

BCC | LJUBLJANA | 2007



# Kršćanstvo 101

## CHRISTIANITY 101 - BIBLE STUDY

1. WHO IS JESUS.....	3
2. THE PROBLEM OF SIN – WHY DID JESUS DIE.....	5
3. SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.....	8
4. WHY AND HOW TO READ THE BIBLE.....	11
5. WHY AND HOW TO PRAY .....	13
6. HOW GOD LEADS US.....	17
7. WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM AND WHY .....	20
8. PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	22
9. HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT .....	26
10. HOW CAN I RESIST EVIL.....	29
11. WHY AND HOW CAN I EVANGELIZE .....	32
12. IS GOD HEALING TODAY .....	35
13. WHAT IS THE CHURCH AND MY RESPONSIBILITIES .....	38

## **INTRODUCTION**

When we first come in contact with Jesus as our personal savior it is vital that we have our foundations for Christian thinking and living shaped by scripture. Scripture is intended to shape our view of the world and thus moderate our actions and behavior within it. We see the example of Jesus himself who choose 12 followers and carefully taught them for three years. Paul followed this example by taking believers to the school of Tyrannus for two years (Acts 19:9). This course is written as a tool for teachers and mentors to lead those wishing to obtain a broad introductory view of Christian doctrine, by identifying particular scriptures important in the early stages of the Christians life.

History's annuals are full of people who have drifted off in erroneous lifestyles and beliefs. This occurs simply because they did not use the complete scriptural cannon as the manual for living. To identify small texts of scripture and draw particular inferences without being guided by the entire scripture is to produce unstable individuals. The Bible is "inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness" (2 Tim 3:16). As such it must be read as one book and allowed to interpret itself.

This is designed to be used by mature Christian believers as a guide to walk people through a rudimentary understanding of the Christian faith. For best use we should encourage group discussion and then allow the scripture to speak and inform our actions. Today we all encounter questions and difficulty, through the use of group discussion to open up real life situations, causes and motivations we are then able to apply scripture as ointment upon the sores of incorrect thinking. Most of all we should enjoy in one another's presence as we gather around the name of Christ to discover Him.

Each subject commences with "Opening Questions," which are designed to create a context for the discussion. Some appropriate verses, but by no means all, are listed to assist in following the discussion and allowing the Scripture to speak and inform our conclusions. The Additional Study questions at the end of the discussion are designed to be of a more theological nature inviting future discussion and practical application of the theological conclusions.

# 1. WHO IS JESUS

---

## OPENING QUESTIONS TO SET THE CONTEXT

- Was Jesus a good man?
  - Was Jesus a great moral teacher?
  - Was Jesus a prophet?
  - Was Jesus God?
  - What do you think about Jesus?
- 

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS?

- ▣ The writers of scripture are consistent with the view that Jesus is God in the flesh  
**John 1:1**, *“In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word became flesh.”*
- ▣ Jesus was accorded the rights of being involved in creation, as God. **Heb 1:2**, *“...through whom [Jesus] also He [God] made the world.”*
- ▣ The Son is addressed in the Psalms as God before he came into the world **Heb 1:8**, which is a quotation of Psalm 45:6.
- ▣ The Bible says that the Son is the image of God. **Colossians 1:15**.

## GOD SAID ABOUT JESUS?

- ▣ At the Baptism of Jesus all four Gospels are clear to point out this one aspect. *“This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”* Matt 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22.
- ▣ At the Mount Transfiguration, God said that Jesus was his son. A Son is of the same substance. **Mark 9:7**.

## WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT HIMSELF?

- ▣ While Jesus did not make the explicit claim that “I am God.” What he did say about himself was understood by the Jews as him saying that He is God.
- ▣ **Matt 13:41** Jesus said that he would send “his angels.”
- ▣ **Mark 2:5** *“My son your sins are forgiven.”* The reaction of the scribes shows that they understood only God could forgive, thus they accused Jesus of blasphemy.
- ▣ **Mark 2:27-28** Jesus claimed authority over the Sabbath. The Sabbath was sacred since God’s established it in his laws (**Ex 20:8-11**), only God could modify this decree.
- ▣ **John 14:7-9** Jesus claimed relationship to the Father, *“If you had known me you would have known My Father also...”*

- 
- ▶ The reason that Jesus was crucified by the Jews, was that he committed blasphemy in claiming to be God. **Mark 14: 61-64.**

### WHAT JESUS' DISCIPLES SAY?

- ▶ **Matt 16:16** Peter answered Jesus that he was “*The Christ the son of the living God.*”
- ▶ **John 20:28** Thomas after seeing Jesus exclaimed, “*My Lord and my God.*”
- ▶ All disciples lived with Jesus, followed him, and seen him die and then saw him in his risen form. All disciples except for perhaps John went on to die a martyrs death. Would you die for something that you thought was a hoax, a joke, a trick? No!
- ▶ The evidence of the resurrection also points to Christ's deity

---

### Additional Study Question - The God/Man

Was Jesus fully Human?

Was Jesus fully God?

What are the Implications of the deity of Christ for us?

What are the Implications of the humanity of Christ for us?

### Deity –

- ▶ We can have knowledge of God (**John 14:9**)
- ▶ Redemption is available to us because the death of perfect God was sufficient for all.
- ▶ God and humanity can be reunited (refer later study)
- ▶ Worship of Christ is appropriate.

