

THE GOSPEL FOR THE WORLD



PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel For The World

This study guide has been carefully designed to help understand the Gospel of Christ and how God wants us to respond to the Gospel.

Becoming a Christian is a decision of faith. It is not just a series of steps that one goes through! It is a life-changing, heart-transforming process that God wants all to understand.

Always keep in mind that this study guide is only a tool to help you as you strive to know God's will for your life. Realize that the Bible is the only book that is inspired by God.

Questions Answered in this Study

- 1. Is the Bible from God?*
- 2. Who is Jesus?*
- 3. Why would Jesus give His life on the cross?*
- 4. Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?*
- 5. Do you want to have a close, vital relationship with God?*
- 6. What breaks our relationship with God?*
- 7. How do we reach God?*
- 8. What response does God require?*
- 9. Will I submit my life to Christ and remain faithful?*

Share Your Story

Becoming a Christian is the biggest commitment and most important choice of a person's life! Please answer the following questions in detail. Do not leave anything out. It is important to share as much as you can!

- Are you a Christian? _____ Yes, I am a Christian.
_____ No, I am not a Christian.
_____ I am not sure if I am a Christian.

If you checked **yes, I am a Christian** or **I am not sure if I am a Christian**, please share the day or days when you became a Christian. Share anything that you feel contributed to your becoming a Christian. This could be, but not limited to, talking to someone, saying a prayer, responding to an invitation, etc. List whatever you feel contributed to your becoming a Christian.

- Referring to things you wrote above, at what point did you consider yourself to be “saved?” _____

- Share anything else that you feel played a role in your becoming a Christian.

One of the most amazing things about the Bible is how accurate it is. There are thousands of facts and statements made in the Bible that we can validate using historical documents, archaeological finds and scientific discoveries. There has yet to be a single “fact” discovered that contradicts what we read in the Bible. Let’s look at just a few examples of the overwhelming evidence that supports the fact that the Bible is truly from God.

1. Archaeological Evidence

- a. In Isaiah 20:1, the Bible mentions a king of Assyria named Sargon. For hundreds of years the Bible was the only book that had any record of King Sargon. In 1843, Emile Botta found, near the ruins of the ancient city of Nineveh, the remains of a palace surrounded by many other buildings. Hundreds of ancient documents and records were found and they showed it to be the city of Khorsbad, King Sargon’s imperial city. From 600 B.C. to 1843 (over 2400 years) we had nothing that documented King Sargon, except for the Bible, which told his story accurately.
- b. The Bible mentions another Assyrian King in 2 Kings 18 and 19. The Bible says that King Sennacherib of Assyria conquered many cities in Judah and that he even surrounded the city of Jerusalem, but that he did not conquer it because God sent a plague upon his army. In 1849, an archaeologist found a clay prism, which Sennacherib left as a record of his own deeds. On it he claims to have conquered 48 cities of Judah and says he surrounded Jerusalem, but makes no claim to have captured it. The Bible recorded this event accurately thousands of years before any other historical proof was discovered.
- c. During the six-year excavations of Jericho (1930-1936), an archaeologist named Garstang made an amazing find. It was so amazing that he had a statement of what was found prepared and signed by himself and two other members of the team. In reference to these findings Garstang says: “As to the main fact, then, there remains no doubt: the walls fell outward so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over their ruins into the city.” Why so unusual? Because the walls of cities do not fall outwards when they are attacked. They fall inwards. However, in Joshua 6:20 we read “...The wall fell down flat, so that the people

went up into the city every man straight ahead, and they took the city.” The walls were made to fall outward.

2. *Scientific Evidence*

Do you realize that every year there has to be revisions to all of the science textbooks that are printed because of the newest, latest findings in the scientific world? However, the Bible makes numerous statements that have to do with science. Man has always been a creature of learning. The interesting thing is, while man was learning, God was telling. The writers of the Bible were recording things that were completely different from the ideas that those who were considered to be the “leaders of thought” believed. It is amazing to compare what the Bible says to the thoughts of men.

During the time the Bible was being written...

