

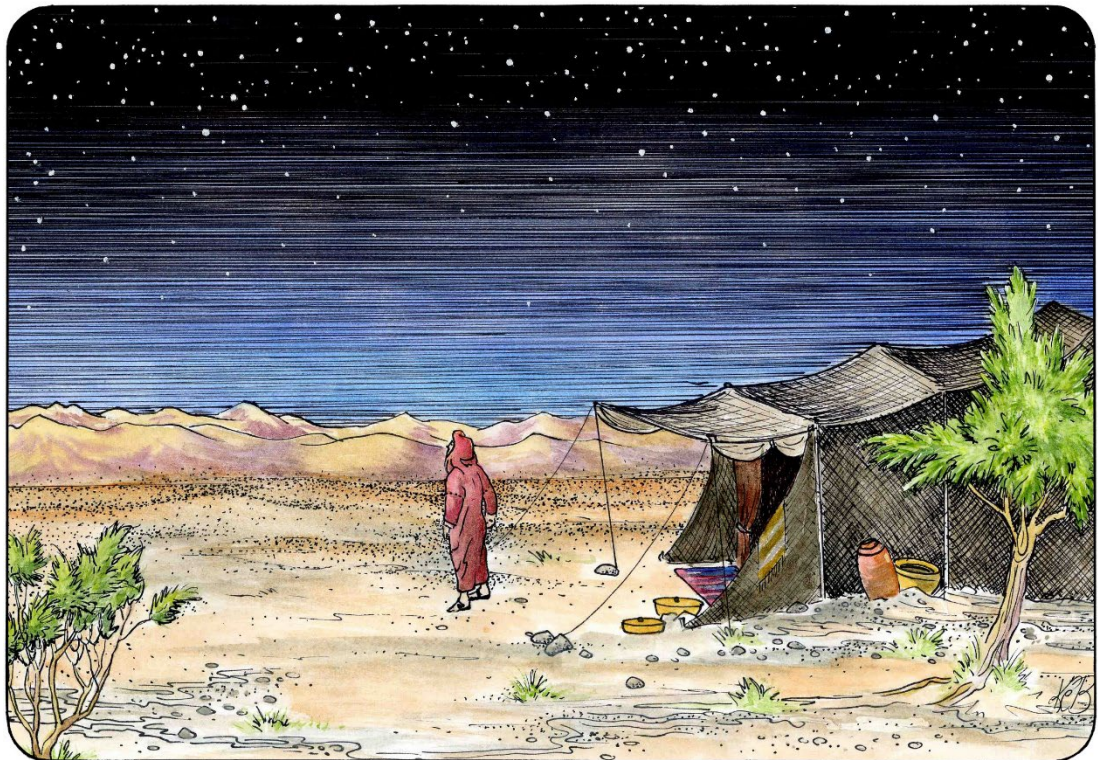
PROGRESSING TOGETHER



COURSE 101

OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE

Group Leader Version with Notes and Answer Key



He took him outside and said,
“Look up at the heavens and count the stars, if indeed you can count them.”
Then He said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Genesis 15:5

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PROGRESSING TOGETHER LEVEL I

INTRODUCTION TO PART I

The first six courses of the Level I program are designed to help you to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.



*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,
continue to live your lives in him,
rooted and built up in him,
strengthened in the faith as you were taught,
and overflowing with thankfulness.*

Colossians 2:6-7

PART I: ROOTED IN CHRIST

Course 101 Overview of the Bible
Course 102 Walking in the Light
Course 103 Growing in Christ
Course 104 The Church
Course 105 Persecution
Course 106 The Story of Salvation

In our first course in this series, we will discover God's loving plan to restore mankind which He revealed throughout the Bible.

Then, we will discover who we have become and how we can grow in our understanding of His word and live for Him even in the face of difficulties.

Finally, we will study God's plan of salvation in more detail as it is presented in the first chapters of the Bible, in Genesis.

These courses will deepen your roots in the rich soil of God's word and prepare you for the series of courses in **PART II: BEARING FRUIT FOR GOD'S GLORY**.



COURSE 101 – Overview of the Bible: God's Plan to Bless All Nations in Christ

Objectives of Course 101

1. To see the unified story of God's redemption through Jesus
2. To understand how God's promise to Abraham was fulfilled in Christ
3. To increase confidence in God's faithfulness to His Word and His blessing to those who trust Christ for their salvation
4. To be motivated to share in the ongoing fulfilment of God's plan of blessing through bringing the message of the gospel to all peoples

Lessons

1	God's Promise to Abraham: A blessing for all peoples
2	Sketch of Old Testament History
3	The Gospels: Eye witness accounts of the coming of the Messiah Jesus
4	Acts and the Early Church: Preaching faith in Jesus the Messiah to the ends of the earth
5	The Epistles: Teaching for the Church

Introduction

The aim of this course is to give an overview of the whole Bible.

The Lord Jesus himself gave us the key when he said: "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5: 39-40)

He also said: "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms. Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures." (Luke 24.44-45).

When he spoke of 'the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms' Jesus was referring to the whole of the Old Testament, because, in his day, the Jewish people divided the Old Testament into these three sections.

Jesus came to fulfil the Old Testament and constantly referred to it as the authority behind his teaching.

- **Thus, the central theme of the whole Bible is God's plan to send a saviour, who is the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Today, most editions of the Bible group the 39 books of the **OLD TESTAMENT** as follows:

5	BOOKS OF THE LAW BY MOSES	Genesis					Deuteronomy
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12	HISTORICAL BOOKS	Joshua											Esther
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5	POETICAL BOOKS	Job				Song of Songs
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5	MAJOR PROPHETIC BOOKS	Isaiah				Daniel
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12	MINOR PROPHETIC BOOKS	Hosea										Malachi
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Memorise the categories of the books of the Old Testament. Then, complete the missing names in the table above and commit them to memory too. (You can find songs online that help memorise the 66 books of the Bible. Here are two options: [These are the Books of the Bible](#) or [The Books of the Bible](#).)

