

New Testament Bible Study Lessons in the

Good News About JESUS

- ◆ for getting to know Jesus better and for spiritual growth
- ◆ to help give the Good News about Jesus to people everywhere
- ◆ "Grow and produce a rich harvest. . ." 2 Corinthians 9.10

Introduction

Congratulations!

You have the Good News About Jesus Lessons for yourself and to give to others. These lessons can be a follow-up to the Good News About Jesus booklet and the Good News About Jesus tape.

Use these Good News About Jesus Lessons. . .

- ◆ as self-study for getting to know Jesus better,
- ◆ as gifts to people who'd like the Good News about Jesus,
- ◆ for working through the Good News about Jesus with others,
- ◆ for teaching Good News About Jesus classes and Bible Study groups,
- ◆ as a resource for witness, testimony, and preaching the Good News about Jesus,
- ◆ and as a bridge into church activities and membership classes.

After these lessons you may be interested in the Good News About Jesus Program. This program is designed to help give the Good News about Jesus in local communities and around the world through the Good News About Jesus booklets, tapes, Lessons, and personal activities. (Nearly a half million Good News About Jesus booklets are in print in 27 languages. Braille, and Large Print. More languages are in preparation)

The Good News About Jesus Letter is available for Good News About Jesus Program news, reports, pictures, and items for our ongoing Prayer Mission.

My prayer is that you and others will find these lessons helpful as a witness to the nations, to the glory of God, the salvation of many, and your own great joy and satisfaction.

Lenard Galster

[Good News About Jesus Lessons](#)

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Helpful suggestions in content and style for future printings are appreciated.

Dedicated to all the faithful people of God who helped make these lessons possible.

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GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS LESSONS

From the New Testament

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1. GOD COMES INTO THE WORLD IN JESUS

1. God comes to people through Jesus.

"This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark 1.1

In these lessons you'll get the Good News that God comes into the world in Jesus, and gives the fullness of his blessings.

The first word in these Good News About Jesus Lessons is the word God. People know this word, and wonder about God, wonder about who made everything, who keeps it going, and who gives life.

A. Write out one or two strong impressions you already have about God.

_____ Share and discuss these.

B. Are you already thinking about the news about God as Good News?

Yes, I am _____ Not yet _____

C. What Jesus says about God is found in the New Testament part of the Bible.

(If you're not familiar with the Bible, you may want to examine one.)

Begin reading the New Testament with the goal of getting to know Jesus as fully as possible and what he says about God and the Good News about himself.

D. Read Mark 1.1 again (Top of page), or ask someone to read it.

So if God comes into the world and into your life through the Good News about Jesus, you're on to something very wonderful, and this study will be the most important you'll ever make.

Also, then, if God comes in Jesus, then his coming is not something difficult or overwhelming, but really Good News! Like getting to know and like someone. The next verse gives you the Good News that God has come fully in Jesus. Here is hope and promise that God and the best in life is found in Jesus and the Good News about him:

"For it was by God's own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God." Colossians 1.19

In the next verse the picture of God's coming into the world begins to form in a little brown baby of Hebrew background born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

Here is where the Good News About Jesus - from the New Testament begins.

"When the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. He came as the son of a human mother." Galatians 4.4

There are many places you could begin to study the Good News about Jesus. But these lessons begin where the New Testament begins, with the baby Jesus. Here is God with us in a child, to see, think about, and learn to love.

From here it's a matter of getting to know Jesus better, learning to like him, and trusting him enough to believe him when he says something.

Getting to know Jesus is much like getting to know anyone. Usually you start with a name. You see what someone looks like. You find out where people live. You learn what they like and believe in. You discover what they can do.

2. The name Jesus means Savior from sin.

"Name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1.21

In getting to know people, names are important, and in getting to know God you also want to be comfortable with his name, and use it often.

You've had experiences of being introduced to people and then not getting their names. Or you had the name and forgot it. Sometimes it's hard, especially for children, to know what to call someone, by first name, last name, or by title.

A. Share some experiences in getting to know and remember people's names.

It's so good to know God's name and use it easily and often. Many people are not sure what God's name is, and use only titles in talking about God, and even in their prayers, such as Almighty God, Heavenly Father, Lord, and others.

In the Old Testament God's name (Yahweh) points to the giver of life. This name comes to us in the name JESUS, a very special name, meaning the one who saves people from sin and gives life. This is the name God has chosen for himself

B. By all means get comfortable with the name Jesus and use it often.

Think about it. Write it down two or three times.
Say it out loud several times. _____

Jesus is the world's best known person and loved by millions. Learn to say his name with confidence and a happy feeling.

C. Take time to learn other people's names and titles. Use names often and feel a warmth and joy come up as you really care about getting people's names and remembering them. Be sure to get a person's name right and say it over a few times during the first meeting. Write down names, addresses, and phone numbers, and save them carefully, because they mean a lot.

D. Help others get your name clear and for sure. If you prefer being called by a title, let people know, especially children and younger people. Maybe use name cards and name plates. Make getting to know names a pleasure.

Look again at the picture of Jesus, together with Joseph and Mary, and some shepherds.

There was great joy when the birth of Jesus was announced. There is still great joy today when Jesus comes into the lives of people.

3. The coming of Jesus as Savior and Lord brings joy!

"The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Savior was born - Christ the Lord!'"
Luke 2.10-11

In addition to his name, Jesus has also been given great titles. Remember from Matthew 1.21 that God gave him the name Jesus. God also gave the titles of Savior and Christ the Lord.

These are great and high sounding titles. At first they sound like they're "out of this world." But the New Testament story of Jesus is not about some mythical figure out of an imaginary world.

Jesus is a real person who lived in this world in a place that still exists. Jesus is part of history. What's most helpful is that Jesus is "revealed" in the Bible, especially the New Testament. Many witnesses provide legal proof of his life and words. History and archeology provide additional information.

4. Jesus was born, lived, and worked in areas which still exist today.

"Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time Herod was king."
Matthew 2.1

"When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he went away to Galilee. He did not stay in Nazareth, but went to live in Capernaum, a town by Lake Galilee." Matthew 4.12-13

"When Jesus began his work, he was about thirty years old." Luke 3.23

A. Note and write down the place and time of the birth of Jesus.

B. Notice and write down the place Jesus chose to live, and his age when he began his work.

C. Are you ready now to go on to the next Good News About Jesus Lesson on Something about the person of Jesus? Yes, I am ____ Not at this time ____



2. SOMETHING ABOUT THE PERSON OF JESUS

In this Lesson 2 you'll see a very personal "picture" of Jesus emerging from the New Testament. Remember that this Good News About Jesus study is not a pooling of opinions about Jesus, but what the New Testament reveals about him.

You'll get "something about the person" of Jesus. Not everything, because even at best only so much can be known about a person. There's always a lot of "mystery" left even if you know someone very well. This is true about you too, and certainly it's true about Jesus.

So on the one hand while there's a lot you'll never know about Jesus, it's amazing how well you can know him. In fact more can be known about Jesus than about many other people of the past, or even about many people living today.

A. Assuming that you already know something or even quite a bit about Jesus, are you satisfied with how well you know him at this time? Yes ____ No ____

In Lesson 1 you saw God coming into the world in Jesus, his name, and some of his titles. Now you'll look at some words and "word pictures" about Jesus.

5. Jesus is intelligent and impressive.

"All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers." Luke 2.47

"The people who heard him were amazed at the way he taught for he wasn't like the teachers of the Law: instead, he taught with authority." Mark 1.22

"They were all well impressed with him and marveled at the eloquent words he spoke." Luke 4.22

Already as a boy, Jesus astounded the teachers of his day. He knew the Scriptures well, and certainly was a thinker. The above New Testament words about Jesus tell you that people were "amazed," "impressed," and "marveled."

A. How might you explain that Jesus makes such a deep and lasting impression?

B. Do you already think of yourself as "impressed" by Jesus?

Yes, I do _____ Somewhat _____

6. Jesus is popular.

"Large crowds followed him from Galilee and the Ten Towns, from Jerusalem, Judea, and the land on the other side of the Jordan." Matthew 4.25

"When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was thrown into an uproar."
Matthew 21.10

The areas mentioned covered the entire land where Jesus lived and worked. Tens, hundreds, even thousands of people came to Jesus. They came to see him and hear him. They came for learning, help, healing, and salvation.

When you put together intelligence, impressiveness, and popularity you have a combination of powerful ingredients. These may call for honor and respect, but may also produce pride and arrogance. More is needed for a balanced and healthy personality. Jesus has much more.

7. Jesus is gentle and humble.

"Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest." Matthew 11.29

When the quiet strength of gentleness and humility is added to what you've already seen in the personality of Jesus, you begin to see the power and appeal so closely identified with Jesus.

A. Think about and discuss the combination of intelligence, impressiveness, popularity, gentleness, and humility in a person.

