

Guard the Gospel

INDIAN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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REVISED GUARD THE GOSPEL

These are the revised preliminary guard the gospel studies. You can use these studies in any order as you like, as our goal is to help the Seeker to know the basic foundations of truth. These studies may not be the only lessons to be taught to help the Seeker to become a Christian. We may need to use many other Scriptures to help them to change their heart for God. These studies by itself cannot be considered as an elaborate treatment on different topics we are teaching. We may include additional studies in the future.

This is the general order of studies that can be used to help the Seeker.

BEFORE BAPTISM - FOUNDATION STUDIES

STUDY	PURPOSE
1. Seeking God	To help the Seeker to be serious to seek God.
2. Who is God ? Φ	To introduce the God of the Scriptures to the seeker.
3. Jesus is God Φ	To teach about the deity of Christ.
4. Jesus' Teachings Φ	To introduce some of the teachings and claims of Christ.
5. Word of God *	To emphasize the importance of the hearing and studying the Bible to build our faith in Christ.
6. Sin *	To see the need for God and his forgiveness in the Seeker's life.
7. Cross *	To teach about God's plan of Grace through the cross for our salvation.
8. Repentance *	To teach about the need for a Biblical repentance as we understand grace.
9. Baptism *	To teach how to receive forgiveness and become a Christian.
10. Jesus is Lord *♣	To teach those who have put their faith in Jesus what the 'call to follow Jesus' really means.
11. Church *	Teaches God's plan of church for the new believer to sustain and practice his faith.

* Means compulsory studies to be taught to all.

Φ Means compulsory study for people from non-Christian background.

♣ Can be taught to Christian background people before Sin study.

All other studies are optional and you can use them as you see the need.

AFTER BAPTISM - MATURING STUDIES

Study	Purpose
1. Great Commission	Teaches what the mission of a Christian is.
2. Holy Spirit	Teaches the role and work of Holy Spirit in our lives as a new disciple.

SEEKING GOD

Purpose : Seeking God is a study to clarify what it takes to pursue a relationship with God.

Scriptures Used

Matthew 7:7, 13-14
 Luke 13:22-30
 Matthew 6:25-33
 Hebrews 11:6
 Matthew 13:44-46
 Acts 8:26-39

Matthew 7:7, 13-14

- One of the great promises of the Bible: everyone who seeks finds! Plus, one of the great warnings in the bible: only a few will find. If only a few find God, then how many actually seek Him?

Luke 13:22-30

- Ye, only a few will be saved; therefore, make every effort to seek. Those who simply 'try' will be caught off guard by their rejection from the kingdom of God. How can you make every effort to seek Him?

Matthew 6:25-33

- What are some worries or needs of life that can distract you from seeking God as your first priority? What changes must you make in order to make God's kingdom and righteousness your top priority?

Hebrews 11:6

- God rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Matthew 13:44-46

- Here is an example of someone who was willing to sacrifice everything he had to lay hold of the treasure of great value he found.

Acts 8:26-39

- Here's an example of a seeker who humbly puts God first, thus finding Him and finding great joy. Take note that the Ethiopian Eunuch was: a busy man, a man who needed another man's help to seek God, a man who used the Bible as his guide to find God.

Additional Helpful Scriptures:

- Acts 17:10-11
- Jeremiah 29:10-13
- Deuteronomy 4:28-31
- Acts 17:22-27
- II Chronicles 15:1-4
- Ecclesiastes 12:1,13-14
- Isaiah 55:6
- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Luke 19:1-10

WHO IS GOD ?

Purpose: The main aim of this study is to give people an idea of God in the Bible - He is a living God and not an Idol.

What is your image of God? Which God do you worship? These questions are just for you to know the Seekers background and beliefs. Let us see from the Bible who is God. Let us turn to Acts 17:24 and read.

1) Acts 17:24-30

v.24 [Who is God according to this scripture? God is the Creator]

[Where does God not live according to the Bible? God does not live in buildings, built by men. v.25 [Does God need anything from us? No. Why? Because he himself gives us everything.

v.26 [God made us and he set us in our places we live – Chennai, Mumbai etc. Why are you here now? It is God’s plan! Why is that? Because God’s WANTS for us to seek him, reach out to him and FIND him! God wants to have a Relationship with us.