- a. **Man thought** – *The world rested on the shoulder of a Greek god, sat on the back of a giant turtle, or was supported by huge pillars.*

The Bible Said – *the “earth hangs on nothing” (Job 26:7)*

- b. **Man thought** – *The earth was flat.*

The Bible Said – *It speaks of the “circle of the earth.” (Isaiah 40:22)*

- c. **Man thought** – *There were only 3,000 stars*

The Bible Said – *The stars are numberless. (Genesis 15:5 and 22:17)*

The Bible also records facts within the scientific world that man did not discover for a long time! In fact, in some cases it was the Bible that led man to find it.

<u>Scientific Fact</u>	<u>Man Discovered</u>	<u>Located in the Bible</u>
Certain diseases must be quarantined to keep them from spreading.	1873	Leviticus 13:40-46
Sanitation is necessary to keep down the spread of sickness and disease.	1847	Numbers 19:11 Numbers 5:2-3 Leviticus 12
The oceans have natural paths in them.	1854	Psalms 8:8
Most seaworthy ship design is 30:5:3 ratio.	1860	Genesis 6:15
Blood is necessary for survival of life. (George Washington example)	19 th Century	Leviticus 17:11
Air has weight.	16 th Century	Job 28:25
Infinite number of stars.	1940	Genesis 15:5
Light is a particle.	1932	Job 38:19, 24
Earth was in nebular form initially.	1911	Genesis 1:2
The earth is round.	15 th Century	Isaiah 40:22
Earth is held in place by gravity.	1650	Job 26:7

3. *Fulfilled Prophecies of the Bible*

Cities and Nations

- a. Jeremiah 51:32-64, written in 595 B.C., and Isaiah 13:19-21, written in 712 B.C., both predict that the city of Babylon will become desolate and will never be rebuilt. What was once the center of the Babylonian Empire still today lies in ruins and has no human inhabitants.
- b. Ezekiel 29:14-15, written in 589 B.C., predicts that Nebuchadnezzar will conquer Egypt and that it will never again rise to a major world empire. Today Egypt is still considered a “third world country.”
- c. Ezekiel 35:1-19, predicts that the descendants of Esau, the Edomites, will cease to exist as a people and their cities will be desolate. All of this was fulfilled. Today there are no Edomites and their cities lie in ruins.
- d. Deuteronomy 28:26-37 and 63-66 predict that the Israelites will continue as a people, but will be scattered among many nations and will be persecuted. Today we see that the Jewish people are scattered all over the world and that they are one of, if not the most persecuted groups of people.

Jesus Christ

- a. Virgin Birth: Prophesied in Isaiah 7:14—Fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-25.
- b. Christ abandoned by His followers: Prophesied in Zechariah 13:7—Fulfilled in Matthew 26:56
- c. John the Baptist preparing the way for Christ: Prophesied in Malachi 3:1—Fulfilled in Matthew 3:1-3
- d. The death of Christ on the cross: Prophesied in Isaiah 53—Fulfilled in John 19.

*These and literally hundreds of other prophecies raise the question...
“How did these writers know what would happen to entire nations and
different people centuries before it actually happened?”*

4. *Harmony of the Bible*

- a. There are 66 books in the Bible: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. 40 different authors wrote these 66 books over a period of 1600 years. Yet none of the writers (some writing hundreds of years apart with no access to one another) contradict one another on any issue!

- b. The writers of the Bible come from varying backgrounds. There were kings (David), prophets (Jeremiah), tentmakers (Paul), doctors (Luke), fishermen (Peter), tax collectors (Matthew) and other common men. Despite all of the different backgrounds of the writers, every written word in the Bible is in complete agreement. **There are NO contradictions!!**
- c. The writers of the bible used different languages (mainly Hebrew and Greek) and lived in different countries, but they presented one central theme without variation!!!
- d. There are different types of writing in the Bible including prophecy, history, poetry, proverbs, parables and personal letters. These were all written during a time of myths, superstitions and general scientific ignorance. **Yet everything written in the Bible has been proven true!!!**

5. *The Bible is from God!!!*

- a. 2 Peter 1:20-21
- b. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

6. *God's Word is important today!!!*

- a. Hebrews 4:12
- b. Isaiah 40:8
- c. What do these verses say about the word of God?