B. How many people do you know with all these characteristics?

C. Do the personality traits so far pretty much fit your idea of Jesus or should there be more. Somewhat more _____ Much more _____

8. Jesus is loving.

"I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love." John 15.9

A. Do you agree that the New Testament reveals Jesus as a very loving person?

Yes, I agree _____ I'm not sure yet _____

B. You may want to talk about the loving nature of Jesus, adding other verses from the Bible and some of your own views and experiences.

9. Jesus is joyful.

"At that time Jesus was filled with joy." Luke 10.21

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15.11

A joy less picture of Jesus would not be a true one, so you want to be sure that your impression of Jesus is one of great joy and happiness.

A. In the light of the above two verses, how would you answer the question:

"Is your God happy?"

B. Remember that the joyous inner nature of Jesus is never diminished by what happens here on earth, even though his many feelings will vary.

C. Write out the personality traits of Jesus so far

10. Jesus is friendly.

"I do not call you servants any longer, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father." John 15.15

People are usually involved every day in what they like, including their family and friends. Jesus tells you "everything" and his life is an "open book" to you as a friend.

A. Your first relationship with Jesus then, is one of growing friendship.

B. Are you already thinking of Jesus as your friend? _____ Not yet _____

Next you'll see that Jesus joy-filled, loving, and friendly as he is also knows the pains of sorrow and the anguish of life.

11. Jesus feels sorrow for his people.

"He came closer to the city, and when he saw it he wept over it." Luke 19.41

"The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me." Matthew 26.28

"Jesus wept." John 11.35

A. Share some common sorrows everyone has.

12. Jesus feels anguish.

"Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and there he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. Grief and anguish came over him."
Matthew 26.36-37

Jesus not only "knows how it is," he also "feels how it feels." You also know the heavier aspects of life, especially sorrow and pain, and their importance in a well-rounded personality.

A. Discuss, if you like, the ability to live well while being involved with the sorrows and pains of an imperfect life.

In the next verse you see Jesus angry as he looks at people doing wrong, then tempering his anger with sorrow for them.

13. Jesus gets angry.

"Jesus was angry as he looked around at them, but at the same time he felt sorry for them, because they were so stubborn and wrong." Mark 3.5

14. Jesus is calm.

"He was like a sheep that is taken to be slaughtered, like a lamb that makes no sound when its wool is cut off." Acts 8.32

15. Jesus is sinless.

"He committed no sin, and no one ever heard a lie come from his lips." 1 Peter 2.22

So far you've been able more or less to identify with the personality traits of Jesus. But now, as you read that Jesus never sinned, you, as all others, are left short in comparison to his perfect, sinless life.

A. Would you agree that a beginning definition of sin is "short of perfection?"

Yes, I would agree _____ I'm not sure at this point _____

B. Do you think that the New Testament picture of a "sinless" Jesus is really astounding? Yes, I do _____ I need to think more about this _____

16. Jesus is forgiving.

"Jesus said, 'Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing.'"
Luke 23.24

You see in this verse the willingness and authority of Jesus to forgive sins. This is that very special "something about Jesus" that is really "Good News!"

17. Jesus is powerful.

"Jesus drew near and said to them, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.'
Matthew 28.18

"He reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being, sustaining the universe with his powerful word." Hebrews 1.3

A lot is made of power in this world, and there are many kinds of power. An elementary definition of power is "the ability to create." Power also keeps things going. Everyone needs some power and has some power. In this verse you see the great news that Jesus has all authority "in heaven and on earth!"

A. Would you agree that Jesus having all power is really amazing, but also comforting? Yes, I would _____ I need more time on this _____

18. Jesus is glorious.

Finally, Jesus gives us a vision of glory picture of himself.

"As they looked on, a change came over Jesus: his face was shining like the sun, and his clothes were dazzling white." Matthew 17.2

"His face gleamed like such precious stones as jasper (Green) and carnelian (Red) and all around him there was a rainbow the color of an emerald." Revelation 4.3

A. Enjoy and talk about one final "something about the person of Jesus," his glory and beauty, as he is now, if you could see him with your eyes, brilliant as the sun and beautiful as the rainbow!

B. Now try to put together the entire picture of "something about Jesus!"

Be sure to keep on thinking about the glory and beauty of Jesus.



3. JESUS CALLS PEOPLE TO BE HIS DISCIPLES

The first and second Good News About Jesus Lessons were an overview of God's coming into the world in Jesus, and something about Jesus, your friend. In this third lesson your relationship with Jesus will grow as he gives you his invitation to come to him and with him as your friend and also as your teacher.

19. Jesus asks people to come to him and with him.

"Come to me, all of you. . . " Matthew 11.28

In this verse Jesus calls everyone to come to him. You are included in this "call." The words of Jesus "Come to me" are strong but gentle words. Jesus does not drive or force, but calls, invites,

encourages.

You have seen that God has come into the world in Jesus. Now he comes into the lives of specific people - Philip, Matthew, and others whom he called, by name.

"Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Come with me!'"
John 1.43

"Jesus left that place and as he walked along, he saw a tax collector, named Matthew, sitting in his office. He said to him, 'Follow me.' Matthew got up and followed him." Matthew 9.9.

"When day came he called his disciples to him and he chose twelve of them, whom he named apostles. Simon (who he also called Peter) and his brother Andrew, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon (who is also named the Patriot), Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot." Luke 6.13-16

As Matthew got up and followed Jesus - and as all the others who have gone with him ever since - you too are given the privilege of following Jesus, to get to know him and his message, and to help him in his mission.

In the above verses Jesus first called his followers "disciples." This word, even though its not that common today, means both learner and helper, and is an excellent word describing your growing relationship with Jesus. Later Jesus gave his disciples the title "apostles," meaning "sent ones," or "missionaries."

Jesus does not call you to wander along aimlessly, but gives a direction and enlightenment along the way about God, yourself, and your call.

"I am the light of the world,' he said, 'Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.'" John 8.12

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14.6

A. Would you consider a personal invitation from Jesus a high honor?

Yes, I would _____ I'll think about this _____

B. Moving on from friendship with Jesus to Jesus as teacher, do you already think of Jesus as your teacher? Yes, I do _____ Somewhat _____

Jesus offers you great advantages in your search for God and the best in life.

When the first disciples of Jesus began to follow him, they saw and heard him teach and preach. They asked questions and discussed things. They saw him care for people. They saw him help and heal people. They heard him forgive sins and promise eternal life in heaven. They learned to pray and believe. He became their model for living, and their one great Teacher.

From Jesus they learned about God, about salvation, and about Christian living.

C. Do you already agree that the teachings of Jesus are the best ever known.

Yes, I do _____ I can't be sure at this point _____

D. Have you already been thinking of yourself as a disciple of Jesus, or are you just now beginning to think of yourself as one?

Already, since _____ Just now _____ Not yet _____

Whether you've been a disciple of Jesus for a long time, or just beginning, be happy about it, and keep at it. Recall again that marvelous verse from Luke 2 in Lesson 1: "I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy!"

Learning from Jesus can be easy. It can also be hard. But being a disciple of Jesus is always valuable and worth the time and effort.

While being a disciple of Jesus is always being a learner, it is not just being a learner, it is also being a helper - being both a learning disciple and a helping disciple, knowing that some things are learned by seeing, some by hearing, and others by doing.

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to come with me, he must deny himself, carry his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.'" Matthew 16.24-26

In calling disciples, Jesus is not first concerned about himself. His first concern is for others, to save them from sin, death, and hell, for life with him in his kingdom here and now and forever in heaven. Nothing was more important to him.

**E. Would you say that the most valuable lessons Jesus teaches come from
What he says? _____ What he does? _____ Both? _____**

As you keep Jesus and his mission first in your life, you'll begin to experience what he means when he says "whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

2000 years ago Jesus started the biggest mission in the world to give his Good News to people everywhere and to build up God's kingdom.

Today there are about 2 billion people called Christian. Millions more respect Jesus and his teachings.

Every day an average of about 100,000 people become new Christians.

Every year faithful helpers of Jesus are giving the Good News about him to more people in more languages and places.

Now Jesus gives you a chance to get in on the action of helping to give the Good News about Jesus to people everywhere, and getting people started as new disciples of Jesus.

"Jesus said to them, 'Come with me, and I will teach you to catch men.'" Mark 1.7

"Go, then, to all peoples every where and make them my disciples." Matthew 28.19

Every working disciple of Jesus will want to get personally acquainted with the scope and follow the progress of the worldwide mission of Jesus.

Jesus says: "This good news about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world as a witness to all mankind; and then the end will come." Matthew 24.14

In the map below, imagine 6 billion people in over 200 countries, and thousands of languages and people groups, and -

Everyone needs the Good News about Jesus



At first the disciples of Jesus did a lot of listening and looking. They learned how to pray. They helped Jesus in his mission. After a while they began doing things on their own. In time, Jesus gave them the full authority of his message, his mission, and the Holy Spirit.