Is he far from us, as some think he is on a mountaintop or across the ocean or even travel long distance on pilgrimage to find him? No. The Bible says he is near us. If we seek we will find him!]

v.28 [We are his offspring means what? That we are God’s Children. Do we have life? Yes. If we have life then what about God, whose children we are – is he living or dead? He is LIVING. Our God is a living God.]

v.29 [What does this mean? It means God is not a dead idol made by man’s design and skill. Who made us? God. Can we make God? No. That is what is happening, we can buy God in the market for a price. If the idol is of clay we can buy it for Rs.10, if it is painted Rs.100, if it is of Gold Rs.100,000 and if it has diamonds and jewelry on it, even Crores. But does the metal or the beauty of the idol make it God? No way. People are worshipping created things: statues, paintings, photos, sun, moon, snakes, etc. rather than the Creator himself!

v.30 [What does God expect from us once we know the truth about the Living God? He wants us to repent. To repent means to turn away. It means He wants us to stop worshipping Idols and have nothing to do with it anymore! What do you think about this for yourself?]

2) Psalms 135:15-17 This scripture talks about the fact that idols are lifeless.

a) Idols are made by men. So the question-can man make God? No! People are worshipping created things rather than the Creator himself.

Scriptures Used

Acts 17:24-30
Psalms 135:15-17
Jeremiah 10:5
Deuteronomy 5:8-9
1 Corinthians 10:14
Revelation 21:8
John 4:24

- b) Idols have different parts of the body, but cannot use them. They can’t respond to people’s prayer. We humans are better off than idols, atleast we can actually hear, see, understand and feel. But that does not make us God!
- c) Idols have no breath (life) in them.

3) Jeremiah 10:5

- a) Idols are like scarecrows in the field. The scarecrows can’t do anything yet the crows are scared of them. Idols cannot do anything to you, yet people are scared to give it up because of the superstitions and stories associated with them. Idols are powerless! DO not FEAR IDOLS.
- b) Idols have to be carried, because they cannot walk! If we have to help our God to walk what will happen to us weak humans!
- c) Do not fear idols. They cannot harm you! Throw away all superstitious beliefs regarding idols.

What are some superstitious beliefs you have?

Do you know what one of the Ten Commandments says specifically? Let us see in

4) Deut 5:8-9

God commands us not to make an idol in any form. Then very specifically God commands we should not bow down to any idols. Can we disobey God? No. We must stop worshipping any idols or paintings or person and only worship the Creator.

Even in the New Testament there are specific scriptures condemning Idolatry or Idol worship.

5) I Corinthians 10:14

Flee (run far away) from idol worship! Are you ready for that?

What do you do when you see a wild animal? You run, you flee, you never go there again!

6) Revelations 21:8

Here the idolaters are clubbed together with murderers and sexually immoral. Their fate is hell.

7) John 4:24

Here Jesus himself says that God is Spirit. It means God has no form. So we must not worship him in any form, because he has none.

CONCLUSION:

What did you learn today? How do you feel about the study? Does this study help you to see the truth about God? Do you want to learn more?

To please God you must completely give up idol worship. Are you willing to do that?

JESUS IS GOD

This is the second study to be done with Non-Christian background people.

Let me ask you some questions. Have you heard of Jesus? What do you know about Jesus?

Let me teach you about Jesus. This will help you to know who is Jesus.

1) Colossians 2:9

This scripture says that Jesus is God in the flesh. All that you see in God you see in Jesus. That means Jesus is God.

That means Jesus should have all the qualities of God in Heaven. We are going to see that in the following 3 passages.

2) Mark 4:35-41

C: Jesus has the power to control the wind and the waves.

Q: Who has the power to control natural forces? God. That means Jesus is God. He is All-powerful.

3) Mark 1:40-42

Jesus can HEAL any disease. He has power to heal any man.

Jesus like God is full of compassion. He loved the nobody's. He touched the leper. He has compassion on the poor.

4) Luke 7:36-39, 48-50

This woman was a very sinful woman because the whole town seemed to know about her sin.

Yet Jesus showed love and compassion to this woman. Jesus loves sinners!

Who alone can forgive sin? Only God can. Jesus forgave this woman like God. Who is Jesus? Jesus is God. He forgave this woman's sins. He can forgive all of your sins.

5) 1 John 3:5

Jesus came to take away our sins! Your sins and my sins.

Did Jesus do any sin in his life? No. In whom do we find no sin? God alone. Then who is Jesus? I believe he is God.

Only someone who is without sin can save somebody who is in sin.

To be God, He must be without any sin. Anyone who has even one sin cannot be God.

What about other gods? Are they without sin? Are they perfect? If they are not perfect can they be God?

Share about other gods, that even though they may do much good is not enough

Scriptures Used

Colossians 2:9

Mark 4:35-41

Mark 1:40-42

Luke 7:36-39,48-50

1 John 3:5

Deuteronomy 5:7

Acts 4:12

John 14:6

to be God. Because they are not perfect they cannot be called God.

6) Deuteronomy 5:7

God commands us not to worship any other Gods but one, because in the Bible there is only ONE God and not many gods!

7) Acts 4:12

Jesus is the only name by which the whole world can be saved. There is no other name!