### Humanity -

- ▶ Jesus can be our example
- ▶ **Hebrew 2:18** because he was tempted he is able to help those being tempted
- ▶ **Hebrews 4:15** because he was tempted in every way and overcome we know that it is possible to live a holy life.
- ▶ Human nature is good, its desires are also good but must be satisfied the correct way. We are born with a sinful nature which is a propensity towards evil.
- ▶ If God could love among us at one time, this shows his love and care for his creation.

---

## 2. THE PROBLEM OF SIN – WHY DID JESUS DIE

---

### OPENING QUESTIONS TO SET THE CONTEXT

- Why do bad things happen to good people?
  - Why is there so much suffering in the world?
  - How did Evil [Sin] come into the world?
  - What is the cause of sin?
- 

### SATAN'S ENMITY WITH GOD

- ▣ What is the cause of sin? *Is 14:12-13.*

### SATAN'S USED A SERPENT TO ENTICE EVE [Steps to deception]

- ▣ Questioning Gods word: "Did God really say?" Questioning Gods word, doubt
- ▣ Adding to or changing God's word: "You should not touch it or you will surly die." (*Gen 3:3*), Gods instruction to man (*Gen 2:17*).
- ▣ Rejecting God's word as authority: "You will surly not die."
- ▣ Partial truth: "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing God and evil" (*Gen 3:6*). It was not God's intention that man would have moral knowledge and then judge. God is the judge, man was not to judge one another.
- ▣ Allowing Pride to influence:

### SATAN UNDERSTANDS THE HUMAN NATURE AND OUR DESIRES

- ▣ "The women saw that the food was good." Physiological needs of the body.
- ▣ "And it was a delight to the eyes." Psychological needs, need to have [relatedness].
- ▣ "And that the tree was desirable to make one wise." This appeals was made to achievement and self actualization, or Spiritual needs.

#### **Rom 5:12-13**

12 "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

#### **Rom 3:23-24**

23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

---

## WHAT WAS THE RESULT ON THE EARTH OF SIN

- ▶ The earth was cursed (natural disasters, earthquakes, floods etc happen)
- ▶ People were born with a sinful nature (People make bad choices and others suffer the consequences of these).

## WHAT IS SIN?

- ▶ In the Old Testament the Law was Given to Moses?
- ▶ In the New Testament Jesus raised the standard?
  - **Matt 5:28** Jesus said if we desire something sinful in our hearts then we have already sinned.
  - **James 4:17** To him who knows good and does not do it for him it is a sin.
- ▶ Sin is therefore words, thoughts, and deeds which are against the will of God.

## WHY DID JESUS NEED TO DIE?

- ▶ God desired a blood sacrifice to pay for sin.
  - In the Old Testament, the day of atonement was a day every year when the High priest would go into the Holy of Holies and offer sacrifice for the sins of the people. Refer the law of the sin offering (**Lev 4; 23:26**)
- ▶ Animal sacrifices were insufficient.
  - Animal sacrifices were always one off sacrifices and were insufficient, they were not a perfect sacrifice
  - In **Isaiah 52:13-53:12** God foretells 700 years before Christ, of the coming of his son.
  - **Romans 8:3** the law was inadequate
- ▶ Jesus completed the law.
  - Christ put an end to the law by completing it by fulfilling the law, sin was defeated.
  - **1 John 2:2** and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world."

## SIN NO LONGER HAS CONTROL OVER THE CHRISTIAN

- ▶ **Romans 6:16:** We are no longer slaves to sin, **1 Cor 10:13** and no temptation is greater than we are able to bear. We do not have to sin any more!

---

### Additional Study Questions

What do other religious belief systems say about the cause of evil and suffering?  
Do other religions believe in a form of salvation?  
Are there desires for evil?

- 
- **Marxism** (Atheists) say that evil and suffering is a result of a lack of education. Educate people to be tolerant and understanding suffering will be reduced (salvation). What is your answer!
  - **Islam** - believes that Muhammad will judge people and those whose good deeds outweigh the bad will get into heaven. Do good deeds cover bad deeds?
  - **Buddhism** - evil comes from human desire, the way to be saved is to eradicate human desire, when nirvana is obtained. Released from illusion and becomes one.
  - **Hinduism** - (Polytheistic system), evil is because of ignorance, salvation comes as one is detached from one's ego. Merge into oneness and the individual disappears.
  - **Shinto** - Evil occurs because the *kami* are offended. Shinto believers can fulfill their duty following their own life's agenda. Following principles of purification gains good graces from the *kami*.
  - **Taoism** - Tao is a personal force in existence beyond differentiation. Evil occurs because humanity does not align itself by the way. Non-alignment creates disorder. Become aware of the way Tao operates and align to it. Afterlife a person ceases to exist but lives in the remembrance of family.
  - **Judaism**
  - **The New Age**
  - **Animism** - God exists but it is impossible to know him, spirits are intermediaries between us and God. There are differences here but most common is that for salvation to occur you must have the right relationship with the spirit world who will lead you to the correct place.

Desires were given to mankind by God, before the fall. The issue is that the desires must be satisfied in God?

