53:7-8. How is Christ like a lamb?
- g) READ: Isaiah 53:9. What is the prophecy here?
- h) READ: Isaiah 53:10. What is a guilt offering?
- i) READ: Isaiah 53:11-12. What are the results of the Messiah's suffering?

**Homework:**

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

**Closing**

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

## **Discovery Lesson 5**

### **Who is Jesus?**

#### **John I**

#### **Introduction**

Review lessons 1-4.

Lesson 1: - How did God create the world? By His Word

- What was the condition of the world when He finished creating it? It was perfect

Lesson 2: - How did the world become so bad? As a result of sin.

Lesson 3: - What was the purpose of the Old Testament Law and Prophets? To prepare us to receive the Messiah.

Lesson 4: - What does the Law teach us about redemption? Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness for sins.

- What was the theme of the prophets? They prepared the way for the Messiah.

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

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

#### **TITLES FOR CHRIST IN JOHN 1**

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

The most important word in this section is "word". A word is an important part of the way in which understanding is established between people. God communicates to us through His Word.

1) What are some of the attributes of God's Word we discover in these verses?

- The Word of God is eternal.

- There is no distinction between God and His Word.

- Everything was made through the Word of God. (Remember Genesis 1).

- The Word of God became a person.

2) Who do you think this person was who was the Word of God? Jesus.

3) What does it mean that Jesus is the Word of God? He is much more than a prophet. He is the revelation of God to man.

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

##### **II. Jesus is the Life.** READ: John 1:4.

1) READ: John 6:35.

a) Who is the Bread of Life? Jesus.

b) What does Jesus mean when He says that we will never be hungry or thirsty? Does He mean physically? No, He means we will be spiritually satisfied.

2) READ: John 6:51.

a) Where did Jesus come from? Heaven.

b) What will we receive if we eat this bread from heaven? Eternal life.

c) What is this bread? The flesh of Christ.

- This is symbolic. It refers to accepting Christ as Savior and Him giving us spiritual life.

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

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

- 1) Who was John the Baptist?
- 2) How is Jesus described here? Light.
- 3) What are some of the things that light does?
  - a) Light reveals the straight path so that we do not fall.
  - b) Light exposes the darkness (darkness is a symbol for sin).
  - c) Light helps living things grow.
- 4) How is Jesus like the light?
  - a) READ: John 8:12. Jesus reveals the way to God.
  - b) READ: John 12:46. Jesus overcomes darkness (sin).

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

- 1) What is Jesus called here? The Lamb of God.
- 2) Do you remember why Jesus is called the Lamb of God? Because He was a sacrifice.
- 3) As the Lamb, what does Jesus do? Takes away the sin of the world.
- 4) READ: Hebrews 9:27-28.
  - a) What was Christ's purpose the first time He came to earth? To be a sacrifice for sin.
  - b) What will be His purpose when He comes again? To bring salvation to His followers.

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

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

**Application**

Rejecting and Receiving Christ

- 1) READ: John 1:10-11.
  - a) What does it mean that the world did not recognize Him? The people did not recognize Him as the Word of God, the Life, the Light, the Lamb, and the Son of God.
  - b) Who were His own? The Jews.
  - c) Did they accept Him? No.
  - d) Why do people today reject Christ? They accepted Him as a prophet or a teacher; but not as the Word of God, the Life, the Light, the Lamb, or the Son of God.
- 2) READ: John 1:12-13.
  - a) What does it mean to receive Christ? To accept Him as the Word of God, the Life, the Light, the Lamb, and the Son of God.
  - b) What happens to those who receive Christ? They become children of God.
  - c) What does it mean to be a child of God? A child has an inheritance from his father. We inherit eternal life from our father God.

**Closing:**

- 1) There is one more thing that distinguishes Jesus from all of the other prophets: He is alive. Because of this, He is much more than a prophet. Jesus makes dead people live the prophets aren't able to do that. He is the source of life. Read: John 14:6.
- 2) READ: Revelation 3:20. The decision is yours. Do you want to accept Christ and become His child?

**Discovery Lesson 6**

## The Proper Response to God Various Texts

### Introduction

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

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

- a) Who was the light? Jesus.
- b) What were Paul's two questions to Jesus? "Who are you?" and "What do you want me to do?"

These are two important questions that we must ask. In the first five lessons we have tried to answer the question "Who is Jesus?" In this lesson we will answer the second, "What does He want us to do?" This is a very dangerous question because the way you answer it will affect your entire life on earth and your eternal life.

### I. Consider the cost. READ: Luke 14:25-30.

- 1) What do you think Jesus means when He says that we must hate our families and our life? Christ must be our priority. He must come before our families, our job, our house, our honor, etc.
- 2) What does He mean when He says that we must carry our cross? The Cross is a symbol of suffering. If we follow Jesus we will suffer. There will be persecution.
- 3) What do you think Jesus is telling us in the story of the tower (vv. 28-30)? If you decide to follow Christ it means that you will follow Him, obey Him, in every area of your life.
- 4) READ: John 14:15. What is the proof that we love God? Obedience.

### II. Repent READ: Matthew 3:1-12.

- 1) Who was John the Baptist? A prophet. He prepared the Jews to receive the Messiah.
- 2) What was John's message? Repent.
- 3) What was his message to the religious leaders? Repent.
- 4) What were the religious leaders trusting in (v. 9)? They were trusting in their religion. This is why it is so hard for religious people to come to the Messiah. They trust in their religious rituals and they don't think they need to repent.

READ: Luke 18:9-14 What is repentance? Repentance is the preparation for experiencing the presence of God in your life.

\* The Pharisee is a religious man and the tax collector is a sinful man.

- 1) Describe the two men. The Pharisee was a religious man and the tax collector a sinner.
- 2) Which man repented? The tax collector.
- 3) Who did Jesus say was justified before God? The tax collector. Why? Because he repented.
- 4) What does repentance mean for this man? Repentance means that we confess we are sinners. We confess that we need the grace of God. We confess that we do not deserve God's love. Repentance takes humility.

### III. Faith. READ: John 6:27-29, 40.

- 1) What kind of work is required of us in verse 27? Work that leads to eternal life.
- 2) What is the work that God requires us to do in verse 29? Believing in the one He has sent.
- 3) Who is the one He has sent? Jesus.
- 4) In what do we need to believe in John 20:31? That Jesus is the Son of God

\*What kind of faith doesn't save us according to Eph. 2:8-9? Faith in our works.

READ: Romans 10:9-10.

- 1) According to these verses, what are the two things we must do to be saved? Confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that He rose from the dead.
- 2) What is the means of believing? Our heart.
- 3) What is the means of confessing? Our mouth.

\* Explanation: Confessing with our mouth and believing with our heart is an important thing in our personal life. It shows that our faith is in a personal relationship with God.

### IV. Receiving Christ READ: John 1:12-13.

- 1) What happens to those who receive Christ? They become children of God.
- 2) What does it mean to be a child of God (read Roam. 8:17)? To be an heir of eternal life.
- 3) In your opinion what does it mean that we believe in his name in John 1:12? It means to believe who he says he was: the word of God, the light, the bread of life, the son of God.....)
- 4) What does it mean that we are children of God in John 1:13 (also read 2Cor 5:17)? It means we have become a new creation. The old life has been done away with and new life has come. The Holy Spirit of God has come to dwell in us.

#### Invitation

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

#### Salvation Prayer

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