Only through Jesus name you will be saved, you will go to Heaven.

8) John 14:6

Jesus is saying He is the WAY, The ONLY WAY. Means there is no other way to Heaven. You can try but there is no other way.

Jesus is the TRUTH, the complete TRUTH. All religions have some truth, but the complete truth you find in Jesus.

Jesus is the LIFE. Only through Jesus we have eternal life.

CONCLUSION:

Today what did you learn about Jesus? Who is Jesus? What about other gods? Do you want to follow Jesus? If YES, then you have to follow him only. You can't worship him and other gods at the same time.

What do people call those people who follow Jesus? Christians. What will people call you if you follow Jesus? Christian. You have to get comfortable with that.

JESUS' TEACHINGS

(A must to all people from A non-Christian background)

This study is entirely from the book of John. This study will help them to know the teachings and sayings of Jesus and develop a deeper conviction about Jesus.

1) John 3:1-5

Here we see that Jesus even taught the teachers! Jesus said, you have to be born again to enter God's Kingdom. Means you have to start your life all over again. Do you want to be born again? Well Jesus gives you a chance to start your life all over again!

2) John 3:16-18

God loved the whole world not only Christians! Jesus came for all people! Many people believe Jesus is a Christian God. But the Bible here says Jesus came for everybody in the whole world. God does not want anyone to perish (be destroyed). He wants all men from all backgrounds, caste, and religion to be saved. They can only be saved if they believe in Jesus.

3) John 5:5-6

This man has been suffering for 38 years. We have been suffering spiritually in sin for so many years. If Jesus came here and met you he would ask, "Do you want to get well"? Do you want to change? What would you say? This is probably your only chance in life. Don't miss this opportunity!

4) John 6:35

Jesus nourishes those who come to him. Jesus pointed to himself as the source of spiritual nourishment.

5) John 8:12

Jesus is the Light. If you follow Jesus you should come out of darkness completely. Are you today in darkness or in the light? If you are in the darkness Jesus can bring you into the light.

6) John 8:46

Jesus was without any sin! He openly challenged people to prove him guilty.

7) John 11:25

Jesus is the resurrection. He is promising eternal life. It is not reincarnation that Jesus is promising. Because after death there is only waiting for Judgment and no rebirth – **Heb 9:27**.

Scriptures Used

John 3:1-5
John 3:16-18
John 5:5-6
John 6:35
John 8:12
John 8:46
John 11:25
John 12:48
John 20:29
John 14:6

Jesus gives us the hope of resurrection, because he himself was raised from the dead. Jesus promises eternal life to all his followers.

8) John 12:48

The words Jesus spoke are going to judge us on the last day (the Judgment day). We have to be serious about not only reading and learning his words but also obeying them.

9) John 20:29

None of us have seen Jesus. If we believe in him we will be blessed. So put your trust in Jesus. Put your faith in Him!

10) John 14:6

Jesus is saying He is the WAY. The ONLY WAY. Means there is no other way to Heaven. You can try but there is no other way. Jesus is the TRUTH. The Complete TRUTH. All religions have some truth, but the complete truth you find in Jesus. Jesus is the LIFE. . Only through Jesus we have eternal life.

CONCLUSION:

C: There is no one like Jesus. Jesus is THE ONLY WAY.

Q: Do you believe that Jesus is the only way? Do you want to follow Jesus?

WORD OF GOD

Purpose : Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ (*Romans 10:17*). Thus, the aim of studying the Word of God is to help a seeker build faith in Jesus. One must accept the bible as the one true standard (vs. feelings, experiences, peers' opinions, or family traditions) by which to live life if one is to know true salvation from Jesus.

Scriptures Used

2 Timothy 3:16-17
 Hebrews 4:12-13
 John 8:31-32
 Matthew 15:1-9
 1 Timothy 4:16
 Acts 17:10-12
 Matthew 4:4

1) 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- a) All scripture is inspired by God.
- b) It is to be applied to our lives.

2) Hebrews 4:12-13

- a) The word is relevant. [Living and active]
- b) The word cuts (hurts) – compare to a scalpel.
- c) It is good to be cut – it cuts the sin out.

3) John 8:31-32

- a) Intellectual belief is not enough – nor can we go by our feelings.
- b) Everyone must hold on to and follow the teachings of Jesus to be a Christian (Disciple).

4) Matthew 15: 1-9

- a) Worship by any traditions (which supercede the Word of God) is worship in vain.
- b) Jesus warns us not to nullify the word of God for the sake of our tradition.

5) 1 Timothy 4:16

- a) Watch your life and your doctrine closely – they are inseparable.
- b) Which is more important your life or your doctrine? Like an airplane. Which wing is more important?