### 3. SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

---

#### OPENING QUESTIONS TO SET THE CONTEXT

Can you be sure of salvation?  
How can one be saved?  
What if God doesn't love me?  
What if God wouldn't accept me?  
Can you lose your Salvation?

How can I live in the grace of God?

---

#### SALVATION IS ONLY THROUGH ACCEPTING JESUS.

##### **1 John 5:12**

*12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

##### **2 Cor 5:17**

*17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

##### **John 1:11-13**

*12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*

#### JESUS PROMISES TO COME IN A LIVE WITH US.

##### **Rev 3:20**

*20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

##### **Matt 28:20**

*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

##### **John 10:28-29**

*28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.*

---

## GOD'S SON IS SUFFICIENT FOR ALL?

### **John 3:16**

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

### **Isa 53:6**

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

### **1 Peter 2:24-25**

25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## JESUS TOOK THE SIN OF THE WORLD UPON HIS SHOULDERS

### **Mark 15:34**

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

## BELIEVING THE TRUTH AND LIVING WITHOUT GUILT

### **John 8:32**

32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

### **Rom 8:1**

8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

## LEARNING TO WALK ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT, OR EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

### **Rom 8:9-10**

9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

## EXPERIENCE THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

### **Gal 5:22-23**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

### **Rom 8:14-17**

15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of son-ship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children,

---

*then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

## STEPS TO SALVATION – TO RECEIVE CHRIST

**(1) ADMIT** – I am a sinner “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” **Rom 3:23**

**(2) REPENT** – Be willing to turn from sin, living for self, to living for God. **Luke 13:5**  
“I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

**(3) BELIEVE** – Believe is not only to accept, but to place our hope and trust in Jesus, to live according to his way. **John 8:24** “...if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins.”

**(4) CONFESS** – Live a life as a Christian. **Rom 10:8-9** “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

---

## ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

What does grace mean?

### **Grace**

God deals with humans not on the basis of their merit, but on the basis of what they need. Grace is part of God’s nature and therefore he deals with us on the basis of part of his character, and of his goodness and generosity. God’s grace is not benevolence, it is the sense that God acts unselfishly to give grace and then demand love in return, thus it would be favors.

We must participate in Grace. If God lives in us he also lives in the lives of other Christians. That means if we do not participate with Christ who is also living in other believers then we are not actually participating with Christ in others. What it means to participate with Christ and others

- Through Forgiveness
- Through Fellowship
- Through Love

God gives us enough grace for each day.

## 4. WHY AND HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

---

### OPENING QUESTIONS TO SET THE CONTEXT

- What is the Bible?
- How Did the Bible come to us?
- Is it Gods word?
- Is it relevant today?

### Ps 1:1-2

*Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinners  
or sit in the seat of mockers.  
2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

---

### BIBLE IS 100% WRITTEN BY PEOPLE AND 100% GOD'S WORD

### WRITTEN OVER 1500 YEARS BY 40 DIFFERENT PEOPLE ALL SAYING THE SAME THING

### FORMATION OF BIBLE

- . Canonization
- . Started 2 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 34 with Huldah the women prophet
- . NT written by Eyewitnesses
- . Accept by the early church fathers

### IT IS GODS WORD

- Jesus affirms it, by quoting from it, it is written, reading the prophet Isaiah
- Paul affirms it 2 Tim 3:16

### IS IT AUTHENTIC

- . Numbers of copies
- . Miracles
- . The story itself (If it was a made up story Jesus would not have appeared to women first)
- . Quotes from other authors in antiquities
- . Also told in other books Josephus

---

## IT HAS AUTHORITY 2 TIM 3:16

### GODS WORD HAS POWER

#### **Rom 1:16-17**

*6 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

When our conscience is burnt the law reminds us of what sin is, the law (Bible) convicts us or points us towards sin that we may repent and refresh our conscience.

#### **Rom 7:11-12**

*11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. 12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.*

### HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

- a. Systematically
- b. Bible Study
- c. Every Day

---

### ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

How do we recognize what is sin?

What about inerrancy?

- e. Inerrancy is a foundational plank of the Christian faith
- f. Three types of inerrancy (**1. Absolute inerrancy** [historically and scientifically correct], **2. Full inerrancy** [historically but not scientifically], and **3. Limited inerrancy** [infallible in salvific doctrinal reference, but the Bible does not purport to teach science and history]).

What about apparent contradictions

- d. Numbers and the accounts un exodus
- d. Matthew & Acts tell the death of Judas differently

## 5. WHY AND HOW TO PRAY

---

### Opening Questions to set the Context

What do we think about prayer?

How do we pray?

Is it important?

What does it do for us?

---

### WHO DO WE PRAY TO

- ▣ Pray to God

**Eph 2:18**

*18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

**Matt 6:9; Luke 11:2**

*“Our Father in Heaven.” ... “Father Hallowed be your name.”*

- ▣ In the name of Jesus, it is because or through Jesus that we come to the Father, otherwise we could not talk to Him.

**John 14:14**

*14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

### PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

- ▣ Guided by the Holy Spirit.