Note for the group leader:

As many students have difficulty learning the order of the books of the Old Testament, we recommend drilling them using this simple tool:

- *Using all the fingers of one hand, represent the number “5” (for the 5 books of the Law).*

- Then using both hands, show one finger of your second hand to represent “10” and two fingers of the other for “2”, for the number “12” (to represent the 12 historical books).
- Then make the “5” gesture two more times (for the poetical books and the major prophetic books), followed by the “12” (for the minor prophetic books).
- Ask all to identify the 5 categories in order while you repeat the 5 gestures.

Once they learned the categories of the books of the Old Testament, you can ask them to complete the missing names in the table above and work on the names of the books one section at a time as you count them on your hands.

The 27 books of the **NEW TESTAMENT** include the four gospels and the Acts of the Apostles which are historical in nature, Romans to Jude which are letters (or epistles) full of teaching to the churches, and Revelation which is a prophetic book concerning the return of Jesus Christ.

5	HISTORICAL BOOKS	Matthew				Acts of the Apostles

21	LETTERS (13 by the Apostle Paul; 8 by other writers)	Romans												

1	PROPHETIC BOOK	Revelation
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Memorise the categories of the books of the New Testament. Then, complete the missing names in the table above and commit them to memory too.

Note for the group leader:

For the New Testament, we recommend drilling them using this simple tool:

- *Using all the fingers of one hand, represent the number “5” (for the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles).*
- *Then using both hands, show two fingers of your second hand to represent “20” and one fingers of the other for “1”, for the number “21” (representing the 21 letters).*
- *Then, use one finger to represent the number “1” (for the prophetic book of Revelation).*
- *Ask all to identify the 3 categories in order while you repeat the 3 gestures.*

Once they learned the categories of the books of the New Testament, you can ask them to complete the missing names in the table above and work on the names of the books one section at a time as you count them on your hands.

It can be useful to review these section by section, for both the Old and the New Testament, during or after each lesson of the course.

Jesus prepared the way for the writing of the New Testament when he chose his twelve apostles as eye witnesses who were to conserve and transmit his teachings (John 15.26-27). He also sent the Holy Spirit to help them remember and write down these things (John 14.26). The church is built on the teaching of the apostles (Ephesians 2.20).

➤ **The Bible is a unified whole, with the Lord Jesus Christ at the centre:**

- ✓ The Old Testament predicted in great detail the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ The gospels are eyewitness accounts of His coming.
- ✓ The epistles, written by these eye witnesses, tell of the founding and building up of His Church as the apostles preached the Good News of salvation in the Lord Jesus and taught all that He had taught.
- ✓ The book of Revelation closes the Bible with prophecy about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the final victory.

Introductory Story

Note for the group leader:

For each Course in the Progressing Together Level 1 program, a story has been provided that illustrates the impact of the Biblical teaching on the life of the disciple. The stories are based on real-life testimonies. They can be used to encourage faith and raise interest in the importance of studying what God’s Word has to say on the topic at hand. You can use them in your church fellowship to invite other participants to the Course, or as part of the introduction to the first lesson. Alternatively, you may read the story below to your students:

“My name spiritual journey with Christ began some years ago, when I went on pilgrimage. While I was there, performing all the rituals, doubt crept into my mind. I kept thinking to myself: What is the value of all these traditions?

So, as I travelled home, I started on a new journey in search of the truth. I accessed a Bible online and discovered who Jesus truly is. Shortly afterwards, I accepted Him as my Saviour, Lord and Master.

I shared my new faith with my wife who was a very religious woman. Her reaction caused me a lot of pain: she left me immediately, taking our three children with her, and she sowed seeds of hatred against me in their hearts. Soon after, I had to flee his country to take refuge in a safe haven. I remember those tough days with tears in my eyes. The turmoil I went through was immeasurable.

God has promised that he would never forsake me, and he never did. He has promised that everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for his sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. And this is how he kept that promise to me.

After some time, our three children came to join me in exile, while my wife was stopped at the border for some unknown reasons. For the next two years, I raised them as a single father. I shared the gospel with them and they all came to know Christ.

When our host country finally accepted for my wife to be reunited with us, she joined us wearing her strict hijab. Within a short period though, God used the children to open channels of dialogue between us. My wife eventually surrendered to the irresistible love of Christ. Now I am jealous of her! She has a heart for the lost and is very involved in ministry.

The circumstances we went through were very difficult, but God has shown me that I can fully trust him. He is faithful to his promises, always."



Lesson 1: God's Promise to Abraham

A blessing for all peoples

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To be able to distinguish the major divisions of the books of the Bible (from Introduction)
2. To praise God for His gracious and free salvation promises and to claim them confidently by faith
3. To appreciate God's desire to use those He calls to extend Abraham's blessing to all peoples of the world
4. To encourage the students to trust God in their own lives and to obey when he asks them to do something.



In the first chapters of Genesis, Moses describes the creation, the fall of mankind into sin, the flood, and the Tower of Babel where God divided mankind into many different peoples and spread them out into different places. Then we read in great detail the life of Abraham, a key person in God's plan to send a saviour for all peoples.



Read Genesis 12:1-5; 15:1-6 and Romans 4:1-5, 16-25.



In Genesis 12:2-3 we have God's covenant promises made to Abraham. What specific things did God promise to do for Abraham?

He will make him a great nation and he will bless him. He will make his name great and a source of blessing to others. He will protect Abraham by blessing those who bless him and cursing those who curse him.