6) Acts 17:10-12

- a) Here is an example of the Bereans who not only received the message with great eagerness but also examined the Scriptures everyday to verify whether what they heard was true.
- b) Encourage the seeker to develop a habit to read and meditate on the Word daily.

7) Matthew 4:4

- a) Why study the Bible? Because Jesus said that 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'
- b) Just like we need to eat food to sustain us we need to feed on the Word to sustain our faith.

.Conclusion: Encourage the seeker to read and study the Bible seriously.

Other Helpful Scriptures

James 1:22-25
 Matthew 7:15-20,24-27
 Romans 10:17
 Psalms 19:7-11
 Psalms 119:11,105

Scriptures for Further Study

These can be used to help people who are struggling to come to faith in Jesus.

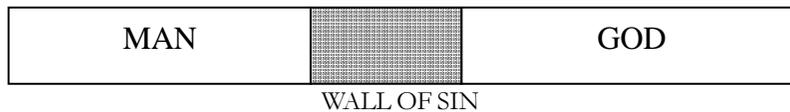
Prophecy	Fulfillment	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Genesis 49:10	Matt 1:1-17	Isaiah 42:1-4	Matt 12:15
Isaiah 7:14	Matt 1:22	Psalms 78:2	Matt 13:34-35
Micah 5:2	Matt 2:5	Micah 7:6	Matt 10:35-36
Hosea 11:1	Matt 2:15	Malachi 3:1	Matt 11:10
Jeremiah 31:15	Matt 2:17-18	Isaiah 6:9-10	Matt 13:13-15
Isaiah 40:3	Matt 3:3	Psalms 8:2	Matt 21:16
Isaiah 9:1-2	Matt 4:13-16	Zechariah 9:9	Matt 21:1-5
Isaiah 53:4	Matt 8:16-17	Zechariah 13:7	Matt 26:31

SIN

Purpose: While we want all seekers to be saved by grace, there is no grace if we perceive no sin. Of course, all have sinned (*Romans 3:23*); therefore, we all desperately need the grace of God (*Romans 6:23*). Thus, the aim of this study is to help seekers to see themselves as our Holy God sees them: utterly sinful and separated from our God. This realization brings about a desire for both forgiveness and repentance.

1) Isaiah 59:1-2

C: Our sins separate us from God. When we sin it is as though we create a wall between God and us. So it is not God's fault. We have to break this wall of sin to get close to God. Draw a diagram of the wall of sin and explain.



2) Romans 3:23

C: How many people have sinned? Everyone has sinned.
C: So we all need forgiveness for our sins. One lie you tell you become a liar so one sin you do you are a sinner. You don't have to do many sins to be a sinner. So all of us are sinners. We are no different from others. We all need forgiveness.
C: When we compare ourselves with others how do we feel. We feel we are better than others are but we all fall short when we compare ourselves with God. We can never reach to the glory of God no matter how good you are. We all fall short.

3) Romans 6:23

C: For all our sins we deserve death (Spiritual death not physical death). Means we deserve eternal separation from God and be thrown in to hell.
C: But we can break the wall of sin through Jesus Christ. He can give us eternal life. He can forgive us all our sins.

What are the sins that Bible talks about? There are sins of omission [James 4:17] and sins of commission.

4) Galatians 5: 19-21

Sins of commission

Sexual immorality – Sexual sins

Lust

Teasing Girls – passing rude remarks, standing behind women in the bus, touching them deliberately etc.

Scriptures Used

Isaiah 59:1-2
Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23
Galatians 5:19-21
Mark 7:21-23
James 4:17
James 5:16 and 1 John 1:9

Pornography – bad movies, internet, books, photos etc.

Masturbation

Sex outside of marriage – neighboring person, boy friend/girl friend, going to prostitutes etc.

Incest- sex with family members, cousins, aunts, uncles, relatives, brother or sister etc.

Homosexuality – sex with same sex people, touching each others private parts, masturbating one another, oral sex, anal sex etc.

Child abuse – sex with children, using children for self sex gratification, putting children on the lap, oral sex etc.,

Impurity – telling lies about yourselves, your family, your background, cheating in exams, making false certificates, using bad language, stealing.

Debauchery – indulgence, self-gratification, anything too much, sleeping too much, laziness, eating too much anything in excess is debauchery.

Idolatry – Worshipping idols, photos, paintings, stones, gurus or putting anything or anybody above God.

Witchcraft – black magic, believing in any other power other than God himself.

Putting your trust in Palmistry, Astrology, and Horoscopes, Believing that hands and stars control our lives than God is sin.

Hatred – not forgiving, enmity, property fights, hating any body who hurt you even is wrong.