"When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1.8

Jesus and his disciples used common, obvious ways of spreading the Good News about him. They prayed, talked, discussed, explained, quoted, taught, preached and wrote. They worked with individuals, families, small groups, and large audiences out in the open, in homes, and in public buildings. From the beginning Jesus let his disciples in on helping him give the Good News to people. You too have the joy of giving the Good News about Jesus to people - locally and beyond.

Giving the Good News about Jesus to people is much like gift-giving. Just as the Good News about Jesus is a gift coming to you, so you can make it a gift going to others. Usually you select gifts - even greeting cards and letters, and plan times and places for giving them. You can also select people to whom you want to give the Good News about Jesus, and the times and places for giving it. This can be as easy as giving someone a Good News About Jesus booklet or tape and adding some appropriate testimony and witness. It can also be as challenging as doing a Good News About Jesus Program in an entire community, people group, or even country.

A helpful word for giving or spreading the Good News about Jesus is evangelism, which actually means giving or spreading the Christian Gospel.

While giving the Good News about Jesus is the first and most important activity of faithful disciples of Jesus, other helpful activities and services, both individual and social, may come before, during, or after doing evangelism.

To give you ongoing blessings, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to empower you to do your part in giving the Good News about Jesus to people and building up the kingdom of God.

So the mission of Jesus goes on. As you get to know Jesus and his mission better, you'll want to help spread the Good News about him to more and more people as long as you live. You'll be working by yourself, through your local congregation of God's people, and with millions of other Christians around the world.

A. Do you sense a strong call to continue as a learning and helping disciple of Jesus?

Yes _____ Not that strong _____

B. Do you think you'd like to keep on helping to give the Good News about Jesus to people everywhere? (Or to put it in another way, to help evangelize the world?)

Yes, I would _____ I'm thinking about it _____

C. As a disciple of Jesus, would you like to go on to *Lesson 4* and check out the main teachings of Jesus? Yes, I would _____ Maybe later _____



4. JESUS TEACHES AND BLESSES HIS PEOPLE

This lesson is on Jesus the teacher and his teachings. You'll see the authority of Jesus the teacher, and the content of his teachings.

20. Jesus teaches his disciples.

"Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them." Matthew 5.1-2

You know Jesus as a great teacher, and many consider him the greatest. He certainly has more disciples - learners and helpers - than anyone else ever had or now has. Likely more than half the world thinks of Jesus as leading teacher, or lives by at least some of his teachings.

What is it about Jesus how is it that this young man who taught publicly for only a short time is so well known and makes such a difference?

A. **Underline what you think is the best answer: Jesus is so well known because**

- 1) **He is such an outstanding person**
- 2) **His teachings are so great**
- 3) **His methods are so effective**
- 4) **All of the above**

From the beginning of his teaching activities Jesus was respected as a very special teacher. A leading councilman from Jerusalem named Nicodemus came to Jesus in an attitude of cautious respect:

"One night he went to Jesus and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him.'" John 3.2

Leading citizens of the time - or anyone else for that matter - would not have called Jesus "Rabbi" (Meaning Teacher), unless he was a teacher.

While there is no known evidence that Jesus attended rabbinical schools, people certainly honored him with the title of Rabbi, and even "Rabboni," which meant something like Master Teacher. (John 20.16)

In this lesson you'll be examining some reasons for the ongoing worldwide reputation of Jesus as leading teacher. It has a lot to do with his personality and content. It also has a lot to do with his values and his methods.

But the true greatness of Jesus as teacher is his giving the Good News about God and his will, providing salvation for the world, giving us a model for Christian living, and leading his disciples toward Paradise.

In the next pages you'll look at the authority of Jesus the teacher, and review his teachings. Remember these lessons are more like beginnings, and can't cover everything in detail. Much of the teaching of Jesus will keep on coming up throughout these twelve Good News About Jesus Lessons.

Keep a close connection between Jesus and his teachings.

Jesus taught freely through words and also through actions. For example, when Jesus says "I love you" (John 15.9), or "Your sins are forgiven" (Luke 5.20), he is both saying words and giving something from his heart.

B. In the picture you see Jesus teaching and blessing people; children, young people, women, and men.

Does this close, personal picture fit your ideas of Jesus the Teacher?
Yes, it does _____ Somewhat _____

At this point it would be easy to go into many of the less important teachings of Jesus - his moral teachings, directions for living, and many "sayings" of Jesus.

But look where Jesus begins his teachings. He says: "Be concerned above everything else with the kingdom of God." Matthew 6.33

Kingdom means a king with power, greatness, and care for his people. Jesus is called "King of kings and Lord of lords." Revelation 19.16

Recall again from *Lesson 2* that Jesus is powerful: "Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth." Matthew 28.18, and ". . . he sustains the universe with his powerful word." Hebrews 1.3

Jesus is the one with all the power.

In earlier lessons you recall that God has come into the world and into your life in Jesus, your friend and teacher. Now you see that Jesus is the very source of universal power and authority. Be sure to let this sink in deeply.

C. How important do you think having and using power is to most people?
Not that important _____ Very important _____

D. Discuss how too much power or not enough might affect people.

E. Do you find it comforting to know Jesus is all-powerful? Yes _____ No _____

There is something even more wonderful in God's kingdom than his power in nature and life. It is Jesus saving people from sin, the devil, death, and hell, for himself in his kingdom of gracious love here and now and forever in heaven.

F. Do you think that people's greatest need is to be "saved?"

Yes, I believe this is true _____ I'll have to think more about this _____

Another dimension of God's kingdom is his glory.

In God's kingdom of glory is grace, honor, majesty, brilliance, and beauty.

Remember from Lesson 1 Jesus is bright as the sun and glorious as the rainbow.

Even though you cannot see him with your imperfect eyes, you can begin to see Jesus with the greatest respect, praise, admiration, and adoration.

Knowing Jesus as the king of power, grace, and glory gives him the most outstanding credentials as the world's teacher and your personal teacher about God, salvation, and Christian living.

Take a look now at the beginning teachings of Jesus, remembering that there is more to come in the next eight Good News About Jesus Lessons. . .

"Jesus answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" Matthew 22.37

In another place "Jesus answered, 'Do not commit murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not accuse anyone falsely; respect your father and your mother; and love your neighbor as you love yourself.'" Matthew 19.18-19

Jesus teaches his disciples to pray: "Our Father in heaven: May your name be honored; may your kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day the food we need. Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs others have done to us. Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One." Matthew 6.9-13

Jesus also gives his disciples authority to spread the Good News about him to people everywhere, to gather new disciples together for study and worship in his church, and to carry out his good will in the world.

As you keep on learning from these lessons, the New Testament, and the entire Bible, you'll keep on discovering a vast store of blessings for yourself and to give to a growing number of others.

21. Jesus brings blessings to his followers.

Blessings are more than just nice things that happen. The blessings Jesus gives come at the cost of his life and blood. They include forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The root of the word blessing itself is found in something like "life and blood."

So when Jesus blesses you and all his people he gives costly blessings, but ones which come only at a cost to himself, and not to you. And remember he gives his blessings willingly, including life, love, forgiveness, help through life, and finally the glories of heavenly Paradise. Let God speak to your heart through the following verses:

"Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them."
Mark 10.16

"Then he led them out of the city as far as Bethany, where he raised his hands

and blessed them." Luke 24.50

"Come to me, all of you who are tired of carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit, and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light." Matthew 11.28-30

"I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness." John 10.10

A. Do you think the words "God bless you" can be helpful to people?

Yes, I think so _____ Not that much _____

B. List and discuss some of your greatest blessings.



5. JESUS SUPPLIES HIS FOLLOWERS' NEEDS

22. Jesus supplies his followers' physical, spiritual, and material needs.

In the last lesson you recall that one of the teachings of Jesus is about prayer and that one of the prayers Jesus teaches is "Give us today the food we need."

As you've come to know, giving is of the greatest importance in the life and work of Jesus, and there are many stories in the New Testament of Jesus supplying people's needs, giving his message, and giving his life.

You're involved now in giving the Good News about Jesus to people, so for you and all disciples of Jesus this activity will always be the most important. You're also seeing that as the followers of Jesus give the Gospel to people, they meet many people who have all kinds of needs: physical needs, spiritual needs, and material needs. The disciples of Jesus also have their *own* needs for their life and their work.

"Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks to God. He broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He divided the two fish among them all." Mark 6.41

A. What do you think most people consider their greatest needs?

B. Write down and share what's really important to you

Everyone agrees that physical needs are important, usually meaning bodily needs: life, air, water, food.