7. *It is important for us to do what God says!!!*

- a. James 1:22-25
- b. Matthew 7:21

Questions:

1. *Do you believe the Bible is from God?*
2. *Are you willing to do what God says?*
3. *If you read something from the Bible that God commands you to do, and you have not done it, would you be willing to do it?*

In our next lesson, we will get to know Jesus!

In your own words, tell me about Jesus.

1. The Conception of Jesus

- a. Matthew 1:18-25
- b. What do we discover from these verses?
 - i. Jesus is God's Son. (vs. 18 and 20)
 - ii. Jesus was born of a virgin.
 - iii. Jesus came for a purpose. (vs. 21)
- c. Overall we see that the conception of Jesus was miraculous. There had never been one like it and there has never been one since.

2. The Life of Jesus

- a. Matthew 1:21
 - Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins.
- b. Matthew 4:23
 - Jesus came to teach, preach and heal people.
- c. Matthew 9:18-25
 - Jesus' life was filled with miraculous events.
- d. Luke 19:10
 - Jesus was fulfilling His purpose.

3. The Death of Jesus – Matthew 26:36-27:56

-What do we learn from these verses?

Matthew 26:36-46

- Jesus did not want to die.

Matthew 26:47-50

- Jesus is betrayed by Judas.
- Imagine one of your closest friends turning on you.

Matthew 26:69-75

- Jesus is denied by Peter.
- Imagine the person who is closest to you in your life denying that they even know you at a time when you need them most.

Matthew 26:67-68

- Look at what Jesus went through in between being betrayed and denied by two of His closest friends.

Matthew 27:11-26

- Jesus is on trial. He is then handed over to be flogged and crucified.

Matthew 27:27-31

- Jesus is persecuted, beaten and spat upon.

Matthew 27:35

- Jesus is crucified.

Matthew 27:50

- Jesus dies.

Matthew 27:57-61

- Jesus is buried in a tomb.

Matthew 28:1-10

- **Jesus is alive again!!**

There are miracles surrounding every aspect of Christ's life. He was conceived in a miraculous fashion. He performed miracles while He was living, and He arose from the dead proving once and for all that He was the Son of God!!!!

Why would Jesus give His life on the cross?

God loves you, and He knows that this was the only way that the barrier that separates us from Him could be removed. God wants that barrier removed so that you and I can have an essential relationship with Him.

1. God Loves Us.
 - a. John 3:16
 - b. 1 John 4:8-12
2. We are God's children, created in His image.
 - a. Genesis 1:26-28
 - b. Acts 17:28-29
 - c. Ephesians 1:5-6
 - God has adopted us as sons.
3. God wants you (everyone) to be saved.
 - a. 1 Timothy 1:15
 - b. 1 Timothy 2:4
 - c. 2nd Peter 3:9

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus do this?
2. Why would God send His only Son?
3. Do you believe Christ is the Son of God?

Do you want to have a close relationship with God?

In our next lesson we will look at what breaks our relationship with God, and what we must do to repair that relationship.

One great piece of God's plan for us is that as children we have, by design, a relationship with God. It is only when sin enters our life that this relationship is broken. Let's look at what sin is, who commits sin and the consequences of sin.

1. The problem of sin.

a. What is sin?

- 1 John 3:4 – Sin is _____.

b. Sin is something that comes from ones' own lusts

- James 1:13-15

- A child who does not fully understand right and wrong could not be guilty of sin.

c. There are two kinds of sin:

1. Doing what is forbidden.

- Galatians 5:19-20

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

2. Not doing what is commanded.

- James 4:17

2. Who commits sin?

a. Romans 3:23 – _____ has sinned.

3. Sin has consequences.

a. Isaiah 59:1-2 – Sin _____ us from God!

b. Romans 6:23 – The wages of sin is _____!

Man cannot overcome sin alone. So what is it that we need?