Discord – having friction in relationships. Do you have any unresolved conflicts in your life, marriage? Jealousy – being possessive

Fits or rage – Being so angry you use abusive language, throw things at people, beat up people slam the door etc.,

Selfish ambition – only concerned about self, not concerned about others, only worried about self career and job and what one can do and get.

Dissension's – quarrels, disagreement.

Factions – forming a group of dissident's, forming a rival group within a group.

Envy – covet others possessions or achievements, not happy for others advancements, not being content with what God has given you.

Drunkenness – over indulgence on alcohol, taking drugs, tobacco chewing, cigarettes, pan parag etc.,

Orgies – wild partying, doing anything evil in a group.

5) Mark 7: 21-23

C: Sin comes from within our hearts. So who is responsible for our sins? Us

Q: Can we blame others, circumstances or environment for our sins? No! We have to take personal responsibility for all our sins. Yes others do influence us to do wrong but to do wrong or right is entirely under our control.

6) James 4:17

Sins of omission – if you don't do what you know you ought to do then you sin.

7) James 5:16 and 1 John 1:9

- C: Both these scriptures talk about confessing our sins. It is God who forgives our sins.
- So we need to confess[acknowledge/admit] our specific sins to God.[Psalms 32:1-5]
 - Scripture directs us that we openly confess our sins to another brother or sister for godly counsel and intercessory prayer.
 - It also would mean we confess[admit and apologize] our sins to the person we have sinned against.

Suggested Exercise: If willing, encourage the seeker to write down a list of all their specific sins as much as they remember so that they can get in touch with their sin against God and people. Or we can suggest them to write a letter to God specifically confessing their past sins. We need to encourage them to bring it for the next study.

CONCLUSION:

How do you feel about confessing your specific sins? Have you been open about your life to anyone before? We can share our specific sins to the seeker and set an example of confession.

Other Helpful Scriptures

1. Psalms 32:1-5
2. Proverbs 28:13
3. John 3:19-21
4. Acts 3:19
5. 2 Timothy 3:1-5
6. Hebrews 4:13
7. 1 John 1:5-10

THE CROSS

Suggestion: Show the movie "Passion of Christ" first before you teach the lesson.

Purpose : "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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17)
Here, the gospel message reaches its peak. We are saved through grace. We are saved through Jesus' loving sacrifice. Be sure that the seeker has seen his/her need for grace, and this study in grace will be powerful. It's also important for the seeker to understand his/her responsibility for **Jesus'** death. Establishing *personal* responsibility will later reap great gratitude and joy for Jesus' personal love and forgiveness. This is a very serious study, where we'll be looking at the physical, emotional and spiritual sufferings of Jesus as he went on the cross. Let's pray.

1. Mark 14:32-42

- Q: How was Jesus feeling at this time? (Deeply troubled and sorrowful overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death)
- Q: Did Jesus want to go to the cross as he started to Pray? (No.) What was Jesus attitude by the end of his prayer (v.42)? (He was ready to die) In the same way, you need to be ready to overcome your struggles by praying until your heart changes.
- Q: Have you ever been letdown by a friend when you really needed him? **SHARE
- Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins; our lies, our pride, our selfishness.)

2. Mark 14:43-50

- Q: Judas betrayed Jesus. Have you ever been betrayed? **SHARE
- Q: If Jesus had wanted to, what could he have done here? (Sent down 12,000 angels to destroy them (Matthew 26:53)
- Q: What did all the disciples do when Jesus was arrested (v.50)? (They all deserted him and fled.)
- Q: Have you ever felt lonely, like no one in the world cared about you? **SHARE
- Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins: our lies, our pride, our laziness etc.)

3. Mark 14:53-65

- Q: Jesus went to trial here. What kind of trial was it? (An unfair trial)
- Q: Have you ever been unjustly treated? **SHARE How do we respond?
- Q: Out of all the people he had healed in the past three years, did anyone come to Jesus defense at his trial?
- Q: Have you ever felt unappreciated, that no one noticed the good things you had done? **SHARE

Scriptures Used

Mark 14:32-65
Mark 15:1-20
Luke 23:32-34
Mark 15:37-57
1 Peter 2:21-25
2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Q: They blindfolded Jesus mocked him, spat on him and beat him. Have you ever been spat upon? Have you ever been beaten?

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins: our immorality, pride, our anger etc.)

Q: Next, they asked Peter if he knew Jesus. Three times he denied him. The Bible says in Luke 22:54-62 that Jesus knew it, and he looked right at Peter. Peter then went out and wept bitterly.

Q: Have you ever overheard someone talking badly about you behind your back? How did you feel? **SHARE

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins: our lies, drunkenness, our lust etc.,

4. **Mark 15:1-15**

C: Jesus has been up all night, beaten and spit upon. Now he faces yet another trial.