**Rom 8:26-27**

*26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*

### WHAT TIME TO PRAY

**Mark 1:35-36**

*35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

**Ps 5:3**

*3 In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice;  
in the morning I lay my requests before you  
and wait in expectation.*

---

**Dan 6:10**

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

**Mark 6:46**

46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

The Bible does not say when to pray (but Jesus, David, Daniel appear to have habits of praying in the morning before the start of **every** day)

## PRAY BEFOR DECISIONS

▣ **Jesus prayed before big decisions, choosing of the twelve**

**Luke 6:12-14**

12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. 13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

▣ **To bring peace**

**Phil 4:6-7**

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

## WHAT MOTIVES TO PRAY WITH

**Matt 6:5-8**

5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

## WHEN TO PRAY

**1 Thess 5:17-18**

17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- ▣ Daniel prayers (quick prayers in the presence of Kings and rulers)
- ▣ In times of need
- ▣ In times of joy
- ▣ In times of sorrow
- ▣ In time of struggle

---

## HOW TO PRAY

- ▣ Depends on circumstances
- ▣ Line prayers (This is only an example not the right way to pray, this type of prayer spends a few minutes on each line)

*Example of A Line Prayer from Matt 6:9-13:*

<i>"Our Father in heaven</i>	Acknowledge God as your Lord
<i>hallowed be your name,</i>	Acknowledge God and his greatness over all earth
<i>10 your kingdom come</i>	Pray that Gods kingdom reign would come,
<i>your will be done</i> <i>on earth as it is in heaven</i>	Pray that Gods will would be done in our lives. We pray God's will would be done first before we ask anything.
<i>11 Give us today our daily bread</i>	Partition God for your needs
<i>12 Forgive us our debts</i>	Seek forgiveness of sin
<i>as we also have forgiven our debtors.</i>	We can only truly forgive in Christ, therefore seek help with forgiveness.
<i>13 And lead us not into temptation,</i>	Help us to walk in moral and ethical purity
<i>but deliver us from the evil one.</i>	Keep us from harm

- ▣ Prayers, Another common method is:
  - Acknowledgement – God is King and Lord
  - Confession – Sin and reliance upon God
  - Petition – Make request be known to God
  - Thanksgiving – Give thanks that he will answer
- ▣ Centering Prayers, This is another form of prayer for intercession when we think of a word or situation and then pray of all the many things around the word or situation. For example we pray for: People in Slovenia to be saved
  - Prayer for believers to spread the Gospel
  - Pray for boldness of believers
  - Pray for opportunity of believers
  - Pray that believers prepare with clear Gospel presentation
  - Pray for events
  - Pray for churches
  - Pray for people to hear the Gospel
  - etc

### **Ps 32:8-9**

*8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;*

*I will counsel you and watch over you.*

*9 Do not be like the horse or the mule,*

*which have no understanding*

*but must be controlled by bit and bridle*

*or they will not come to you.*

---

## WHAT HAPPENS IF MY PRAYER DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE BEING ANSWERED

Check List:

- ▣ Ask according to Gods will (**1 John 5:14**)
- ▣ Do not ask for selfish desires (**James 4:3**)
- ▣ Sin can prevent God from hearing (**1 John 3:21-23**)
- ▣ It is not God's timing (Jesus knew perfect timing in order to glorify God)
- ▣ God knows that this thing is not for your benefit
- ▣ To strengthen faith (**Mark 11:24**)
- ▣ Persevere in the faith (**Luke 18:1-8**)
- ▣ Do not doubt (**Mark 11:23; James 1:6-7**)

### **John 15:16**

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."*

### **John 16:23-24**

*"I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."*

## DAILY DEVOTION

- ▣ Scripture, reading meditation, studying
- ▣ Prayer
  
- ▣ Prayer lists
- ▣ Prayer goals
- ▣ Prayer groups

---

## ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

What is the "prosperity gospel"? This is a common teaching that suggests that God's purpose for Christians is that they prosper financially, in that they are rich.

- ▣ Why is this a deception?
  - Jesus did not die a rich man
  - Paul was not rich
  - Paul left Trophimus sick in Miletus (**2 Tim 4:20**).
  - Gods promise is to be with you, there is no promise in scripture that you will be rich or always healthy on this earth.

## 6. HOW GOD LEADS US

---

### OPENING QUESTIONS TO SET THE CONTEXT

Many people say, if God would just speak then I would follow?  
Are we following the voice of the Lord?  
How do we recognize God's voice?

---

*John 15:15-16*

*15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

*Col 1:9*

*9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking **God to fill you with the knowledge of his will** through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.*

What is spiritual wisdom as opposed to worldly wisdom?

Knowledge knows how to do things, Wisdom understands the consequences of your actions.