How do we overcome sin?

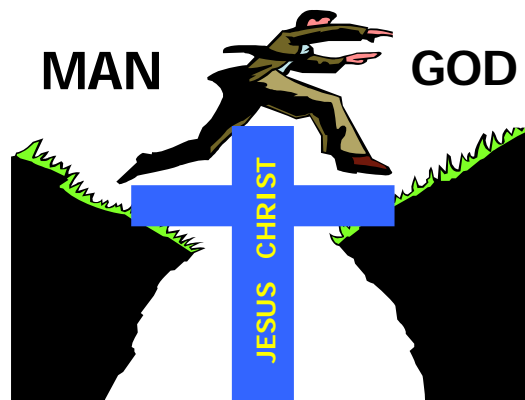
Lesson 3b

1. We need a Savior!

- a. Matthew 1:21 – Jesus came to save us from our sins.
- b. Luke 19:10 – Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

2. We reach God through the death of Jesus!!!!!!!!!!!!

- a. 1 Peter 3:18
 - Jesus in His death brings us back to God! (Isaiah 59:2)
- b. 1 Timothy 2:5
 - Jesus is our mediator between God and us!
- c. John 14:6
 - Jesus is the only way to God!
- d. 1 John 5:11-12
 - Jesus brings us life!
- e. Romans 5:6-10
 - In SIN we are:
 - Powerless
 - Ungodly
 - Sinners
 - God's Enemies
 - In CHRIST we are:
 - Justified by His blood
 - Saved from wrath
 - Reconciled to God



Questions:

- 1. Do you understand that the Bible teaches that we are all sinners?
- 2. Have you sinned?
- 3. What are the consequences for your sin?
- 4. Who is the answer to your sin?

In our next lesson we will look at the response God requires of us!

What response does God require?

Lesson 4

God wants us to respond to His sacrificial gift of Jesus Christ. We have learned that the only way to reach God is through the blood of Jesus Christ! The obvious question we must answer is, “How do we come in contact with the blood of Christ?”

Life and Death Commands of the New Testament

1. We must hear the message!

- a. Romans 10:17 – Faith comes from hearing the message.
- b. John 6:45 – It is God’s Word, not man’s that we must follow!
- c. Once we have heard God’s Word we will find what we must do to get eternal life. Without hearing God’s Word we would never know how to enter a relationship with Jesus. Let’s look at the four other “Life and Death” commands that we must obey.

2. We must believe! (Have faith)

- a. John 8:24 – We must _____ in Jesus or we will die in our sins.
- b. John 3:16 – Through *believing* we can have eternal life.
- c. Hebrews 11:6 – We must *believe in God!*
- d. Is believing all we must do to get to heaven?
 - James 2:19 – Even demons believed!
 - Mark 5:12
- e. What else is required?

3. We must repent!

- a. Luke 13:3,5 – We must _____ or we will perish!
- b. Acts 17:30 – God commands all people to repent.
- c. What is repentance?
 - Acts 3:19 – Repentance means to turn, change or convert. We must turn to God so that He can wipe out our sins.
 - Acts 26:20 – We must turn our lives away from sin and toward God. We must prove our repentance by how we live our life.
- d. Examples of repentance:
 - Luke 15:11-21
 - Acts 19:18-19
- e. What leads one to repentance?
 - Romans 2:4
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10

f. List some of the sins in your life that you need to repent of.

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g. Is believing and repenting all that is required of us by God?

4. We must confess Christ!

a. Matthew 10:32-33 – We must _____ Christ here on earth, or He will not confess us before God.

b. How do we confess Christ?

- Romans 10:9-10 – With our mouth
- James 1:22 – With our actions

c. Is believing, repenting and confession all that is required of us by God?

5. We must be baptized!

• Baptism and the Gospel

a. Mark 16:15-16 – Baptism is the believers response to the gospel.