Note for the group leader:

You could bring out that the promises included blessing, descendants and the land.



What three groups, besides Abraham, does God promise to bless?

1. *The nation formed of Abraham's descendants*
2. *Those who bless Abraham*
3. *All peoples on earth*

Note for the group leader:

You could ask the students to reflect on this question: What kind of blessing is meant here? There are material blessings (descendants, the land) and spiritual blessings (a relationship with God).



When God calls Abraham in Gen. 12.1-5, does He set any conditions that Abraham must meet in order to benefit from the promise? Give reasons for your answer.

No, the text does not give a clear condition to fulfil or a qualification on Abraham's part to benefit from the promise. He receives it by grace alone.

Note for the group leader:

However, some questions do not have a simple answer! The text does not mention any condition. God simply gave Abraham a command (leave your country!), followed by a series of promises (I will make you into a great nation...). Nor does the text tell us why God chose Abraham instead of someone else. From this point of view, we could say that there is no condition. It was all of the grace and goodness of God.

On the other hand, we may ask the questions: 'What would have happened if Abraham had not obeyed and left his country? Would he still have received the blessing?' Surely his obedience was necessary if he was to receive the full benefit of the blessing. From this point of view, we could say that there was an unstated, or implied, condition - namely that Abraham should obey God's command to go to the land. (See also Gen 22:15-18)

You could illustrate the fact that without faith it is impossible to benefit from God's gracious gifts, just as it is impossible to benefit, in a far-off land, from a bank account which one has inherited without going there physically and drawing out the funds (money). Without the faith required to make the journey, the richest account lies inactive and the beneficiary is no richer than he was previously.



Explain how Abraham is an example to us on how to be righteous before God (Genesis 15:1-6).

Abraham believed God. He had faith in His word concerning an event which, humanly speaking, was unrealistic. Believing what God says is the only way to be considered righteous in His sight.



What miracle was Abraham convinced that God could accomplish? (Romans 4:19-21)
Give him an heir despite his old age and Sarah's sterility.



Following Abraham's example of faith, in what way are we to 'believe God' in order for God 'to credit righteousness' to us? (Romans. 4:23-25)

We must believe that Jesus Christ was delivered over to death for our sins and raised for our justification.



Based on what you have read, tick the following statements that are true:



God promised blessing only to Abraham's descendants.



God wanted Abraham to be a blessing for others.



Abraham would be a curse for all peoples.



God made a promise to Abraham that concerns all the peoples of the earth.



Following Abraham's example, we are to earn God's favour by doing good works.



Abraham believed God that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.



Those who are 'of the faith of Abraham' are also called Abraham's offspring.



Optional activities

1. Sing a song of worship about trusting in God's promises, for example:
 - [Trust in You](#), Lauren Daigle
Beautiful modern song on the theme of trusting God when he does not give the answers when we cry out to Him – 5 minutes
 - [You Are My Hiding Place](#)
Beautiful modern hymn. Slower more meditative rhythm – 4 minutes
 - [In God We Trust](#), Hillsong
Beautiful modern song about God's promises never failing – 4 minutes
 - [Abraham's Faith](#), Alison Southall
Modern song retelling the story of Abraham who had faith in the God of miracles – 4 minutes
2. Watch this video retelling [the story of Abraham](#). Then discuss: What could God ask you to trust Him for? What do you need to leave behind?
Short video retelling the story of Abraham with a touch of humour – 4 minutes



Applications

1. Spend some time in prayer and ask God to give you a strong faith like Abraham's. If you have doubted God in some area of your life or have refused to act upon his call, confess this to God and decide to obey.
2. Have you been waiting a long time for God to intervene in a particular situation? Or has God asked you to do something that seems impossible to you? (If someone shares, pray together for this person.)
3. Share with one another an experience where you have trusted in God's promises.
4. In the coming days, open your ears to what God wants you to do; put your faith into practice by answering in obedience.

Note for the group leader:

Tell the students that there will be a review activity at the end of this Course. They will be asked to make a collective drawing summarising what they have learned and illustrating how this has impacted their lives. Ask them to start thinking about this.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson 2: Sketch of Old Testament History

The story of Abraham's descendants and the need for a Messiah-Saviour

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To develop a sense of the order of major events in the Old Testament and how they point to the need for the Messiah-Saviour
2. To understand that God's people in the Old Testament failed as all humanity to respect God's covenant
3. To recognize our own failure to live up to God's righteous demands and our need for God's grace
4. To encourage the students to memorise and share the story of the Old Testament.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read Acts 7 and Deuteronomy 9:1-6



In Acts 7, Stephen gives a summary of Old Testament history. Fill in the gaps with the correct names from the following list (The first one is done for you.):

(Abraham) – David – Isaac – Jacob – Joseph – Joshua – Solomon – Moses

God appeared to Abraham and commanded him to leave his own country and go to the land which God would show him. (vv.2-3) Abraham became the father of Isaac. (v.8)

Isaac became the father of Jacob, also called 'Israel.' He in turn had twelve sons. (v.8)

Joseph was sold as a slave into Egypt by his brothers. (v.9) Later he was able to bring his father and brothers to safety in Egypt during a famine.

Jacob and his descendants stayed in Egypt for 400 years and became a numerous people. (v.17) But at the end of that time they were badly treated by the Egyptians. (vv.18-19)

God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. He commanded him to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. (vv.30-34)

Joshua led the people of Israel into the Promised Land. (v.45)

David became king of Israel and wanted to build a temple for God. (vv.45-46) But God did not allow him to do this. Instead, his son, Solomon, built the temple. (v.47)

Note for the group leader:

For presenting or reviewing this exercise in a group, ask the students to take turns reading the text and to stop when they arrive at the next answer in the exercise.