**1 Cor 1:18-19**

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:*

*"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."*

### GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIS WILL

**Eph 5:17**

*Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*

### GOD HAS A PLAN

**Eph 2:6-7**

*6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

**Jer 29:11**

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

**Phil 1:6**

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

**EACH PERSON HAS GIFTS**

1 Cor 12:7

1 Cor 12:12

1 Peter 4:10

**GOD PROMISES TO DIRECT US**

*Prov 16:9*

*9 In his heart a man plans his course,  
but the LORD determines his steps.*

*Ps 37:4*

*4 Delight yourself in the LORD  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

**DIFFICULTIES WILL COME**

**1 Cor 16:9**

**Rom 12:2**

**SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL**

▣ The Cost (**Luke 9:23; Gal 2:20**)

- Desire to follow God will manifest itself in us through
  - Commitment to Availability
  - Commitment to Obedience
- Isaiah (**Is 20:3**)
- Hosea (**Hosea 1:2**)
- Saul killed the righteous prophets (**1 Samuel 21**)

▣ Be Flexible

- There was only one burning bush (**Ex 3**)
- There was only one red sea crossing (**Ex 19**)
- There was only one incident of the wall of Jericho falling (**Jos 6**)
- There was only once the sun stood still (**Jos 10:12-14**)
- There was only one Goliath (**1 Sam 17**)
- Etc etc

## WAITING

**Heb 6:15**  
**Roman 8:28**

## STEPS TO HEARING GOD

1. Commit to doing Gods will (**Rom 12:1-2**)
2. Recognize God has a plan (**Jer 29:11; Ps 32:8**)
3. God promises to put His will in us (**Ps 37:4**)
4. We will have peace about in (**Is 26:3**)
5. God will provide the was (**Matt 19:26**)

---

## ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

How does God speak to us?  
How do I know if it is God speaking?

## 7. WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM AND WHY

---

### OPENING QUESTIONS TO SET THE CONTEXT

- What is Baptism?
  - Why do Christians get baptized?
  - Is it important for me to be baptized?
- 

### JESUS TOLD US TO

#### **Matt 28:19**

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

- ▣ Jesus was Baptized

#### **Luke 3:21-22**

*21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

- ▣ The disciples were baptized
- ▣ The early church converts (Acts) were baptized

### THE WORD USED FOR BAPTISM

**bapti,zw** baptizo {bap-tid'-zo} 1) To immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk) 2) to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe 3) to overwhelm

The meaning of the Greek word used for baptism did not mean sprinkle, but full emersion in the water.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Century culture**

It is a public declaration of ones intention to follow a pattern of beliefs and behaviors

Many Rabi or Teachers baptized their own people

### SYMBOLIC

#### **Col 2:11-12**

*In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ,*

---

12 *having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

*Gal 2:20*

*20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Died, Buried, and Raised again into life

## **PRODUCE FRUIT**

▣ John the Baptists told the Pharisees to produce fruit in keeping with repentance, and then be baptized.

*Matt 3:6-9*

*6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.*

*7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*



## **ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS**

Do you have to be baptized to be saved? (Luke 23:43)

What about infant baptism?

- The word
- Baptism is a public declaration, can a baby do this?
- Can you be saved through another, or will you stand before God as an individual?
- Baptism is a symbolic representation of dying to self and being raised to live for Christ, can one without understanding do this?

## 8. PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

---

### OPENING QUESTIONS TO SET THE CONTEXT

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
  - What does He do?
  - Is He a person?
  - What about worship?
- 

### HOLY SPIRIT IS FULLY GOD

- ▣ **1 Cor 3:16; 6:19** Paul uses God and the Holy Spirit interchangeably
- ▣ **The Holy Spirit possess attributes of God**
  - Omniscience (**1 Cor 2:10-11**) "The H.S. searches everything"
  - Guide into all truth (**John 16:13**)
  - Power of the H.S (**Luke 1:35; Rom 15:19**)
  - Convicts of sin (**John 16:8-11**)
  - Regenerates (**John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5**)
  - He is eternal (**Heb 1:10-12**)
  - Involved in Creation, (**Gen 1; Ps 104:30**)
  - Raised Jesus (**Rom 8:11**)
- ▣ **Has a Personality**
  - Masculine pronoun is used to describe the H.S
  - The Spirit glorifies another member of the Trinity (**John 16:14**)
  - Linked with the Father and the Son (**Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14**)
  - Has intelligence, will and emotions (**John 14:26; 1 Cor 12:11; Eph 4:30**)
  - It is possible to lie to the H.S. (**Acts 5:3-4**)
  - Grieve or offend the H.S. (**Eph 4:30; 1 The 5:19**)
  - Engages in moral actions (**Rom 8:26; John 16:8**)

### IS AN EQUAL MEMBER OF THE TRINITY

- ▣ Paul uses God and the Holy Spirit interchangeably (**1 Cor 3:16; 6:19**)

### CAN TAKE A BODILY FORM

- ▣ The Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. (**Luke 3:22**)

## OLD TESTAMENT

▣ **Enabled, or gave ability**

**Ex 31:2-5** (first time Holy Spirit is mentioned as empowering or infilling a person)

2 "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- 4 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze."

▣ **Came upon People from Time to time to give abilities**

**Judg 6:34** (Gideon)

*Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon,*

**Judg 15:14** (Sampson)

*The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands.*

▣ **Was Promised**

**Jer 31:31-34**

*A promise of the new covenant of the law in the hearts of man.*

**Ezek 36:26-27**

*26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

**Joel 2:28-29**

*28'And afterward,*

*I will pour out my Spirit on all people.*

*Your sons and daughters will prophesy,*

*your old men will dream dreams,*

*your young men will see visions.*

*29 Even on my servants, both men and women,*

*I will pour out my Spirit in those days.*

## NEW TESTAMENT WORK OF HOLY SPIRIT

▣ Indwells believers **John 14:16-17**

▣ Leads believers into Truth **John 16:13-14**

▣ Sanctifies believers

- Gifts of the Spirit (evidence of the continual work of sanctification) **Gal 5:22**

▣ Directs

**Acts 15:28**

*28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:*

---

**Acts 1:16**

16 and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus-

**Rom 8:14-15**

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

- ▣ Gave Peter Courage

**Acts 2:14**

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

- ▣ Convicted of Sin

**Acts 2:37**

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

- ▣ Gives Gifts

- 1 Cor 12:4-11
  - Wisdm
  - Knowledge
  - Faith
  - Healing
  - Miracles
  - Prophecy
  - Distinguishing spirits
  - Various Tongues
  - Interpreting tongues
- Romans 12:6-8
  - Prophecy
  - Service
  - Teaching
  - Exhortation
  - Giving
  - Leading
  - Mercy

---

 **ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS**

What are the offices to the church Eph 4:11?