- Jesus commands His apostles to preach the _____ (vs.15)
- Those who hear the gospel are commanded to believe and be _____ in order to be saved. (vs.16)
- Let's learn more about the gospel and baptism!

b. Romans 1:16

- Paul was not ashamed of the _____.
- The gospel is God's power for _____.
- We need to be saved from our _____.
- The gospel is for everyone.

c. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

- God has chosen us for _____. (vs. 13)
- We are called to salvation through the _____. (vs. 14)

d. Galatians 1:6-10

- The Galatians were turning to a different gospel.
- How many saving gospels are there? _____
- Who is allowed to change the gospel? _____
- Anyone who changes the gospel will be _____.

• What is the Gospel

a. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- In verse 1, Paul is reminding them of the _____.
- What is the gospel? (verses 3 and 4)

b. The gospel is the _____, burial and _____ of Christ.

c. The gospel _____ us ! (vs. 2)

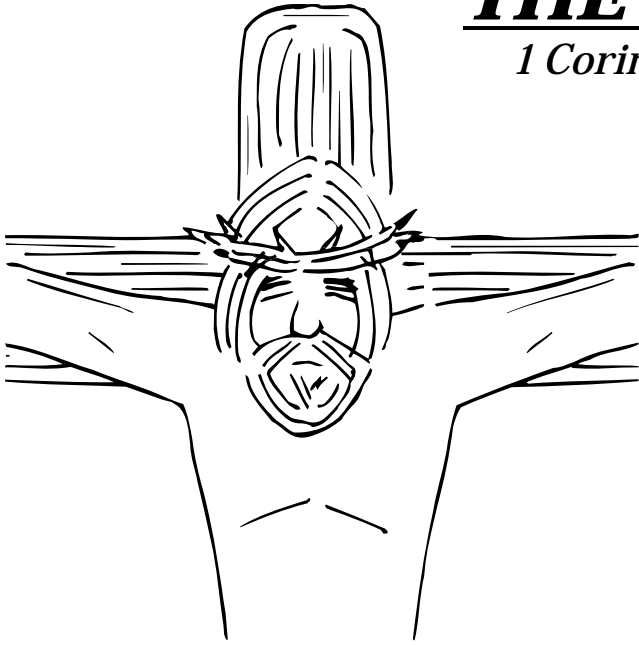
d. The gospel is the death, _____ and _____ of Jesus.

e. The gospel—death, burial and resurrection of Christ—saves us from our sins.

• Draw a picture representation of the gospel in the space below.

THE GOSPEL

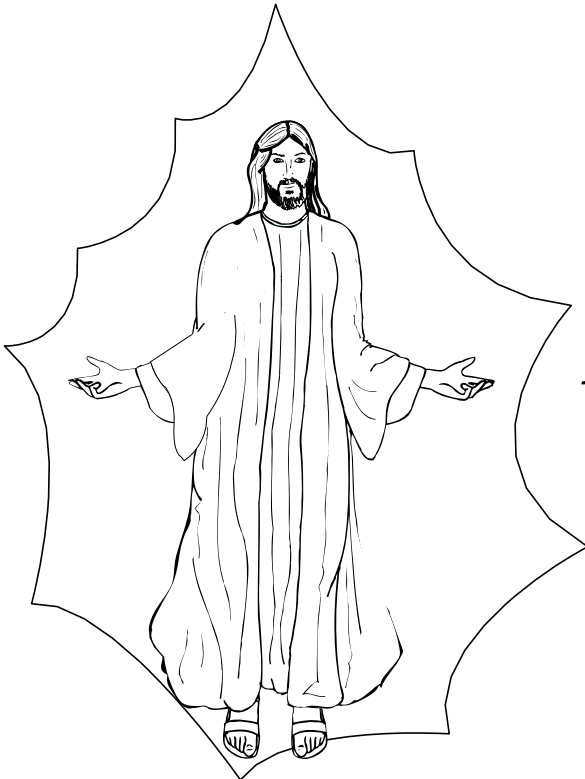
1 Corinthians 15:1-4



Death of Christ (vs. 3)



Burial of Christ (vs. 3)



***Resurrection of Christ
(vs. 4)***

The gospel must be obeyed.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9—What two groups of people will face punishment when Jesus returns? (see verse 8)
 - a. Those who do not know _____.
 - b. Those who do not obey the _____.
- The gospel is the death, burial and _____ of Jesus.