When God brought his people into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, why did He destroy the nations that were living there to give the land to Israel? (Deut. 9:1-6)
Because of the wickedness of these nations and also to keep His promise given to the patriarchs.

Note for the group leader:

God gave them 400 years to repent but they refused and their evil deeds increased. (Genesis 15:13-16)



In his speech to the Jewish ruling council why did Stephen tell so much of Israel's history? (Acts 7:51-53)

To underline the importance of Jesus and to defend himself against the accusations brought against him in Acts 6: 13-15. The members of the council were as hard of heart and hearing as had been their ancestors. They had not believed what the prophets had said about the coming of Jesus.



What expression does Stephen use to describe the council (the same expression is used in Deuteronomy chapter 9)?

'Stiff-necked people'



What does this expression mean?

Rebellious, proud, unbelieving, obstinate



Who is the Righteous One whom the prophets of Israel had predicted would come? What does Stephen accuse them of doing to Him? (v. 52)

Jesus the Messiah



In verses 42 and 43 Stephen quotes the Old Testament prophet Amos who lived in Israel long after King Solomon. He prophesied the impending judgment of God on Israel. This happened as God had announced by the mouth of Amos and other prophets, and Israel was carried off into exile in Babylon. For the next six centuries until the birth of Jesus Christ, a remnant of Israel lived in its land in reduced numbers and under the domination of various foreign powers.



According to the two verses quoted by Stephen why did God allow Israel to be carried off into captivity? (Amos 5:25-27)

Because of their idolatry: Israel gave herself over to worship of foreign gods: Moloch and Rephan.

Note for the group leader:

Bible translations may differ depending on whether they choose to follow

- *the Masoretic (ancient Hebrew) tradition, which names Sikkuth (your king), and Kiyyun (or Saturn, your star-god) or*
 - *the Septuagint (ancient Greek translation often quoted in the New Testament), which mentions the idols Moloch and Rephan instead.*
-



Optional activity

Memorise the story of the Old Testament as laid out in this lesson. Cut out the pictures on the next page and use them to retell the story. Here is the text corresponding to the 15 pictures:

1. God appeared to Abraham and commanded him to leave his own country and go to the land which God would show him.
2. Abraham became the father of Isaac.
3. Isaac became the father of Jacob, also called 'Israel.'
4. He in turn had twelve sons.
5. Joseph was sold as a slave into Egypt by his brothers.
6. Later, he was able to bring his father and brothers to safety in Egypt during a famine.
7. Jacob and his descendants stayed in Egypt for 400 years and became a numerous people.
8. But at the end of that time they were badly treated by the Egyptians.
9. God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and commanded him to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt.
10. Joshua led the people of Israel into the Promised Land.
11. David became king of Israel and wanted to build a temple for God. But God did not allow him to do this.
12. Instead, his son, Solomon, built the temple.
13. Many years later, the judgement of God fell on the people of Israel, just as the prophets had foretold: they were carried off into exile in Babylon.
14. The prophets also predicted the coming of the Righteous One, the Messiah.
15. For the next six centuries until the birth of Jesus Christ, a remnant of Israel lived in its land in reduced numbers and under the domination of various foreign powers.



Applications

1. Pray and ask God to show you where you fail to live up to His righteous demands. Confess this to God and ask Him to forgive you. Then, as a group, praise God for his grace and mercy towards you.
2. Idolatry and rebellion are often mentioned in the history of the people of Israel. What sort of idolatry and rebellion do you see in your own nation? Take some time to pray for your nation and its rulers (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
3. Through the story of the Old Testament, we see that God intervenes again and again in the history of nations. What does this teach us about God? How does that change the way you see current events? In the coming days, as you watch the news, remember this and pray for the situations that are presented.



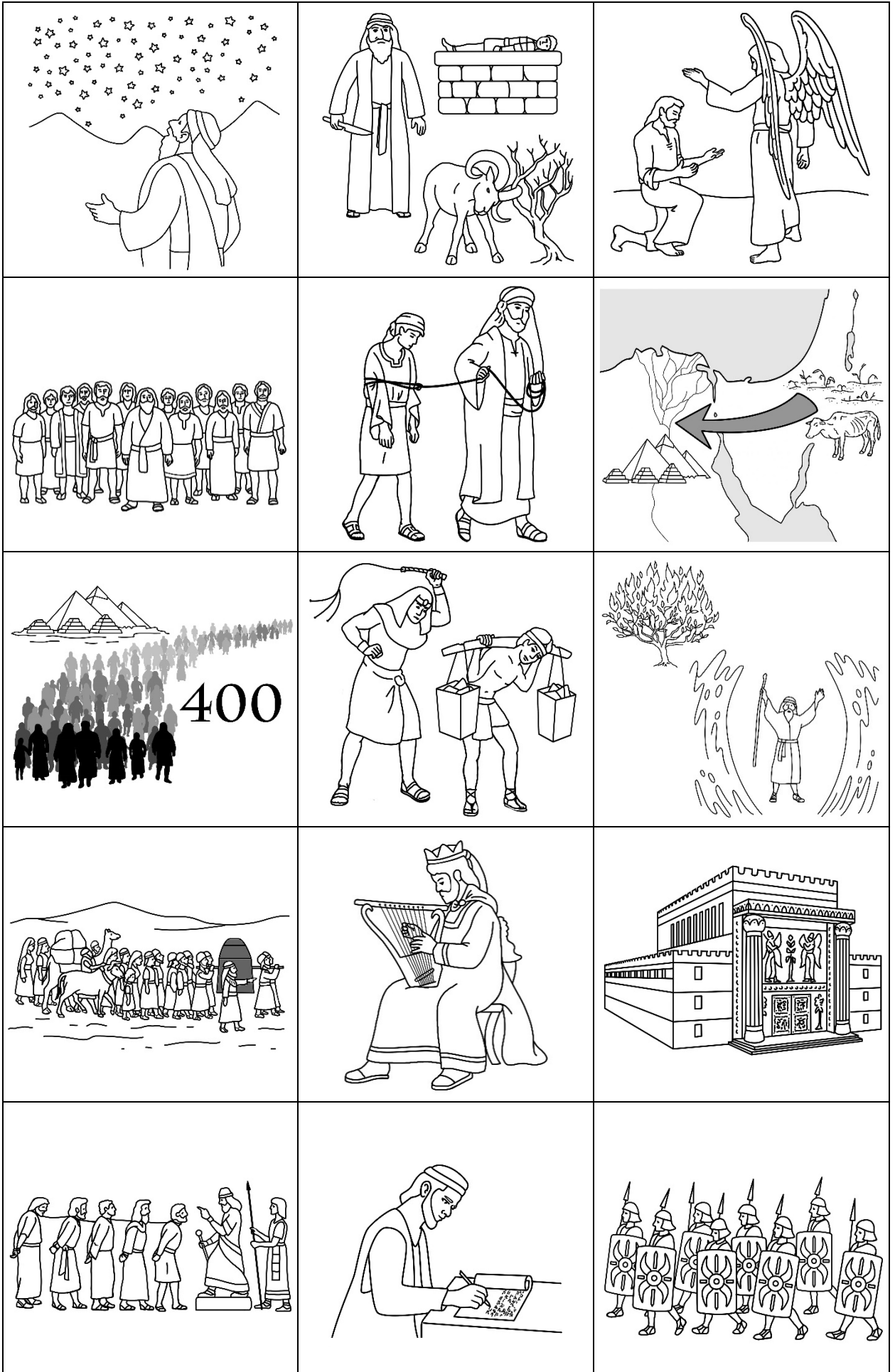
Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.