Q: Jesus was compared to a murderer (Barabbas). The crowd was asked to choose between them. How do you think he felt?

Q: Pilate was sitting in the judge's seat. He had to make a decision about Jesus. Do you think he liked Jesus?

Q: Pilate tried to reason with the crowd ("what crime has he committed?") Did they like him? (No, they shouted louder)

Q: How do people respond when they are losing an argument? (Shout)

Q: According to Matthew 27:24, Pilate tried to wash his hands of the matter. Did that make him innocent? (No. Pilate wanted innocence, but he was not willing to pay the price. So his indecision became a NO decision against Jesus)

Q: The Bible says Jesus was flogged. Do you know what flogging is like? (They strip you. They make a leather whip with bones or glass at the end and they whip you again and again. The blood flows. The pain is intense. And they whip you until your back is like minced meat.)

Q: And each time the whip came down, do you know why Jesus was willing to go through all this? (Because he loves you. Because of our sins: our smoking, our selfishness etc.)

5. **Mark 15:16-20**

Q: They took Jesus and all the soldiers mocked him. Have you seen a group of people encircling someone and mistreating him?

C: They stripped Jesus and put a robe on him. Then they put a crown of thorns on him on the head with a staff. Then they took off the robe and led him away to be crucified.

Q: What happened to the crown of thorns as they beat him? (It dug deeper and deeper into Jesus scalp causing great pain.)

Q: How did the back of Jesus feel when they ripped the robe off him? (Very painful—like ripping a stuck Band-Aid off a wound).

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins; immorality, our drunkenness etc.)

6. **Luke 23: 32-34**

C: They put the cross on Jesus raw back and made him carry it. Then they stripped him and put nails through his wrists and ankles. He was then hoisted up on the cross, naked. And he went up and down all day long. His raw back rubbed against the cross. He was in agony.

Q: Do you know how someone who is crucified dies? (They can't breathe so they pull themselves up using the nails. But then the pain is incredible, so they sag back down. This continues until all their energy is gone and then they painfully suffocate.)

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our selfishness, our smoking, our anger etc.)

Q: After you've had a terrible day, what are the first words that come out of your mouth? (Angry bad words.)

C: Let's look at the first words that Jesus said on the cross: Q: In v.34 what did Jesus say? (Father, forgive them...")

Q: Even as he died who was he thinking about? (Us-v.34)

Q: Who deserved to die on the cross – Jesus or us?

Q: There were two thieves. According to Matthew 27:44, both of them heaped insults on Jesus, Yet here, one thief looked at the other thief and turned to Jesus with a repentant heart. And Jesus forgave him. This really does reveal the heart of God. God loves us. Jesus could have sent him to hell but he didn't. And today, you too can be forgiven. Jesus isn't here in person, but he's given us the Bible to show us the way of salvation.

7. **Mark 15:37-57**

C: Here we see Jesus dying. He cries out in pain, "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?"

Q: The Bible says God was with Jesus from the beginning. Why did Jesus say here that God had forsaken him? (Because of sin) Let's turn to 1 Peter to explain this further.

8. **1 Peter 2:24**

Q: When Jesus died on the cross what did he bear? (Our sins)

Q: How do you feel when you sin? (Guilty, sad, painful)

C: Imagine feeling the guilt of all your sins at one time. Then imagine feeling all the sins of all men. All the rapes; all the lies; all the murders; all the injustice. Jesus felt the guilt, the pain and the anguish of all our sins, for all time. He felt as if he had done them all. And because sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2, Colossians 1:21), God was not with Jesus as he died on the cross. He died alone. Our sins separated him from God.

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins; evil thoughts, cheating, anger etc.)

C: There is a story that may help you understand the cross better.

Father/Son Illustration: God the father and his Son Jesus were looking down at the world. They saw all the people. They saw you and me. And Jesus said, "Father

How can we help them? I love them, what can I do?” God said “Son you don’t understand – they are not like us”. But Jesus said, “Father, I’ll do anything for them- as long as you are with me.” God said, Son, you don’t understand. The only way to help them is if you go down to the earth yourself. You’ll have to live like a man, eat like a man, get dirty and tired and sick like a man.” Jesus said. “Father I love them, I will do anything as long as you are with me”. God said “Son you don’t understand. The people will laugh at you and reject you. Your own family will think that you are crazy. Your followers will desert you in the end and you’ll be all alone.” But Jesus said, “Father, I’ll do it, as long as you are with me”. God said, “Son you don’t understand. The people will falsely accuse you. They’ll beat you and spit on you and flog you. They will nail your bleeding naked body to a cross, and you will die.” Jesus said, “ I will do anything, as long as you are with me.” But God said, “Son you don’t understand. As you hang on the across in agony you will bear the sins of the world. You will feel their guilt, their shame, their pain; and their sins will separate you from me. In your greatest hour of need I will NOT be with you.” And Jesus said, “Father, now I understand. I’ll go.”