Why are they different from the gifts?

What about grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30; 1 Thess 5:19)?

- ▣ Offices to the Church, These are ministries in the church and different from individual gifts. Ephesians 4:11
- Apostles

- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastors
- Teachers

**Eph 4:30**

*30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

**Rom 8:9-10**

*9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

**Acts 16:7**

*7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.*

---

## 9. HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

---

### OPENING QUESTIONS TO SET THE CONTEXT

Is the Holy Spirit for every person?

Does everyone have to receive the H.S?

Does God still love a person who is not filled with the Holy Spirit?

Am I not filled with the Holy Spirit when I am saved?

Weren't the Disciples filled with the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed upon them (**John 20:22**)?

---

### HOLY SPIRIT WAS PROMISED

▣ Old Testament, (**Ezek 36:26-27, Joel 2:28**)

▣ New Testament (refer last weeks study)

▣ Jesus promised (**John 14: 16**)

*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.”*

### JESUS SAID YOU WILL DO GREATER WORKS THAN I

It is the Holy Spirit in us who does the works

(**John 14:12**)

*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

### THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DISCIPLES

1. Disciples were saved when Jesus breathed upon them, they could not be saved until Jesus had died and paid the price for the sins, **John 20:22**.
2. Disciples were baptized.
3. Disciples all received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, **equipped to be witnesses**.
4. Holy Spirit stayed with them for their lives, Acts shows that they continued to be filled.

### THE EXPERIENCE OF PAUL (**Acts 9:2-18**)

1. Paul was saved on the road to Damascus when Jesus met him, and he acknowledged Jesus as Lord.

2. Paul receive the Holy Spirit (**Acts 9:17-19**)

3. Then Paul was the Baptized in water.

### THE EXPERIENCE OF THOSE IN THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS (**Acts 10:44-48**)

1. They were believers before Peter arrived.

2. While Peter was preaching the Holy Spirit fell upon them.

3. After the Holy Spirit fell on them they where baptized.

### SPEAKING IN TONGUES

γλῶσσα glossa {gloce-sah'}

1) The tongue, a member of the body, an organ of speech.

2) The language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations.

Promised in Isaiah 28:11, when he used Hebrew word לִשׁוֹן lashown {law-shone'} which describes a language or tongue of men. People were mocking Isaiah as a babler of a strange language and therefore God said through Isaiah that he will speak to people with a strange tongue. (Refer also 1 Cor 14:21, where Paul uses this reference). Speaking in Tongues was also promised also by Jesus in Mark 16:17.

- In the Acts when people were filled they all spoke in tongue
- **Acts 2:4**
- **Acts 10:46**
- **Acts 19:6**

### WHAT IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES

- Praising God in other languages (**Acts 2:8; 10:46**)
- For edification Praying when we do not know what to pray (**Romans 8:26; 1 Cor 14:4**)
- Prophecy for interpretation (**1 Cor 14:13, 26-28**)

### THREE TYPES OF TONGUES

- Edification (**1 Cor 14:4**)
- Other languages (**Acts 2:8**)
- To be interpreted as prophecy (**1 Cor 14:13**)

### HOW DOES ONE RECEIVE THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Seek

- Ask
- Believe
- Walk in faith

**Luke 11:11-13**

11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

---

 **ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS**

Didn't the works of the Holy Spirit leave when the last disciple die, I mean the great signs in Acts were only required for the birth of the church?

Does there have to be great experience when a person receives the infilling of the Holy Spirit?

Do you have to be baptized in water before you can be baptized in the Holy Spirit?

## 10. HOW CAN I RESIST EVIL

---

### Opening Questions to set the Context

Why are there so many struggles in life?  
Why do I find it difficult to do the right thing?

---

### UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE BATTLE

#### **Eph 6:11-13**

*11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

### THE CAUSE OF THE BATTLE

#### **Isa 14:12-13**

*12 How you have fallen from heaven,  
O morning star, son of the dawn!  
You have been cast down to the earth,  
you who once laid low the nations!  
13 You said in your heart,  
"I will ascend to heaven;  
I will raise my throne  
above the stars of God;  
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,  
on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.*

### OVERCOMING EVIL

#### **Temptations**

**Matt 4:1-11**

**1 Peter 5:8-11**

*8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

---

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

▣ **Purpose and source of temptations**

**John 10:10**

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

**2 Cor 4:4-5**

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

▣ **Where do you place your hope?**

1 Tim 6:17-19

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

▣ **Christ released us from bondages which snares us**

Col 1:13-14

13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Col 2:15

15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Luke 10:17

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

**PUT ON THE COMPLETE ARMOR**

**Eph 6:14-18**

14 Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the **gospel of peace**. 16 In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. 18 And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of

---

prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

## WIN THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND

### **2 Cor 10:5-6**

5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

### **Phil 4:8**

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

---

## ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTION

Is it possible to be Holy

## BE HOLY AS I AM HOLY

### **1 Peter 1:14-16**

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

This is a quote from the Old Testament Law

### **Lev 11:44**

44 I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.

Remember Jesus said, it

### **Mark 7:15-21**

15 Nothing **outside a man can make him 'unclean'** by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'"

17 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. 18 "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? 19 For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.")