Cut out the pictures below and use them to retell the story of the Old Testament.



Lesson 3: The Gospels

Eye witness accounts of the coming of the Messiah Jesus

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To be able to explain 2-3 Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ
2. To understand how Jesus' death and resurrection were equally the fulfilment of OT prophecies about the Messiah-Saviour
3. To be encouraged in faith by realising the strength of the eye-witness testimony of the apostles to Jesus' death and resurrection
4. To pray for family members, neighbours, friends and colleagues to be open to listening to the Scriptures.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read Matthew 1:18- 2:23 and Luke 24:13-49.



Why did the angel tell Joseph that the child to be born to Mary was to be named 'Jesus'? (Matthew 1:21)

Because Jesus would save his people from their sins.

Note for the group leader:

The name 'Jesus' is derived from the Greek 'Iesus'. This was the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name 'Yeshua' or 'Joshua'. In Hebrew, this name means: 'Yahweh (or Jehovah) is salvation' or 'Yahweh (Jehovah) saves'.



How were the chief priests and teachers able to tell Herod that the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem? (Matthew 1:18-2:23)

The chief priests and teachers knew that the prophet Micah foretold 700 years earlier that a great ruler would come from the village of Bethlehem-Ephrata. They had understood that when the prophet had spoken of a ruler and shepherd of Israel, he was speaking about the Messiah (the Christ). (Micah 5:2 and 4)



List the passages in Matthew 1:18 to 2:23 which are quotations from the Old Testament, fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ. For each passage, note what was prophesied in the Old Testament and the fulfilment in Christ. To help, two examples are given below.

Matthew	Old Testament	Fulfilment
1:21	Ps 130:8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.	Jesus will save his people from their sins.
1:22,23	Isaiah 7:14 <i>The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.</i>	<i>Jesus is called Immanuel which means 'God with us'.</i>
2:5,6	Micah 5:2 From Bethlehem will come a ruler over Israel whose origins are from ancient times.	<i>Jesus is born in Bethlehem. He will be a ruler, a shepherd of the people of Israel.</i>
2:15	Hosea 11:1 Out of Egypt I called my son.	<i>Jesus is exiled to Egypt but returns to Israel.</i>
2:18	Jeremiah 31:15 <i>Rachel weeps for her children.</i>	<i>The male children of Bethlehem are massacred.</i>
2:23	Ps 69:7 I endure scorn and shame. Is 9:1,2 A great light is seen in the land of Zebulon and Naphtali in Galilee	Jesus grew up in a town of Galilee, called Nazareth; the name symbolizes scorn and shame.

Notes for the group leader:

Isaiah, Micah and Hosea were all contemporaries preaching God's word more than 700 years before Christ. Jeremiah's ministry began about 100 years later and continued after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. All foretold different aspects of the life and ministry of the coming Messiah which are fulfilled in Jesus, as did King David (1000 BC) and the writers of the Psalms.

Rachel's tomb was associated with a cliff ('Ramah' in Hebrew) overlooking the town of Bethlehem. The prophecy of Jeremiah had a double fulfilment: 1) later during Jeremiah's lifetime when many were massacred or deported to Babylon (likely in 586 BC - See Jeremiah 40:1) and 2) shortly after the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Rachel crying for her children from her tomb above Bethlehem would have been a powerful symbol and prophecy fulfilment in Jesus' time.

The reference to Jesus' title as Nazarene in verse 23 was certainly understood at the time of Mark's writing but is less clear today. Along with the two verses provided in the chart, a third possibility is that it refers to the Messiah's title as the Branch or Shoot ('Netzer' in Hebrew) in Isaiah 11:1.

Help learners to reflect on the significance of what they have learnt. You could either take a few moments now or allow extra time to complete the optional activity chart near the end of this lesson.