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus wants his people to realize that physical blessings are to be received as gifts from God. ("Give us today the food we need.") He wants you to have the joys of living, breathing, drinking, and eating gifts from him for your needs. It's rather easy to accept life as a gift from God, and to admit breathing in God's air freely. (Try breathing your own air for a minute or two!) But people usually want some credit for what they eat and drink, so it takes a little more effort to give thanks to God for the blessings Jesus calls "The food we need."

Whether bodily needs are met through the work of individuals or through public distribution, good things happen when physical blessings are recognized as gifts from God to be received with thanksgiving. It's something like eating a meal with a loving friend who has provided everything.

C. Write and share a small prayer of thanksgiving to God for physical needs.

Yet no matter how necessary physical needs are, they are not to be thought of as the only human needs, or even the greatest needs, and they need not always be met before any or all other needs.

In fact Jesus teaches that "Man cannot live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks." Matthew 4.4 Knowledge, faith, health, and happiness are also important human needs. Through God's Word he gives and sustains spiritual life and also nurtures our mind and emotions.

"Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the Good News about the kingdom, and healing people who had all kinds of disease and sickness." Matthew 4.23

"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them, "He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6.35

Jesus always provides his disciples' needs when they do their mission his way according to his plan.

And there's more to come: what Jesus has done, what he is doing now, and what he will yet do in the future.

The most important of all needs Jesus supplies is the Good News about God coming into the world in himself to provide eternal life for people. Jesus also provides your life with love, beauty, celebration, enthusiasm, and mission.

"He reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being, sustaining the universe with his powerful word." Hebrews 1.3

The New Testament is filled with treasures reflecting spiritual blessings in Jesus, waiting to be discovered. Some of many examples are:

"I love you." Jesus says to his disciples. John 15.9

"Your sins are forgiven, my friend." Luke 5.20

And in John 10.28 Jesus says "I give them eternal life."

"His face was as bright as the midday sun." Revelation 1.16

D. Do you think that the beauty and majesty of God fills a big need in life?

Yes, I think so _____ I'm beginning to see this happen _____

E. Share some impressions you have about the beauty of God's universe,

how to help maintain the environment, and how art forms can add to life.

F. Would you agree that the greatest gifts of God are the spiritual blessings, especially the revelation of God in Jesus and the gift of eternal life?

Yes, I agree completely _____ I'm not altogether clear on this _____

G. Think about and discuss the marvelous meaning of Jesus sustaining the universe not just the big things in the world and in space, but also the smallest, - even invisible things!

Review also the privileged purpose in life Jesus gives his disciples to have a part in spreading the Good News about God and his blessings to people everywhere.

As you keep on living and working in the will of God to help build up his kingdom, Jesus will also bless the provision of material needs.

These include personal needs, Bibles and materials, transportation, communication,

"And with all his abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all your needs."
Philippians 4.19

Jesus may supply his followers' needs directly, and at times, miraculously. He also works with and through his disciples who keep on helping to evangelize the world so that people everywhere can have a chance at the Good News about Jesus.

God also provides needs through the assistance of his people in maintaining good government, peace, law and order, provision of human care where needed, especially for the children and elders, the poor and ill, also through many kinds of public service, earthcare, and international cooperation.

In every situation that arises the disciples of Jesus will continue to believe that God's will is being done and that his kingdom is coming. God's people will not always get what they want, but you and all the disciples of Jesus can always be assured of getting what is necessary to do the will of God.

Believe that God will help you finish your mission in this world and then take you to his perfect Paradise.

Along the way there will be serious problems to face and injustice to cope with. But the Christian life is more than getting needs met or overcoming one problem after another or just bare survival.

You and millions of followers of Jesus will keep on praying for and working toward God's blessings for all people. Even if the progress seems slow, keep God's mission perspective clear:

"This Good News about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all mankind; and then the end will come." Matthew 24.14

The task will in God's time be completed.

H. Think about and discuss the tension between what you think you ought to have and what God gives you in order to complete your mission in the world.

I. Consider and discuss ways you think you can make gifts to God out of your love and to help give the Good News about Jesus to many more people.

This leads us to the next lesson on Jesus Answers Prayer.



6. JESUS ANSWERS PRAYER

23. Jesus hears and helps people who come to him.

During difficult times people need care, healing, rescue, and hope that things will work out alright. There are special times in your life when you need to look for help beyond yourself to others, and beyond others to God.

Now that it's clear that God comes in Jesus, you can also come to him in every need, in prayer, asking for blessings.

In this lesson you'll see Jesus was willing and able to help people, and giving them answers to their calls for help and blessings answering their prayers.

You'll see intense prayers made to Jesus, and you'll examine your own practice of reaching out to God in prayer for your every need and blessing.

In the following story, a man with a serious physical need came to Jesus believing that Jesus was able to cure him, even though he wasn't sure if Jesus was willing.

In the story you see Jesus both willing and able to help a very sick man by instantly restoring him to health.

"Then a man suffering from a dreaded skin disease came to him, knelt down before him, and said, 'Sir, if you want to, you can make me clean.' Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I do want to,' he answered, 'Be clean!' At once the man was healed of his disease." Matthew 8.2-3

**A. You have come to know Jesus as your friend, yet also as the Lord your God
Do you feel comfortable in coming to Jesus with your problems, small and
big? Yes, I do _____ I'm still shy in coming close to God, even through
Jesus, and I'm praying about this _____**

**B. Isn't it great that there is someone to come to in prayer, and that this someone is
JESUS? Talk about this.**

Since God comes in Jesus, you can be sure that Jesus knows what you think, feels what you feel, and hears what you pray. In the picture below, the man in need came very close to Jesus,

humbly knelt down right in front of him, and asked for a very big blessing.

While the posture for prayer isn't that important (Standing, sitting, kneeling, lying down), closeness to Jesus and deep sincerity are. As a disciple of Jesus you'll want to come close, very close, to Jesus in prayer. Remember that while Jesus is always up there and out there, he's also here, very close in, according to his own words, "I will be with you always" (Matthew 28.20), and "I in them." (John 17.23)

Coming to Jesus in prayer means first - as it did for the man in the story - to believe that Jesus is able to help. "If you want to," he said, "you can make me clean." You too have learned that Jesus is able to help. Now comes the best part. While the man's coming to Jesus in faith is both necessary and commendable, that's not what healed him. Jesus healed him. How blessed the man was to hear Jesus say, "I do want to, . . . Be clean?"

Praise God Jesus is both able and willing to hear prayer and help according to his will!

D. While this lesson is not meant to be an entire study in the meaning and practice of prayer, it can give you a good place from which to begin: Coming to Jesus in faith, asking for help, and letting him answer in his own way and time.

Remember, prayer is best learned by doing what Jesus says, "Ask, and you will receive."
Matthew 7.7

D. Share some examples of what to pray for

"When Jesus entered Capernaum, a Roman officer met him and begged for help. 'Sir, my servant is sick in bed at home, unable to move and suffering terribly.' 'I will go and make him well,' Jesus said." Matthew 8.5-7

In this story of Jesus answering prayer, a man came to Jesus asking for help, not so much for himself as for someone else. The sick man for whom the officer sought help was not even close to Jesus, and he may not even have known that someone cared enough for him to go to Jesus and pray for him.

You too can pray for yourself and you can pray for others. In both cases Jesus hears and answers prayers according to his will.

In both stories, as well as in the two coming up, you see Jesus willing and able to respond to people in need.

'Sir,' they answered, 'we want you to give us our sight!' Jesus had pity on them and touched their eyes; at once they were able to see, and they followed him."
Matthew 20.33-34

E. Why do you think Jesus felt so deeply for these blind people? Do you think his deep feelings had something to do with his helping them?

F. Think and pray a lot about the loving, compassionate heart of Jesus for you and for people everywhere, especially for those in crisis.

G. In past *Good News about Jesus Lessons* and now again in this one you see the power of Jesus to help people and inspire them to follow him.

H. Write down and share a number of things you're praying for at this time.

In the next story Jesus helps one of his disciples in a very physical way by saving his life.

What is important here, as in other stories, is that Jesus hears and helps people who come to him in prayer and faith, also those of little faith.

"But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. 'Save, me. Lord!' he cried. At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, 'What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?'" Matthew 14.30-31

In the final verses of this lesson Jesus gives some brief directions in how to pray clearly, fervently, and in faith until the answers come.

"Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7.7.

In summary, Jesus asks his people to pray for themselves, for others, and for the blessings on giving the Good News about Jesus to people everywhere. Jesus said: "Watch and pray," (Matthew 26.41) and in this way calls his disciples into an on going prayer mission. (Praying for what Jesus asks us to pray for) Use the Good News About Jesus prayer on appropriate occasions: Lord God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless our (my) giving the Good News about Jesus to people and thank you for blessings received, in Jesus' name. Amen.