20 He went on: "**What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.'**"

The law relates to food taken in

The New Testament, relates to behaviors which make him unclean Stud Lev 11 and look at the behaviors of the four types of animals to be avoided.

## 11. WHY AND HOW CAN I EVANGELIZE

---

### Opening Questions to set the Context

- What is my purpose?
  - What is the message that I should give?
  - What is a testimony?
  - How do I preach to people who will not listen?
- 

### PURPOSE

- ▣ Man is God's highest creation and as such his purpose is to glorify God. Man was man for God's pleasure (**Rev 4:11**) God takes pleasure in his people (**Ps 149:4**).
- ▣ God knew you before the foundations of the world where formed (**Psalm 139:13-16**).
- ▣ Bringing pleasure to God is called worship, we worship God with everything we do.
- ▣ Worship is not part of our life, it is our life (**Ps 105:4; Ps 113:3**).
- ▣ Because God made man he desires to have relationship with all (John 3:16), His desires should become our desires.

### THE GREAT COMMISSION

#### **Matt 28:18-20**

*19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

#### **Matt 5:13**

*13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.*

### HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

- ▣ As an example
- ▣ As a witness, a living witness

#### **Matt 5:14-16**

*14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

## WINNING PEOPLE WITH OUR GOOD DEEDS

### **1 Peter 3:1-3**

3:1 *Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.*

## BE PREPARED WITH YOUR TESTIMONY, OF THE WITNESS OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE. HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT GOD IS GOD TO YOU (you individual testimony)?

- Each Christian has their own unique testimony of how they know that Jesus is their Lord, we need to be able to verbalize this?

### **1 Peter 3:15-16**

15 *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

### **Rom 8:16-17**

16 *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

### **2 Cor 5:11-12**

11 *Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.*

## HOW CAN WE BRING PEOPLE TO JESUS (IN CONTACT WITH JESUS)?

### **John 1:39-42**

39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

*So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.*

40 *Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.*

## WHAT IS THE ESSENTIAL MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL

### **Mark 1:14-15**

15 *"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

### **Acts 2:36-39**

36 *"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

---

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## WHY IS IT NOT ALWAYS EASY TO SPEAK TO PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS

### **2 Cor 4:4-6**

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

### **Gal 6:9**

9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

### **Rom 1:16**

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

## IN ORDER TO EVANGELIZE

- Jesus must be real to us
- We must be living in close covenant relationship with him
- We must be growing
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to be God's witnesses

---

## ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

What is my experience evangelizing?

What happens when I approach people and they reject me?

How can I participate in Evangelism?

What if I do not feel that my gift is that of an Evangelist?

## 12. IS GOD HEALING TODAY

---

### Opening Questions to set the Context

- Do miracles happen today?
  - Do you believe in miracles?
- 

#### **Ex 23:25-26**

*5 Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you,*

#### **Ps 41:3**

*3 The LORD will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness.*

### THE PURPOSE OF JESUS MIRALES

#### Glorify God

#### **John 5:19-20**

*19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.*

### PRIVILEGE OF ALL CHRISTAINS

#### Walking in divine health is the privilege of all believers

*Isaiah 53:4-5;*

*Matthew 8: 16, 17;*

*James 5:14, 15*

Where did sickness originate? Where does it come from when we get sick today? Originally, sickness and death came upon the human family because of sin (**Romans 5:12**). Satan is the author of disease and death. God is the author and giver of life and health. In the Gospel of John, Jesus states that the devil "has come to steal, kill, and destroy; but I am come that you might have life, and life more abundantly" (**John 10:10**).

---

## NATURE OF GOD

- ▣ Attributes of God's nature is recognized by his name.

**Ex 15:26**

*6 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."*

יהוה רפא Yehovah raphah = The Lord who heals or The Lord our healer

**2 Kings 5:** Tells the story of the healing of Naaman, God is healing, and he heals in different ways. Washing in the Jordan (Hebrew river) would have been a little offensive to Naaman. God's healing comes on his terms not ours.

**Iz 38:1-5** God added 15 years to Hezekiah's life

## JESUS TEACHING – KINGDOM OF GOD - Mark 1:15

- ▣ The Kingdom of God is a realm or Kingdom which us ruled by a King (God)
- ▣ The Kingdom of Heaven is here in part (salvation and freedom from sin), but not yet in full.
- ▣ Sickness and disease is part of the fallen world, not part of the Kingdom realm.

## CHRIST HEALING 25% OF GOSPELS – Mt 4:23; Mk 6:56

- ▣ Jesus was going through Galilee healing every kind of disease (**Matt 4:23**).