A few questions you could ask if you take the first option:

- *What did the prophets tell us in advance about Jesus the Messiah?*
- *How many years were there between the announcement of the prophecies and the fulfilment during Jesus' life on earth?*
- *How could the prophets tell us all these things in advance?*
- *What does this teach us about God's plan?*
- *What does this tell us about the centrality of Jesus?*



Why did Jesus call the two disciples on the road to Emmaus 'foolish and slow of heart'? (Luke 24:25-27)

Because the prophets had said that the Messiah would suffer before coming into his glory. However, these two disciples had a hard time believing the women who had said that Jesus was risen from the dead.

Note for the group leader:

You could ask students which Old Testament passages Jesus might have explained to them to demonstrate the need for His death and resurrection, such as Isaiah 53, Psalm 16:8-11, Psalm 22:1,14-21, Daniel 9:26, Genesis 22, the sacrificial system of the Old Covenant/Testament, etc.



Who were the eyewitnesses whom Jesus refers to in Luke 24:46-48?

The eleven disciples and the others who were with them.

Note for the group leader:

In 1 Corinthians 15:6, we read that the risen Christ appeared to more than 500 people at one time.



Of what events were they eyewitnesses?

The suffering of Jesus (rejection, scorn, then the crucifixion) and the resurrection the third day. (We could add the proclamation of the gospel: all that Jesus had taught.)



Why is this of importance to us?

Because we can have full assurance that our faith is founded on historically attested facts. We, who have received the Christ, must be witnesses proclaiming repentance and forgiveness to all nations.



Optional activities

1. Review the above chart of prophecies fulfilled during Christ's birth from Matthew chapters 1 and 2, and indicate what they foretold about Jesus' nature, ministry and life in the chart below. Then, complete the chart below after reading the following additional Old Testament prophecies: Isaiah 9:1-7; Zechariah 11:12-14; Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12; Hosea 6:2; Psalm 2:6-12. Where you are able, try to provide the New Testament text that confirms the fulfilment of each prophecy.

EVENTS IN JESUS' LIFE FORETOLD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT		
Old Testament prophecy	Teaching about the coming Messiah (fulfilled in Jesus)	New Testament fulfilment
BIRTH, NATURE AND ORIGIN		
Isaiah 7:14	He would be born as a baby (man) and also Emmanuel, the eternal God with us.	John 1:14; Galatians 4:4-5
Micah 5:2	<i>He would be born in Bethlehem but exist from the beginning of time.</i> <i>He would become a ruler over Israel. (See HIS ASCENSION below.)</i>	<i>Matthew 2:5-6</i>
Jeremiah 31:15	<i>Many will mourn their children in Bethlehem.</i>	<i>Matthew 2:16-18</i>
Isaiah 9:2 and 6-7	<i>He will be born as a child but be the almighty, everlasting God.</i>	<i>John 1:14; Galatians 4:4-5</i>
LIFE		
Hosea 11:1	<i>God's Son would come out of Egypt.</i>	<i>Matthew 2:15</i>
Zechariah 11:12-13	<i>He would be rejected and sold for 30 pieces of silver; then the price would be "thrown in the temple for the potter."</i>	<i>Matthew 27:3-10</i>
MINISTRY		
Psalms 130:8	<i>The Lord will redeem Israel from her sins. (The name 'Jesus' means 'The Lord redeems/saves'.)</i>	<i>Matthew 1:21; Galatians 4:5</i>
Isaiah 9:1-3	<i>He will have a glorious ministry in Galilee.</i> <i>He will bring joy and release those who are oppressed.</i>	<i>Matthew 2:22-23</i>
Isaiah 42: 1-7	He would be humble and not harm his enemies. v2-3 -establish justice on earth. v3-4 -be a light to the Gentiles. v4,6 -open the eyes of the blind and free captives. v7	Matthew 12:15-21
DEATH		
Psalms 22	<i>He would be: forsaken by the Father. v1</i> <i>-despised and mocked by the people. v6-8</i> <i>-surrounded by enemies. v12-16a</i> <i>-pierced in hands and feet. v16</i> <i>-exposed while his garments are divided. v17-18</i> <i>-honoured by all nations and kings. v27-31 (See HIS ASCENSION below.)</i>	<i>Matthew 27:1</i> <i>Matthew 27:41-42</i> <i>Matthew 27:27</i> <i>John 20:27</i> <i>Matthew 27:35;</i> <i>John 19:24</i>

Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12	<i>He would be marred and disfigured. 52:14</i> <i>He will be despised, oppressed, afflicted and crushed, bearing our griefs and sins. 53:3-6</i> <i>He would not protest, but as an innocent lamb he would be slaughtered as a guilty offering. 53:7-12</i> <i>He would be buried with a rich man. v9</i> <i>He will receive full recompense as a conqueror. v12</i> <i>(See HIS ASCENSION below.)</i>	<i>Matthew 27:27-31</i> <i>Matthew 27:27-31</i> <i>Matthew 27:12-14</i> <i>Matthew 27:57-60</i>
RESURRECTION		
Psalms 16:9-10	<i>His body and soul would not be corrupted in death.</i>	<i>Acts 2:23-32</i>
Hosea 6:2	<i>The Lord will raise up the third day those who seek Him.</i> <i>Note: The resurrection of Jesus the Messiah is also affirmed in Psalm 22:26-31 and Isaiah 53:12 above. In each passage the Messiah is honoured after having sacrificed himself unto death.</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 15:4</i>
ASCENSION & REIGN		
Isaiah 9:6-7	<i>He will reign on David's throne forever with justice.</i>	<i>Acts 2:33-36</i>
Psalms 2:6-12	<i>He will inherit the nations, break their rebellion and reign over the earth.</i>	<i>Philippians 2:9-11</i>

2. In groups of two, perform a dialogue between a Christian and someone who is open to listen but not yet a believer. The Christian will persuade the seeker about Jesus' true identity using some elements learned in this lesson. Then, swap the roles. Some of the pairs can present their dialogue in front of the whole group.