Q: Do you see how much Jesus love us? ******Read the Medical Account******

9. 1 Peter 2:21-25

Q: According to V.21, why did Jesus have to suffer so much? (To set us an example that we should be like him.) He was without sin till the end.

Q: Do you realize that Jesus died just for you? Do you understand that even if you were the only one on earth, he still would have died for you?

Q: Are you willing to suffer for being a Christian? Are you willing to endure opposition?

Q: According to V.24 why did Jesus bear our sins? (So that we might die to sins and live for righteousness)

10. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Q: What motivated Paul to follow Jesus with all his heart? (Love)

Q: Do you know what motivates us to be so committed? ** SHARE

Q: According to v.15, why did Jesus die? (So that we would no longer live for ourselves but for Jesus)

Q: Whom do most people live for? (Themselves). Q: Up to now, who have you been living for? (Myself)

Q: Do you see why you need to be serious? Q: Now that you have seen how Jesus suffered, how do you feel?

CHALLENGE:

Be totally serious about changing your life and following Jesus. “...Live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us...”[Eph 5:1-2]

Make no more excuses.

Other Useful Scriptures

Ephesians 5:1-2

Isaiah 53

MEDICAL ACCOUNT OF THE CRUCIFIXION

Hanging, electrocution, knee capping, gas chamber, these punishments are feared. They all happen to day, and we shudder as we think of the horror and pain. But as we shall see, these ordeals pale into insignificance compare with the bitter fate of Jesus Christ: crucifixion.

No one is crucified to day. For us the cross remains confined to ornaments and jewelry, stained-glass windows, romanticized pictures and statues portraying a serene death. Crucifixion was a form of execution refined by the Romans to an exercise art. It was carefully conceived to produce a slow death with maximum pain. It was carefully conceived to produce a slow death with maximum pain. It was a public spectacle intended to deter other would-be criminals. It was a death to be feared.

Sweat like Blood

Luke 22:44 says of Jesus,

44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

His Sweat was unusually intense because his emotional state was unusually intense. Dehydration coupled with exhaustion further weakened him.

Beating

It was in this condition that Jesus faced the first physical abuse; punches and slaps to the face and head while blindfolded. Unable to anticipate the blows, Jesus was badly bruised, his mouth and eyes possible injured. The Physiological effects of the false trails should not be underestimated. Consider that Jesus faced them bruised, dehydrated, and exhausted, possibly in shock.

Flogging

In the previous 12 hours Jesus had suffered emotional trauma, rejection by his closest friends, a cruel beating, and a sleepless night during which he had to walk miles between unjust hearings. Despite the fitness he must certainly have gained during his travels in Palestine, he was in no way prepared for the punishment of flogging. The effects would be worse as a result.

A man to be flogged was stripped of his clothes and his hands tied to a post above his head. He was then whipped across the shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs and legs, the soldier standing behind and to one side of the victim. The whip used the flagellum – was designed to make this a devastating punishment, bringing the victim close to death; several short heavy leather thongs, with two small balls of lead or iron attached near the end of each. Pieces of sheep’s bone were sometimes included.

As the scourging proceeds, the heavy leather thongs produce first superficial cuts, than deeper damage to underlying tissues. Bleeding becomes severe when not only capillaries

and veins are cut, but also arteries in the underlying muscles. The small metal balls first produce large, deep bruises, which are broken open by further blows. The fragments of sheep's bone rip the flesh as the whip is drawn back. When the beating is finished, the skin of the back is in ribbons, and the entire area torn and bleeding.

The words chosen by the gospel writers suggest that the scourging of Jesus was particularly severe: he was certainly at the point of collapse when he was cut down from the flogging-post.

The Mocking

Jesus was allowed no time to recover before facing his next ordeal. Meddlesome to stand, he was dressed in a robe by jeering soldiers, crowned with a twisted band of thorny twigs, and to complete the parody, given a wooden staff as a king's scepter. Next, they spat on Jesus and struck him on the head with the wooden staff'. The long thorns were driven into the sensitive scalp tissue producing profuse bleeding, but even more terrible was the re-opening of the wounds of Jesus' back when the robe was torn off again.

Further weakened physically and emotionally, Jesus was led away to be executed.

The Crucifixion

The wooden cross—used by the Romans was too heavy to be carried by one man. Instead the victim to be crucified was made to bear the detached cross bar across his shoulders, carrying it outside the city walls to the place of execution. (The heavy upright portion of the cross was permanently in position here). Jesus was unable to carry his load—a beam weighing 75 to 125 lbs. He collapsed under the burden, and an onlooker was ordered to take it for him.