## CHRIST SENT 72, THEN 12, THEN ALL

- ▣ The disciples of Jesus healed

**John 14:12**

*12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

- ▣ Healing In The First Church  
Acts 3:1-10

## HEALING TODAY

The good news for you today is that Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan (**Acts 10:38; Luke 13:11-17; Hebrews 2:14,15; 1 John 3:8**)! Christ was made a curse for us in order that we could be free from the curse of sin, which includes sickness and disease (**Galatians 3:10-14**).

**Luke 1:37**

*37 For nothing is impossible with God."*

---

 **ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS**

If God does not heal me does that mean I have sin?  
What if my prayer for healing goes unanswered?

**John 9:1-3**

*9:1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"*

*3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."*

## 13. WHAT IS THE CHURCH AND MY RESPONSIBILITIES

---

### Opening Questions to set the Context

- What is the church?
  - Who is the head of the church?
  - Why did Paul appoint elders?
  - What is the function of elders?
  - Should I be part of a church?
  - What are my responsibilities?
  - Can I be baptized without being a member?
- 

### THE CHURCH IS A GROUP OF BELIEVERS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO CHRIST

#### ***Eph 2:19-21***

*19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

- they were first call "people of the way," in Antioch the were first called Christians (***Acts 11:26***)

### FIVE STEPS OF THE PRACTICES OF 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHURCH

1. People received a knowledge of God (conviction)
2. People accepted Jesus as savior (repentance)
3. Water Baptism (first 300 years of the church this process took about 2 years because of the persecution of the church).
4. Baptism in the Holy Spirit
5. Joining the local Body (commitment to believers to use gifts and talents)

### THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

- To grow believers
- To Evangelize the world

### GOD CHOSE THE CHURCH TO EXPRESS HIMSELF TO THE WORLD

- To evangelize
- To manifest his gifts, healing, wisdom, words of knowledge, encouragements etc.

- 
- ▣ The church is to prepare one another for the coming of Jesus

**Eph 3:10-11**

10 His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

**Eph 3:21**

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**Eph 5:23**

Christ is the head of the church

**Eph 5:25-26**

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Loves

Feeds

Washes

Protects

Clothes

**Eph 5:27**

27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

## CHURCH IS A PLACE FOR GROWTH

- ▣ Meetings

**Heb 10:24-25**

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- ▣ In the same way that a tree grows it must be planted to grow
- ▣ Trees go through seasons, growth, and dry times this tests commitment
- ▣ Reproducing causes pain, this pain if it can be endured and embraced together will cause growth to Gods body.

## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE CHURCH SERVICE

1. Teaching
2. Praise
3. Fellowship

## COMMITMENTS TO THE CHURCH

- ▣ Joining a church involves a commitment

**Luke 9:23-24**

23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. The cross to first century

---

Christians means a lot more to them than it does to us today. The Cross was the most cruel and painful form of death, what sort of commitment is this.

- ▣ What are our resources that we can choose to commit?
  - Time participating in meetings and activities
  - Commitment to one another in the church, everything we do in the church should serve the body not ourselves
  - Commitment to self learning and self improvement to take leadership positions in the future
  - Commitment with financial resources 10<sup>th</sup> plus offerings
  - Tithe is an Old Testament commandment, which continued on in the New Testament. The New Testament actually teaches that all belongs to God and we become stewards of all that he has given us. Tithe will bring blessing into your life.  
**Gen 14:18-20; Lev 27:30; Num 18:24; Matt 22:21; Matt 23:23; Luke 11:42; 1 Cor 16:1.**  
**2 Cor 9:7** So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

### **BENEFITS TO BELONGING TO PART OF CHRIST BODY**

- ▣ Ministry opportunities and opportunities to develop skills and talents.
- ▣ Friends and support network
- ▣ Church body is to help and encourage you in times of adversity
- ▣ Ownership and responsibility for church assets
- ▣ God promises blessings for those who contribute to his work and maintain a good example.

### **WHERE SHOULD I BECOME A MEMBER**

- ▣ Allow God to plant you somewhere, where the spirit leads you, be committed there and grow.
- ▣ Trees must be planted in order to grow
- ▣ Cooperate with God's body in the world
- ▣ Make sure you are in a place where you can learn, grow and have opportunities to contribute your gifts.

### **CHURCH MODELS**

- ▣ Episcopal
- ▣ Presbyterian
- ▣ Congregational
- ▣ No leaders (Spirit Led)

**BCC Ljubljana** (in three parts)

**Vision (1)** A place of God's presence [healing, refreshing, growth] **(2)** Lift up the name of Jesus to make his name famous and impacting our community **(3)** Discipling and releasing people into their ministry.

**Leadership:** How it functions, what you do if you have a idea, suggestion or problem?

**Opportunities for ministry:** What are your skills talents, what do you believe God wants you to accomplish for his ministry?

**DISCIPLINE**

- ▣ When you have a problem go to the person, do not go and tell another **(Matt 18:15-17)**.
  - ▣ If the problem persists then and only then may you go to another, mature believer.
  - ▣ If the problem remains go to church leadership.
  - ▣ Christian has responsibility to correct wrongs whether they committed the wrong, or the wrong was against them **(Matt 5:23)**.
-