"So Jesus answered her, 'You are a woman of great faith! What you want will be done for you.'" Matthew 15.28

So far you've seen something about Jesus helping people who came to him in prayer. While these stories clearly show Jesus both willing and able to help, they are not meant to show that Jesus always helps everyone instantly or always gives everyone what they ask for. There are many stories in the New Testament of Jesus helping people in the way they asked, but there are also others in which answers to prayer were different than expected, delayed, and also denied. But you can be sure that Jesus will always clearly, lovingly, and with great feeling hear your prayers and answer them the way he knows best for you and the fulfillment of your mission here on earth.

Remember that your prayers will more often be for others as you come to see the world more as God sees it, asking him for help in giving the Good News about Jesus to more people in more languages and places.

Remember also that your prayers will not always be "asking" prayers, but will often, as you'll see in later lessons, erupt into praise and thanksgiving!

Sometimes your prayers will be personal and private, and other times you'll join others in group and public prayers.

I. Jesus gave his people a model prayer, (Matthew 6.9-13) which the church calls the Lord's Prayer and reminds his disciples that: "The Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." John 14.23 Use this traditional prayer as you close this lesson, and daily with millions of other disciples of Jesus worldwide.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



7. JESUS FORGIVES SIN AND HEALS PEOPLE

24. Jesus forgives sin.

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus gave his disciples, you have a pattern for ongoing prayer, blessings, and Christian living.

As you keep on doing your mission along the lines of this prayer, and keep on helping Jesus build his kingdom and doing his will, you'll keep on praying for every need in your mission, thinking of your needs as Jesus calls them, "daily bread."

Also, as you pray and do your mission, you'll become aware of your shortcomings and failures, and you'll experience a growing need to pray for forgiveness and help to overcome what is difficult and evil.

This Lesson 7 brings you to the highest level of prayer for forgiveness of sins, your greatest need. You'll see that as Jesus is willing and able to supply his helpers with everything they need to fulfill their mission in life, so also Jesus is able and willing to forgive sins and heal people.

You recall from Lesson 2 that a beginning definition of sin is "short of perfection," and that the willingness and authority of Jesus to forgive sins is that "special something" that makes the news about Jesus really "Good News!"

Now in this lesson you'll be looking a little deeper at the problem and meaning of sin, and the great news that Jesus forgives sins and rescues people from the terrible things in people's lives because of sin.

In the following story Jesus came up to a paralyzed man, and thinking of him as a friend, forgives his sins and restores him to health. While some people stood around arguing about the correctness of what Jesus did, Jesus blessed the man with friendship, forgiveness, health, and a heart full of praise to God!

"When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, 'Your sins are forgiven, my friend.' The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to say to themselves, 'Who is this man who speaks such blasphemy! God is the only one who can forgive sins!' Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, 'Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the paralyzed man, 'I tell you, get up, pick up your

bed and go home!' At once the man got up in front of them all, took the bed he was lying on, and went home, praising God." Luke 5.20-25

A. What do you think? Isn't it great to know that Jesus can and does give forgiveness of sins and wholeness? Yes, it is! _____

The word sin is not a scientific word, or a medical word, but a legal word, and means every condition, thought, and action contrary to God's will. The word forgiveness is also a legal word and means freeing the sinner from the guilt and punishment sin deserves.

No wonder the people said in the story of Jesus forgiving and healing a man: "Only God can forgive sin." In this they were right. But they had not come to see that God came in Jesus and that in Jesus forgiveness of sins is now God's great gift.

You can also see in the story of Jesus forgiving sins that healing followed, and that Jesus connected forgiveness and healing.

The word heal comes from an old word to make whole. By forgiving the man's sins, Jesus declared him legally right with God, and in this case, spiritual, physical, and emotional well being, or wholeness, also followed.

In this story and in the verses following you see again the willingness and ability of Jesus to give great blessings to people. "When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, 'Your sins are forgiven, my friend,'" then followed up with the words, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."

In coming lessons you'll see more fully why and how Jesus provides forgiveness of sins, righteousness, peace, victory, love, eternal life, and finally heaven.

For now, be assured that Jesus *is* willing and able to forgive all your sins and give you whatever healing is necessary to complete your mission on earth.

B. Do you think people began to see Jesus more fully as they saw him forgiving sins and healing people? Talk about these impressions of Jesus today.

C. Do you think there is a connection between forgiveness and healing? If you think so, would you explain your view?

In the following verse from the New Testament Jesus shows his great care for someone who had sinned. He didn't condemn the person. His reminder not to do it again was not just a warning not to do it again, but his deep concern for her ongoing well being.

"Jesus said, 'I do not condemn you either. Go, but do not sin again.'" John 8.11

In the next verse Jesus went far beyond what people normally would do when they are mistreated. Jesus was being nailed to a cross, and it was from the cross that he said:

"Forgive them. Father! They don't know what they are doing." Luke 23.34

Throughout the New Testament you can see a close relationship between forgiveness and healing. God's undeserved love and perfect justice is behind his willingness to forgive and heal. It is not God's will that people suffer the consequences of sin but rather that they might be forgiven and healed perfectly. In his love he pays the penalty for sin with his life and so provides salvation for the world. (*Lesson 9*)

"This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved."

1 Timothy 2.3-4

"For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its Savior."
John 3.17

D. Recall the title of Jesus "Savior" from Lesson 1, and the Good News about God coming into the world to "save" people.

E. Write and share a prayer of praise or thanksgiving for having the Good News About Jesus as friend, teacher and Savior

25. Jesus heals people.

Recall from earlier lessons that Jesus sees his mission as building the kingdom of God. His desire is that everyone be saved, (1 Timothy 2.3-4)

Both forgiveness of sins and healing belong to being saved, or salvation. Jesus sees people as whole when sin is forgiven, evil is under control, health is present, and all of God's blessings are realized.

"Jesus went to Peter's home, and there he saw Peter's mother-in-law in bed with a fever. He touched her hand; the fever left her and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, people brought to Jesus many who had demons in them. Jesus drove out the evil spirits with a word and healed all who were sick." Matthew 8.14-16

"People brought to him all those who were sick, suffering from all kinds of diseases and disorders: people with demons, and epileptics, and paralytics Jesus healed them all."
Matthew 4.24

The signs of God's kingdom among people can be seen in Jesus forgiving sins and restoring people to health. In these actions you see both the power and the love of God at work. Now, as long ago, Jesus forgives sins and heals, even though perfect righteousness and health are not fully experienced until heaven.

The disciple of Jesus will keep on giving the Good News about Jesus to people and in this way help to "preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick." Luke 9.2

As you keep on helping to give the Gospel to people everywhere, remember the Gospel "is God's power to save all who believe." Romans 1.16

But just as not everyone in our day will receive the message of the Gospel when they read or hear it, so not everyone will be healed. And even when sin is fully forgiven, remnant damages remain in our sinful nature, so perfect wholeness cannot be realized on this side of Paradise, Patient suffering, however, may be a blessing for the disciple of Jesus and can bring encouragement to others and glory to God.

You can be sure that Jesus will supply you and all his faithful helpers with all necessary blessings, and will give you the kind of life and health with which you will best fulfill your mission on earth.

F. Discuss how medical science, hospitals, clinics, and the many members of the medical

profession are helpful in healing and healthcare.

G. Share views on how you and the church can help to maintain optimum health.

H. Share the joy of ongoing healing in God's own way and time, even if it means waiting for perfect wholeness until he takes you to heaven.



8. JESUS LEADS PEOPLE TO GOD AND FULL LIFE

As you continue in the Lord's prayer and mission, you'll keep on asking Jesus to lead you, helping you through temptation and evil to victory and fullness of life.

The present day understanding of leadership is of rather recent origin. In ancient days people thought of leadership more as shepherding, and in an agriculturally minded world, shepherds were considered leaders. The understanding of a good shepherd was one who knew his sheep, cared for them, and if necessary would fight and even die for them. The same could be expected of a good people leader.

A good leader does not drive people, but calls people to follow willingly. He promises only what he knows he can give.

The model of the shepherd leading people is common in the Bible, and is held by many people today, especially in religious communities.

Jesus even uses the title of good shepherd for himself as he assumed the position of teacher and leader of people leading people to God, salvation, and Christian living.

26. As the "Good Shepherd," Jesus leads people to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (The Triune God one God in three persons - or "Trinity")

Great care should be taken in following teachings about God, salvation, and Christian living. There are all kinds of voices out there in the world, both religious and secular, seeking you, your loyalty, and your money. Jesus says:

"I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep." John 10.11

Jesus said he was willing to die for his sheep, and he did.

Now Jesus gently calls his disciples to openly and honestly examine the Good News about God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and all his blessings.

"Jesus answered him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me. Now that you have known me,' he said to them, 'You know the Father also, and from now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, that is all we need.' Jesus answered, 'For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.'" John 14.6-9

After the first disciples of Jesus had come to know, love, and trust Jesus their Teacher, he told them about God the Father and about himself, and that he and the Father are one. He also tells them about the Holy Spirit, and that God is the only Lord, the one with all the power.