Applications

1. Spend some time praising God for His word that can be fully trusted and for Jesus, the promised Messiah, our Saviour.
2. Think of some of your friends, family members, colleagues or neighbours who are 'foolish and slow of heart' in a spiritual sense. In groups of two or three, pray for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and that they will become open to listening to the Scriptures. In the coming days, keep praying for the people who were mentioned in your group.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson 4: Acts and the Early Church

Preaching faith in Jesus the Messiah to the ends of the earth

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To understand how the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations is the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham
2. To realize the ministry and passion of the Apostle Paul to preach the Good News of the promise to the nations
3. To embrace the privilege of announcing the blessing to the ends of the earth



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read Acts 1:1-9 and Acts 26:1-32



In the Early Church, the apostles preached faith in Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.



According to Acts 1:1-9 what did Jesus command his disciples to do once they had received the Holy Spirit?

Be his witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Note for the group leader:

You could ask the question here: What opportunities do you have to testify to Christ to those around you? Or you could wait to ask this question at the end of the lesson (Application n°2).



In your own words what does the phrase 'to the ends of the earth' mean?

The whole world; all peoples



How does this relate to Gen 12:3, which we studied in lesson 1?

Gen 12: 3 says: « All peoples on earth will be blessed through you. »

These two texts show that all peoples of the whole world will receive blessing through the descendant of Abraham, Jesus Christ.



The apostles obeyed Jesus' command and preached salvation in his name. Many believed and churches were founded (Acts chapter 2 and following). The apostle Paul wrote many letters to the churches. They can be read in the New Testament.



Read Paul's testimony before King Agrippa in Acts 26:1-32. How did Paul treat believers in Christ before he too became a believer? (Acts 26:9-11)

He persecuted them: put them in prison, approved their execution, punished them in the synagogues, tried to force them to blaspheme.



How was he, too, an eyewitness of Jesus Christ? (Acts 26:12-15)

As he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Church, the Lord Jesus appeared to him.



What mission did the Lord give to Paul? (v. 15-18)

Jesus established him as an apostle to proclaim salvation to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles.



What did Paul do in obedience to this mission? (v. 19-20)?

He preached in Damascus, in Jerusalem, in all Judea and to the Gentiles.



How does what you read in Acts 26:17-20 relate to Acts 1:8?

Paul had an active role in the fulfilment of the order given by Jesus to his disciples in Acts 1: 8 to be his witnesses everywhere (between Jerusalem and the ends of the earth) to Jews and Gentiles.



According to Paul, what had the prophets and Moses predicted would happen concerning the Christ? (Acts 26:22-23)

He would suffer, rise from the dead and proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.



What was Paul's wish when he spoke to King Agrippa, Festus and the others listening to his defence? (Acts 26:28-29)

That they all become Christians.



Optional activities

1. Watch one of these two short videos (less than 2 minutes each): [The Spread of Christianity Video 1](#) or [The Spread of Christianity Video 2](#). They give an idea of how the message of the gospel has spread all over the world from the start of the church until the present day. (However, the recent growth of the church in China and South Korea is not mentioned.) The, thank God for all the believers who have shared the Gospel through the ages and pray for the parts of the world that are still unreached.
2. How did the Gospel reach your country and your locality? Take some time to share about the history of your church. Praise God that your own nation has been blessed in this way.



Applications

1. Share with one another how you came to know Christ. Thank God for those who shared the Gospel with you.
2. As a believer, you have also received the power of the Holy Spirit to be Christ's witness (Acts 1:8). How can you be a witness of Jesus in your context?

3. Have you encountered similar obstacles to those faced by the first believers? What did you learn from this experience? How can today's story encourage you when you face such situations?
4. In groups of two or three, pray again for the people for whom you prayed all week. Ask God to open up opportunities for you to be a witness to them and to explain the Gospel. Pray that their hearts will be burning within them when you explain the Scriptures to them. Keep praying for these people all through the coming days.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson 5: The Epistles

Teachings for the Church

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To recognise (the role of the law and) the importance of faith in God's grace in acquiring the promise of salvation
2. To widen appreciation of the glorious universal Church as Christ's new people
3. To be strengthened and rejoice in our identity as children of Abraham by faith and in the blessings of our inheritance; to be able to explain two or three of these blessings
4. To praise God for the unity that exists between believers in Christ Jesus and to grow in that unity.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read Galatians 3:6-29 and Ephesians 2:11-22.



Who are the true children of Abraham and in what sense are they his descendants? (Galatians 3:6-7, 26-29)

Those who, like Abraham, have faith in God are children of Abraham. In Christ Jesus, they are children of God through faith, they are in Christ Jesus (the descendant of Abraham) and they belong to him. In that sense, they are Abraham's seed.



How do the Scriptures foretell that God would justify all people by faith and not by works? (Galatians 3:6-12)

- v.6 (See Gen 15: 6) *Abraham was justified by faith.*
- v.8 (See Gen 12: 3) *The promise given to Abraham would include all peoples of the earth. But Abraham received the promise by faith.*
- v.10 (See Deuteronomy 27: 26) *The law is not presented as a blessing or a promise but as judgment and condemnation.*
- v.11 (See Habakkuk 2: 4) *It is written «the righteous will live by his faith » and not by observing the law.*



Who is the 'seed' of Abraham through whom God blesses all peoples? (Galatians 3:16-19)
Jesus Christ



Why did God give the law (i.e. the Ten Commandments, etc.)? (Galatians 3:19-24)

The law shows that man is a sinner. It was given for a time, until the coming of Christ. It is the law that leads us to Christ, for if we recognize that we are sinners under the system of law, we are ready to be freed under the system of faith.