How do we obey the gospel?

- Romans 6:1-5
 - a. We are baptized into Christ's _____. (Vs. 2)
 - b. We are _____ with Christ through baptism. (Vs. 3)
 - c. We are _____ with Christ through baptism. (Vs. 5)
- ***We become obedient to the gospel (DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION) at the time we are baptized.***
- Baptism is the dividing line.
 - a. Wash away sins (Acts 2:38)
 - b. Salvation (1st Peter 3:21)
 - c. Put on Christ (Galatians 3:26-27)
 - d. Added to God's family the one church (Acts 2:41-47)
- Examples from Scripture of people obeying the gospel.
 - a. Acts 2:38-41
 - b. Acts 8:4-13
 - c. Acts 8:26-39—When did the Ethiopian rejoice?
 - d. Acts 16:11-15; 25-34
 - e. Acts 22:16; Acts 9:18

Questions:

1. What is the gospel? (Three parts)
2. How does the Bible say that you obey the gospel
3. *Look back at the "Share Your Story" worksheet (pg. 4). Compare what you had written to what the Bible says about how one becomes a Christian.*

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins?

1. A Christian will face persecution!
 - a. John 15:20
 - b. 2 Timothy 3:12

2. A Christian may even face persecution from their family!
 - a. Luke 14:26-28
 - b. Matthew 10:34-37

3. Jesus commands commitment!
 - a. 2 Peter 2:20-21
 - b. Luke 9:23 – We must place Christ above ourselves.
 - c. Matthew 6:33 – Jesus must be our first priority.
 - d. Hebrews 10:24-25 – God expects us to faithfully attend worship services.

See Lesson Six for more on the commitment involved in being a Christian.

The price we pay in this life will be rewarded with eternal life in heaven. We will have the opportunity to sit at the feet of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ forever. It will truly be awesome!!

Why do you delay? (Acts 22:16)

- Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for your sins?
- Do you realize you have sin in your life, and are ready to repent and change the way you live?
- Are you willing to confess Jesus as your Lord by submitting your life to His commands?
- Will you obey the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins? (Acts 2:38)

If you have not obeyed the life and death commands given to us by God in His Word, you are lost. What decision do you need to make at this time?

The walk of faith continues after we obey God's plan of Salvation. As Christians, we are making a lifetime commitment to God. Christ must be our life! These verses will help you as you begin your walk with Christ.

1 The Walk of Faith Continues!

- a. **Romans 16:26** – We must be obedient to God in our faith.
- b. **Luke 9:23-26** – Living for Christ is a daily commitment.

2. You Must Grow Spiritually!

- a. **Ephesians 4:11-16** – We must grow in our Bible knowledge.
- b. **Colossians 1:28-29** – We must show Christ in our lives.

3. God Wants You to Fulfill Your Role in His Church!

- a. **Acts 2:38-47** – When we are baptized, we are added to the number (church) by the Lord. This brings on responsibility!
- b. **Hebrews 10:24-25** – God expects you to faithfully attend worship services so that you can encourage others.
- c. **1 Corinthians 12:12-26** – We as Christians are members of Christ's Body. We have a responsibility to Christ and to all the other members of the Body.

4. God Wants You to be on Guard Against False Teachers!

- a. **Galatians 1:6-10** – We must stand for the gospel of Christ.
- b. **1 Timothy 4:1-11** – God has said there will be people that teach different things than what He has written in His word.
- c. **2 Timothy 4:1-5** – We must be led entirely by God.

5. God Wants You to Worship Him as He has Commanded!

- a. **John 4:24** – We must worship God in Spirit and in truth.
- b. **Hebrews 12:28-29** – We must worship God with reverence and awe.

6. God wants You to Teach Others the Gospel of Christ!

- a. **Matthew 28:18-20**
- b. **Mark 16:15-16**

Will you commit to meeting once a week, and studying more about God so that you can grow in your Christian walk?