In the following verses Jesus reveals and teaches about God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons and yet only one Lord - one God. Jesus never asked his disciples to fully understand the great mystery of God, but he gave them the Good News about God, within the limitations of ordinary language they knew, so they could believe in him.

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God." John 14.16-17

"The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and make you remember all that I have told you." John 14.26

"Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28.19-20

"The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." Mark 12.29-30.

Later disciples of Jesus began to use the term "Triune God" one God in three persons, or "Trinity." The early church of Jesus put it this way in a statement about God:

So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three Gods, but one God. (Athanasius)

Remember Jesus never asked his disciples to debate or argue over the existence of God or the nature of God's inner being, but he did pray that they would believe his teaching about God. (John 17)

- A. **The disciples of Jesus were blessed in the teaching of Jesus about God. Can you think of yourself as blessed with the Good News about God as Jesus gives it in the "Trinity?"** Yes, I can ____ I'll pray about this ____
- B. **Sometimes Christians are accused of having "blind faith." Do you think trusting Jesus in what he reveals about God is blind faith?** _____
- C. **Which statement would you consider best?**
1) I think the teaching about the Trinity makes good sense ____
2) I agree that God is "Triune" because other Christians say so ____
3) I believe that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - three persons in one God because Jesus, my Teacher, tells me so ____
- D. **In the Matthew 28 verses, Jesus talks about baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. If you are already baptized you may want to review the blessings of your baptism. If you are not baptized, you may want to inquire about Christian baptism.**

27. Through his Word, Jesus leads his people to full life.

"My sheep hear my voice; and I know them. and they follow me." John 10.27

When Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would reveal the truth about God and make them remember what he had told them, he was preparing them For the entire New Testament Word of God that would come to them.

"You have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, refusing error, correcting faults, and giving instructions for right living." 2 Timothy 3.15-17

After completing all twelve of these Good News About Jesus Lessons, you'll want to keep on studying the New Testament, and the entire Bible, with the goal of getting to know Jesus as fully as possible and having all of God's rich blessings.

Christian living is not always easy, yet living without the love and care of God would certainly be much harder. Jesus reminds you and all his faithful disciples:

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget himself, carry his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.'" Matthew 16.24-25

Jesus again assures you that he has your best interests at heart, and wants you to have the best possible life as you keep on helping him in his mission.

"I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness." John 10.10

And the very best life in all its fullness will be life with God in Paradise, with the assurance that on the way there God will keep you safe and in his care.

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me." John 10.28

The entire Good News about Jesus comes to you with the view of seeing your joy complete.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15.11

E. Consider the Bible your treasure store of spiritual blessings, ongoing inspiration, and guidance for Christian living.

F. Pray for readiness for Lesson 9 coming up on Jesus providing salvation for you and for the world.



9. JESUS PROVIDES SALVATION FOR THE WORLD

This Lesson 9 gets to the heart of the Good News about Jesus as you see how Jesus provides salvation for you and for the world.

The word salvation comes from a root word meaning to make perfect. Both the word salvage - to rescue from rejection and the word salve - to heal come from the same root. In the Christian sense, salvation is Jesus saving people from sin, the devil, death, and hell, for life with God in his kingdom here and in heaven.

The headings in this lesson give you a many-sided picture of Jesus providing salvation. Through the many verses from the New Testament let God speak to you from his heart. Let your salvation begin with the love of Jesus and flower into fullness when he takes you to himself into Paradise.

Remember that the heart of the Good News about Jesus is that Jesus paid for the guilt and punishment for the sins of the world, yours included, and that the payment was his blood and life, given in suffering and death on the cross.

28. Jesus gave his life for all.

"I passed on to you what I also received, which is of the greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15.3

"No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will." John 10.18

"So they took charge of Jesus. He went out, carrying his cross, and came to 'The Place of the skull,' as it was called. (In Hebrew it is called 'Golgotha.')

There they crucified him; and they crucified two other men, one on each side, with Jesus between them." John 19.16-18

"Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true, he said, I am thirsty.' A bowl was there, full of cheap wine; so a sponge was soaked in the wine, put on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted up to his lips. Jesus drank the wine and said, 'It is finished!' Then he bowed his head and died." John 19.28-30

"He died for all." 2 Corinthians 5.15

"But God has shown us how much he loves us - it was while we were sinners that Christ died for us!" Romans 5.8

"For you know what was paid to set you free from the worthless manner of life handed down by your ancestors. It was not something that can be destroyed, such as silver or gold; it was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without defect or flaw." 1 Peter 1.18-19

"There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1.29

A. Be clear on the Good News that Jesus willingly suffered and died for you, that is, in your place to pay for your sins. Now God can forgive your sins because they are paid for, and in this way show both his love and his justice.

And there is even more Good News. ..

29. Jesus is the object of our faith in God.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die, but have eternal life." John 3.16

"Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end."
Hebrews 12.2

30. Jesus rescues us from darkness and condemnation.

"He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of his Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven." Colossians 1.13-14

"There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus." Romans 8.1

"Whoever hears my words, and believes in him who sent me, has eternal life. He will not be judged, but has passed from death to life." John 5.24

31. Jesus forgives our sins and purifies us.

"When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, 'our sins are forgiven you, my friend.'" Luke 5.20

"Jesus also died outside the city, in order to purify the people with his own blood." Hebrews 13.12

"The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin." 1 John 1.7

32. Jesus declares us "Not Guilty!"

"After so many sins, comes the undeserved gift of 'Not Guilty!'" Romans 5.16

33. With Jesus, we are spiritually alive.

"But God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life in Christ." Ephesians 2.4-5

"For through the living and eternal word of God you have been born again as the children of a parent who is immortal, not mortal." I Peter 1.23

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior was revealed, he saved us. It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves had done, but because of his own mercy that he saved us, through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life." Titus 3.4-5

34. Through faith in Jesus, we are put right with God.

"No one is put right in God's sight by doing what the Law requires; what the Law does is to make man know that he has sinned. But now God's way of putting people right with himself has been

revealed. It has nothing to do with law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. God puts people right through their faith in Christ, because there is no difference at all: everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Jesus Christ, who sets them free."
Romans 3.20-24

"The person who depends on his faith, not on his deeds, and who believes in the God who declares the guilty to be innocent, it is his faith that God takes into account in order to put him right with himself." Romans 4.5

"Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5.21

35. Jesus saves us from God's anger and makes peace with us.

"By his death we are now put right with God; how much more, then, will we be saved by him from God's anger." Romans 5.9

"Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5.1

36. Jesus overcomes the Devil and the power of death.

"Since the children, as he calls them, are people of flesh and blood, Jesus himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death he might destroy the Devil, who has the power over death, and in this way set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death." Hebrews 2.14-15

37. Jesus makes friends with us.

"We were God's enemies, but he made us his friends through the death of his Son."
Romans 5.10

"But now, by means of the physical death of his Son, God has made you his friends, in order to bring you, holy, pure, and faultless, into his presence." Colossians 1.22

38. Jesus chooses us to be his own.

"You did not choose me, I chose you." John 15.16

"You are the chosen race, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."
1 Peter 2.9

"God bought you for a price, so do not become slaves of men." 1 Corinthians 7.23

39. Jesus loves us.

"The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them."
John 15.13

"I love you." John 15.9

40. Jesus heals us.

"It is by his wounds that you have been healed." I Peter 2.24

41. Jesus gives us joy.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15.11

"Happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven, whose sins are pardoned." Romans 4.7

"The people rejoiced over all the wonderful things that he did." Luke 13.17

"Be glad because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10.20

In the next verses Jesus assures you and all his people of eternal life with him in heaven. (In Lesson 12 you'll go into this great subject more fully)

42. Jesus prepares a place for us in heaven.

"There are many rooms in my Father's house" and I am going to prepare a place for you." John 14.2

43. Jesus provides eternal life for his people.

"For sin pays its wage - death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6.23

"I give them eternal life, and they will never die. No one can snatch them away from me." John 10.28

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" John 11.25-26

"Jesus said to him, I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me." Luke 23.43

A. How are you able to answer the question Jesus asked, "Do you believe this?"

- Yes, by God's grace I've believed JESUS since _____
- Yes, God has given me faith to begin believing Jesus _____
- I'm still praying for faith to believe Jesus _____
("I do have faith, but not enough. Help me to have more!" Mark 9.24)

44. Jesus provides salvation for the world.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3.16

"Salvation is to be found through him alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us." Acts 4.12

"Jesus said to him, 'Salvation has come to this house today.'" Luke 19.9

A. From the New Testament Word of God you see the way to Paradise through Jesus.

Share the blessings of knowing and believing Jesus, the only one able to pay for your sins, give you righteousness, and take you to heaven!