Reread Galatians 3:26-29 and Ephesians 2:11-22.



Between what social groups were there barriers in the early Church period?

Galatians 3: 28:

- *Jew and Greek* (race/religion)*
- *Slave and free (social class)*
- *Male and female (gender)*

Note for the group leader:

**Ephesians 2: 11-12 takes up this conflict and develops it in the following verses.*



How does God in Jesus Christ unite people?

By his death on the cross, Jesus has removed the barrier of the law.

First of all, He takes away hostility under the law and reconciles people to God by his blood.

Then he removes the barrier of the law (between Jews and Gentiles) and reconciles them to one another. He makes them one people, fellow-citizens, a holy temple which is a dwelling of the Holy Spirit.



What are the privileges mentioned in these verses that all believers have in Jesus Christ?

- *They become children of Abraham. - Gal. 3:7*
- *They inherit the blessing of Abraham. - Gal. 3:9*
- *They are freed from the influence of the curse. - Gal. 3:10*
- *They become Sons of God. - Gal. 3:26*
- *They become heirs of God. Gal 3:29*
- *They enjoy peace and fellowship with other believers, Jews and Gentiles - Eph. 2:15-16*
- *They have the right to enter into the presence of God. - Eph. 2:18*
- *They obtain a heavenly identity (nationality). - Eph. 2:19*
- *They become a holy dwelling place for the Lord. - Eph. 2:22*



Optional activities

1. Sing a worship song celebrating our unity in Christ, for example:

- [Oh, How Good It Is](#), Keith and Kristyn Getty

Beautiful modern hymn about the blessing of belonging to the worldwide family of God's people - 4 minutes

- [The Church's One Foundation](#), Indelible Grace
Modern rendering of a traditional hymn about Christ's church gathering believers from every nation - 3 minutes
 - [He reigns](#), Newsboys
Modern song about God's children from every tribe, tongue and nation proclaiming that God reigns - 5 minutes
2. Watch the following video of the '[Revelation Song](#)' sung in many languages. Then praise God for our unity in Christ beyond cultural, social and political barriers.
Powerful video of a believers from many nations worshipping the Lord - 5 minutes



Applications

1. If we are justified by faith and our righteousness cannot come from the Law, how does that change our relationship with God? Discuss this with one another.
2. Which barriers are there between people in your culture and society? Pray that those barriers would be broken down in Christ and that there would be real unity among believers.
3. Pray and ask God to show you if you do not consider others as equally part of the family of God because of social, ethnic or gender differences. Confess this to God; ask him to forgive you and to change your attitude so that you will truly see all believers as one in Christ Jesus.



Review of Course 101

Review the five lessons of this Course. As a group, make a collective drawing summarising what you have learned and illustrating how it has affected your lives.

Note for the group leader

Remember to provide the material that the group will need for this activity.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



End of Course Evaluation

Please note:

This End of Course Evaluation is there to help you improve your skills as a group leader.

Put a check next to the issues that you need to work on.

You may want to discuss some of these with your mentor/coordinator.

Number of the Course that you finished teaching:

Title of the Course:

Think about the following questions:

A. This course

☐ Is there something that was not covered sufficiently or that you need to cover again in this course? What are you going to do about it?

B. Your role as a group leader

- ☐ Is there anything you should change in the way you prepare your lessons?
- ☐ Is there anything you should change in your teaching method? (Are you leading the students to discover the answers for themselves?)
- ☐ Is there anything you should change in your attitude as a group leader? (Are you dominating or moderating the group?)

C. Preparation and participation

- ☐ Are the students attending the meetings regularly? If this is not the case, why not? Is there anything that can be done to enable them to do so?
- ☐ Are the students preparing their answers thoughtfully before coming and eager to share what they've learned? What can you do to encourage and further motivate them?

D. Group dynamics

- ☐ Are there students who do not participate or do not feel free to share at a deeper level in the group? If this is the case, why?
- ☐ Are there some who cause problems in the group? In what way? How can you deal with that?
- ☐ Are the students taking responsibilities within the group and serving others using their gifts? If not, what can you do to encourage this?

E. Review & progress evaluation

Are you ensuring students can understand and express what they have studied? If so, how?

☐ Answers in class ☐ Review questions ☐ Oral exam ☐ Written exam

Are you keeping a record of the students' progress? If so, how?

☐ Attendance ☐ Students' workbooks ☐ Exams ☐ Course register ☐ Student register

☐ Are students achieving in their evaluations? If not, why not? How can you help them improve?

F. Application

☐ Are your students putting the biblical truths into practice? If not, why not?

☐ What difficulties are your students facing on their spiritual journey? How could you help them overcome these difficulties?

☐ Does anyone need personal follow-up? If you cannot do this, whom could you ask?

G. Multiplication

☐ Are the participants sharing with others about what they learned? If not, how could you help them to do this?

☐ Are others seeking to join a study group? If so, how can you best integrate the newcomers?

☐ Have you identified any participants who could become future group leaders? How are you going to equip them?

H. Further group leader training & equipping

☐ Note any areas you would like to receive further training in.

☐ What else would you like to discuss with your mentor/coordinator?

What next?

- ✓ Praise God and intercede for each of your students.
- ✓ Pray for your own ministry as a discipleship group leader.
- ✓ Look at each of the issues that you want to work on. Decide what you have to do to address these issues. Then start implementing the necessary changes.
- ✓ If you want to discuss something, make an appointment with your mentor/coordinator.

We would love to hear about your experiences as you taught this Course.

Please contact the Progressing Together team: info@progressingtogether.com