B. Share your deeply personal blessing that Jesus has come to "your house."

C. Comment about the message about Jesus providing salvation for the world that you have to give to many more people in your lifetime!



10. JESUS BRINGS NEW LIFE TO HIS PEOPLE

You'll agree that many blessings have already come to you in these Good News About Jesus Lessons. Review the lesson headings often, and at times go more deeply into some of the lesson parts.

In this lesson you'll get even more Good News about Jesus blessings for yourself and to give to others.

First look at the world's most astounding wonder! Jesus who gave his life on the cross is risen from the dead and is alive!

From the New Testament you get the news that on the third morning after his crucifixion, Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his followers. He first appeared to Mary, then to the rest of his disciples, and then to more than five hundred of his followers. Later he appeared to Paul and again to John.

And the really great thing is that if he's alive, he's here now, and through the words of the New Testament he reveals himself today, and speaks to the world and to us!

45. Jesus is risen from the dead and appears to his followers.

"'Woman, why are you crying?' Jesus asked her. 'Who is it that you are looking for?' She thought it was the gardener, so she asked him, 'If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, 'Rabboni!' (This means Teacher.)" John 20.15-16

In this story Jesus appears to Mary early in the morning of the first day of the week in a very ordinary setting, by the garden tomb. What a shock of joy it must have been for her as she first heard his voice and then saw him!

A. Isn't it almost overwhelming to read that Jesus who was dead is alive?

What do you think and feel about this? _____

B. On the other hand, isn't it just like Jesus to appear gently to Mary, calmly speaking her name? Yes, it really is _____

C. Would you agree that believing that Jesus is alive and in our world today is really a great challenge to faith for all disciples of Jesus? Yes, I do _____

To rise from the dead is no ordinary thing. So for those first followers of Jesus to see him alive was a momentous, miraculous, faith-challenging, life-changing experience. Can you imagine being among them?

In the verses below some women had come to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning. There, suddenly, in an amazing encounter with an angel of God they were told Jesus was no longer in the tomb but was alive again! Frightened but happy they ran off to tell the other disciples of Jesus.

For anyone to begin believing that Jesus is alive is much the same as what those first disciples of Jesus went through. First they heard reports of Jesus not being in the tomb and that he was alive. But this was not enough.

Then he appeared to them. They met him. They saw him. They heard him speak words of peace. Their faith and experience welled over into worship.

Read the following verses as the Holy Spirit feeds you with the faith-nourishing, life-giving Word of God. Pray that your joy will rise into blessings of worshiping Jesus - God having come to you in peace:

"He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly, now, and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!' Remember what I have told you. So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Peace be with you.' They came up to him, took hold of his feet and worshiped him." Matthew 28.6-9

"For forty days after his death he appeared to them many times in ways that proved beyond doubt that he was alive. They saw him, and he talked with them about the kingdom of God." Acts 1.3

"I passed on to you what I received, which is of the greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures; that he was buried and that he was raised to life three days later, as written in the Scriptures; that he appeared to Peter and then to all twelve apostles. Then he appeared to more than five hundred of his followers at once." 1 Corinthians 15.3-6

"Last of all he appeared also to me." 1 Corinthians 15.8

C. Now if you put together everything you've come to know and believe about Jesus so far through the words and word pictures of the New Testament, wouldn't you say that Jesus has quite fully made himself known to you too?

46. The resurrection of Jesus brings new life to his people.

A. Write down and share some thoughts and feelings about knowing Jesus and believing

him.

An excellent way of worshiping God is to love him enough to believe him when he says something. In the following verse Jesus gives an extraordinarily wonderful promise to his disciples, and to you too:

"Because I live, you also will live." John 14.19

Think about these outstanding words of Jesus, and what they mean for you!

Here you have the promise of God that you'll live forever.

You'll be given life day by day here on earth and forever in heaven! Now as a faithful disciple of Jesus, you can plan your life for ongoing worship and mission - by yourself, and together with a growing number of others.

The following verses tell you a lot about what your life will continue to be:

A life of love –

"God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him. This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven. Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another." 1 John 4.9-11

A life of access to the blessings of Jesus, forever, and for sure -

"So that it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." Galatians 2.20

"For sin pays its wage - death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord!" Romans 6.23

"There is nothing in all creation that will ever separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8.39

A life of victory and confidence -

"No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us." Romans 8.37

"In view of all this, what can we say? If God is for us, who can be against us? Certainly not God, who did not keep back his own Son, but offered him for us all! He gave his Son will he not also freely give us all things?" Romans 8.31-32

A life of pardon from sin, and freedom from punishment "There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus." Romans 8.1

An unselfish life of service to God and his glory "He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but only for him who died and was raised to life for their sake." 2 Corinthians 5.15

A life with a forward, upward look to eternal life with God in Paradise -

"There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am." John 14.2-3

"Jesus said to him, 'I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me.'" Luke 23.43

A new life of thanksgiving, prayer, hope, love, and joy -

"Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away." 1 Peter 1.3-4

"You love him, although you do not now see him. So you rejoice with a great and glorious joy which words cannot express, because you are receiving the salvation of your souls, which is the purpose of your faith in him." 1 Peter 1.8-9

A. Even though you can't see Jesus with your eyes, you believe the promise of his presence and blessing. Share your views on the value and power of faith in God.

B. Now the mission of Jesus goes on. Are you ready for the next lesson on Jesus building his church? Yes, I am _____ I hope so _____



11. JESUS BUILDS HIS CHURCH

What a joy to know that God has come into the world in Jesus to provide salvation for everyone, and that he wants everyone to know it. Since then Jesus has kept on calling people to be his disciples, to have salvation, and to help him in his kingdom. And the number of disciples of Jesus is continuing to grow as tens of thousands of new people are added to his church every day.

The very word church means those who are called to belong to the Lord.

47. Jesus builds his church.

Jesus says: "I will build my church." Matthew 16.18

Now when Jesus says he'll build his church he means he'll keep on calling new disciples and adding them to those already following him, believing in him, worshiping him, and helping in his mission.

While you'll find many different kinds of Christian churches, the church of Jesus is made up of only true believers in Jesus as friend, teacher, Savior, and Lord. These true believers in Jesus may be found in any Christian group or denomination, among whom, however, may also be false believers, hypocrites, and even traitors.

The total number of true believers in Jesus is the church Jesus is building and this is the church that you too want to help build up.

48. Jesus uses the Scriptures to reveal himself.

"Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures." Luke 24.27

During the forty day time after Jesus had risen from the dead and was teaching his disciples about the kingdom of God, he made plain to them what God said in the Old Testament Scriptures about him as the coming Savior-King.

Now for nearly 2000 years the disciples of Jesus have provided the Good News about Jesus from the New Testament through printed materials, personal witness, teaching, and preaching.

Surveys show that about half of all new Christians who become Christians as young people or adults become Christians through reading the Gospel and the others through hearing or combinations of hearing and reading.

A. Do you think that the Good News about Jesus you've gotten so far is straight from the Bible? I think so _____ I'm sure _____

B. While you can see evidences of God's work in nature, the sun, stars, and especially in people, do you think anyone could ever have the Good News about Jesus if they didn't get it from the Bible? _____

C. How important then, is the work of giving the Gospel to people if they are ever to know Jesus? Very important _____ I'm not that sure _____

D. Write down and share your responses to now having the Good News about Jesus

Not only does God make himself known through his Word in the Bible, he also through the same Word creates and gives the faith to believe him and what he says.

So while it is up to the disciples of Jesus to give the Good News about Jesus to people and getting them started as learning disciples, only the Holy Spirit can and does call a learning disciple to become a believing disciple and a Christian.

49. Through his Word, God brings people to faith in him.

"These have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life." John 20.31

"What gives life is God's Spirit; man's power is of no use at all. The words I have spoken to you bring God's life-giving Spirit." John 6.63

"I have complete confidence in the gospel; it is God's power to save all who believe."
Romans 1.16

A. Would you be willing to give God all the glory for your having the Good News about Jesus, salvation, and new life? Yes, I would _____ I think so _____

Recall from earlier lessons the power of God at work in the world and for you to have and to use in your mission to help build up God's church.

50. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to empower his people.

"The Helper will come - the Holy Spirit, who reveals the truth about God and who comes from the Father. I will send him to you from the Father, and he will speak about me. And you, too, will speak about me." John 15.26-27

"When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1.8

After giving his disciples the vision to go to people everywhere, Jesus also gives them authority to spread the Gospel and make learning and helping disciples. This is as true today as it was for the first disciples of Jesus, whom Jesus also called apostles (Sent ones), and witnesses (People who saw and heard).

51. The witnesses of Jesus help spread the Good News about him to people everywhere.

"He told him the Good News about Jesus." Acts 8.35

"And every day in the Temple and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah." Acts 5.42

"And so the news about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the province of Galilee." Mark 1.28.

"Go, then, to all peoples everywhere, and make them my disciples." Matthew 28.19

Today you and all of God's faithful people continue spreading the Good News about Jesus to people and helping them get started as learning disciples of Jesus.

Basic to good evangelism is unselfish giving the Good News about Jesus message. (Jesus said: "I gave them the message . . ." John 17.8)

Giving the Good News about Jesus to people is done through printed materials, recorded materials, personal witness and testimony, teaching individuals and groups, preaching to small and larger audiences, and media programs.

Giving the Good News about Jesus can be as easy as giving someone a copy of the Good News About Jesus booklet, tape, lessons, New Testament, or Bible. It can also be as challenging as building up and teaching a Good News About Jesus class or doing a planned Good News About Jesus Program in a local community, people group, language area, or entire country.

Note: In personal relationships or in court, one witness is usually enough to prove a case. Two or more witnesses will more easily prove the truth about something or someone. So in doing evangelism, especially personal witness and teaching, if you start with God as the first witness of his Word, then add the New Testament writers and your witness and testimony, you'll have a very strong message. As you work with other people in the local congregation, you'll have the added power of God's church at work.

A. Are you committed to giving the Gospel to more people? Yes, I am _____

B. Share what you think is your part in giving the Good News about Jesus to people everywhere, making disciples of Jesus, and building up his church.

As God's people faithfully spread his Word, more people are getting the Good News about Jesus, becoming friends and disciples of Jesus, and are called by the Holy Spirit to become believing Christians and serving church members.

Daily millions of people are praying for and working toward giving the gospel to people everywhere in every language and people group. Something like 100,000 new people are added to God's church every day. Yet twice that many die every day without the Good News about Jesus. Thousands of new congregations are being formed every year, yet millions of people are still without a local church for worship and growth.

You can every day join others in praying for and helping toward millions of new disciples of Jesus and active church members.

Praise God if you're already a member of a Gospel centered church. If you're not yet a member of a local church you'll want to inquire about membership. Look forward to a time of instruction in the basics of the Christian faith including the Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession, and Communion.

52. The church of Jesus grows.

"And so the Word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem grew larger and larger." Acts 6.7

"And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved." Acts 2.47

"He appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4.11-12

53. The believers are called Christians.

"It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians." Acts 11.26

- A. I'm a Christian and already a member of a Gospel centered church.**
- B. I've become a Christian and would like to become a church member**

54. Christians get to know Jesus better and better.

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3.18

- A. As a church member, I want to keep on worshiping God, growing spiritually, and helping to give the Good News about Jesus to people everywhere in every language until the end comes. (Matthew 24.14)**

Signed _____ **Date** _____



49. JESUS TAKES HIS PEOPLE TO HEAVEN

This last Lesson 12 takes you into the future of what Jesus will yet do - until you'll see Jesus in his full glory and power.

This lesson also tells you changes Jesus will make in the universe and in your life from a mortal person to a fully glorified person fit for heaven, and how he'll personally take you into God's Paradise.

Included is the revelation of holy city the new Jerusalem, and something about life in your future home.

While the content of this lesson takes you forward and upward into future glory, it also has a lot to do with life today. You've been born into the royal family of God, and you'll want to keep on being inspired by God's promises of your majestic inheritance. Imagine the magnificent moment when, in your new and glorified body you'll see God and be with him in Paradise!

With minimum comments, let the following words from God sink in deeply. Keep on celebrating this highest peak of the Good News About Jesus.

55. Jesus ascends to heavenly glory and power.

"After saying this, he was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight." Acts 1.9

"His face gleamed like such precious stones as jasper and carnelian, and all around the throne there was a rainbow the color of an emerald." Revelation 4.3

"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth." Matthew 28.19

After Jesus rose from the dead he spent forty days with his disciples so they could be sure about new life in God's kingdom. (Acts 1.3) Then he ascended into a heavenly cloud and was glorified as he is now.

Later Jesus revealed his vision of glory his gleaming face, brilliant as the sun (Revelation 1.16) and beautiful as the rainbow, like jasper and carnelian (Revelation 4.3) something of the awesome beauty of God in the heavenly setting.

Note: Traditionally, red and green indicates the origin and destiny of all things, also the colors of Christmas. See the 12th picture of "Jesus in glory" in the upper center of the front cover, surrounded by the golden hues of heaven ("... pure gold, transparent as glass." Revelation 21.21).

56. Jesus will appear again.

"This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven." Acts 1.11

"Look, he is coming on the clouds! Everyone will see him." Revelation 1.7

"For the Son of Man will come like lightning which flashes across the whole sky from the east to the west." Matthew 24.27

"His appearing will be brought about at the right time by God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords." I Timothy 6.15

"Listen!" says Jesus. "I am coming soon!" Revelation 22.7

57. At his appearing, Jesus will raise the dead.

"I am telling you the truth: the time is coming when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it will come to life." John 5.25

58. Jesus will change his people to glory.

"Listen to this secret truth: we shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds, we shall all be changed in an instant, as quickly as the blinking of an eye. For when the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised, never to die again, and we shall all be changed. For what is mortal must be changed into what is immortal; what will die must be changed into what cannot die." I Corinthians 15.51-53

"We, however, are citizens of heaven, and we eagerly wait for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven. He will change our mortal bodies and make them like his own glorious body." Philippians 3.20-21

"My dear friends, we are now God's children, but it is not yet clear what we shall become. But we know when Christ appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he really is."
1 John 3.2

59. When Jesus appears, the present universe will be destroyed, and God will make everything new.

"The day of the Lord will come as a thief. On that Day the heavens will disappear with a shrill noise, the heavenly bodies will burn up and be destroyed, and the earth and everything in it will vanish." 2 Peter 3.10

"We wait for what God has promised: new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will be at home." 2 Peter 3.13

"Then the one who sits on the throne said, 'And now I make all things new!'" Revelation 21.5

60. Jesus prepares a place for his people.

"There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you."

John 14.2

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared, and the sea vanished. And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her mankind! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

"There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared." Revelation 21.1-4

"Then he showed me Jerusalem, the Holy City, coming down out of heaven from God and shining with the glory of God. The city shone like a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal." Revelation 21.10-11

"The street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass." Revelation 21.21

"I did not see a temple in the city, because its temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb. The city has no need of the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God shines on it, and the Lamb is its lamp." Revelation 21.22-23

"The angel also showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, and coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb and flowing down the middle of the city's street. On each side of the river was the tree of life." Revelation 22.1-3

61. Jesus will personally take his people to heaven.

"I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am." John 14.3

"When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the righteous people at his right and the others on the left. Then the King will say to those on the right, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world.'" Matthew 25.31-34

"Then he will say to those on the left, 'Away from me, you that are under God's curse! Away to the eternal fire which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels.'" Matthew 25.41

"These, then, will be sent off to eternal punishment, but the righteous will go to eternal life." Matthew 25.46

"Jesus said to him, 'I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me.'" Luke 23.43

"There was an enormous crowd no one could count all the people! They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood in front of the throne and of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They called out in a loud voice: 'Salvation comes from God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.' All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. Then they threw themselves downward in front of the throne and worshiped God, saying, 'Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever! Amen.'" Revelation 7.9-12

A. Underline the words Jesus will say to you on "Judgment Day."

C. Celebrate the joy of believing that Jesus will take you like a parent taking home a child to himself into heaven.

C. Discuss what you think life will be like in Paradise.

62. Conclusion

Congratulations! You've worked through all the Good News About Jesus Lessons. After working through this last lesson on your great future - you, like many others, will keep on looking forward and upward to eternal glory.

For now, you'll want to keep on worshiping God faithfully, helping to give the Good News about Jesus to people everywhere, and living out your Christian life. Keep busy in God's mission until it's finished. Jesus says: "And this Good News about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all mankind; and then the end will come." Matthew 24.14

Read and keep on thinking about the following verses as a summary of your ongoing faith in God and of the Christian mission:

"For what is life? To me, it is Christ. Death, then, will bring more. But if by continuing to live I can do more worthwhile work, then I am not sure which I should choose. I am pulled in two directions. I want very much to leave this life and be with Christ, which is a far better thing; but for your sake it is much more important that I remain alive." Philippians 1.21-24

"You will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1.8

"Keep busy always in your work for the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15.58

"Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end." Hebrews 12.2

Always keep your worship most important -

to God be the glory!

"To him who is able to keep you from falling and bring you faultless and joyful before his glorious presence to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might, and authority, from all the ages past, and now, and forever and ever! Amen." Jude 1.24-25

Good News About Jesus symbol

The green and red fields are the traditional colors of origin and destiny. Jesus says: "I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Revelation 22.12

"His face gleamed like such precious stones as jasper (Green) and camelian (Red) Revelation 4.3 In the cross of Jesus is our salvation. He is the origin of our life and our destiny in Paradise.

"In all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us." Acts 4.12