Jesus refused to drink the wine and myrrh offered him before the nails were driven in. (It would have dulled the pain) Thrown down on his back with arms outstretched along the cross bar, nails were driven through Jesus' wrists into the wood.

These Iron spikes, about 6 inches long and 3-8 inches thick, severed the large sensorimotor median nerve, causing excruciating pain in both arms. Carefully placed between bones and ligaments, they were able to bear the weight of the crucified man.

In preparation for the nailing of the feet, Jesus was lifted up and the cross bar fixed to the upright post. Then with legs sent at the knee, a single nail was used to pierce both feet, one foot being placed over the other. Again there was severe nerve damage and the pain caused was intense. It is important to note, however, that neither the wounds to the wrists or feet caused substantial bleeding, since no major arteries were ruptured. The executioner took care to ensure this, so that death would be slower and the suffering longer.

Now nailed to his cross, the real horror of crucifixion began. When the wrists were nailed to the crossbar, the elbows were intentionally left in a bent position so that the

crucified man would hang with his arms above his head. The weight being taken on the nails in the wrists. Obviously this was unbearably painful, but it had another effect; it is very difficult to exhale in this position. In order to breathe out, and then take in fresh air, it was necessary to push the body up on the nailed feet. When the pain from the feet became unbearable, the victim would again slump down to hang by the arms. A terrible cycle of pain began; hanging by the arms, unable to breathe, pushing up on the feet to inhale quickly before again slumping down, and on and on.

This tortured activity became more and more difficult as Jesus' back was scraped against the upright post, as muscle cramps set in because of the inadequate respiration, and as exhaustion grew more severe.

Jesus suffered in this manner for several hours before, with a final cry, he died.

Cause of Death

Many factors contributed to Jesus' death. A combination of shock and suffocation killed most victims of crucifixion, but in Jesus' case acute heart failure may have been the final trauma. This is suggested by this sudden death following a loud cry, after only a few hours, a quick death, it seems (Pilate was surprised to find Jesus already dead). A fatal cardiac arrhythmia, or perhaps cardiac rupture, are likely candidates.

The Spear wound

Jesus was already dead as the executioners broke the legs of the criminals crucified alongside (in order to speed their deaths). Instead, we read that a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear. Where on his side? The word chosen by John suggests the ribs, and if the soldier intended to make Jesus' death certain, a wound to the heart was the obvious choice.

From the wound came a flow of 'blood and water' this is consistent with the spear blow to the heart (especially from the right side, the traditional site of the wound). Rupturing the pericardium (the sac surrounding the heart) released a flow of watery serum, followed by blood as the heart was pierced.

Conclusion

The detailed accounts given in the gospels combined with the historical evidence on crucifixion bring us to a firm conclusion; modern medical knowledge supports the claim of the scriptures that Jesus died on the cross.

REPENTANCE

Purpose: After believing grace, the biblical response is to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins (*Acts 2:36-38*). The Greek word for repentance, *metanoia*, means “to change ones mind or purpose”.

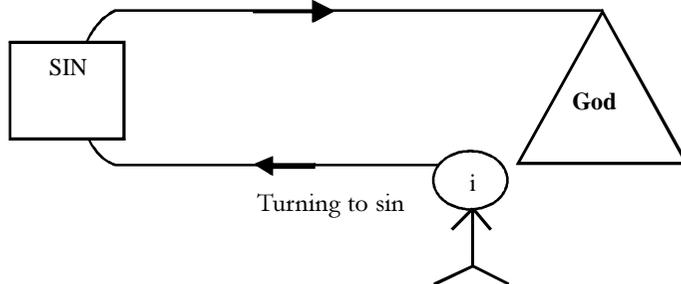
OQ: How are you? How do feel about having confessed your sins? Is there anything more you want to confess?

C: Today we will do the repentance study. Do you know what is the meaning of repentance? It means, “to change ones mind or purpose”. That is what you must do. It is not enough just to confess your sins, but it very important you “to change ones mind or purpose” (repent) of your sins. Many feel repentance is a feeling. They say repentance means you just truly feel bad about your sins. But Bible teaches more than just a feeling. That is what we will study out today about true repentance according to the Bible.

- 1) **Luke 13:5**
God gives us only 2 options: 1) Repent or 2) Perish
- 2) **Acts 26:20**
 - A) Paul preached repentance wherever he went.
 - B) True Repentance is not just to give up sin but one must turn back to God.
 - C) God and others will know one have repented by our deeds.[Change in words, thoughts and actions]

REPENTANCE DIAGRAM:

Repentance = Turning away from sin & turning to God



- 3) **Matthew 5:28-30**
 - A) We have to look at sin as sin. No small or big sin. Even lust is adultery.
 - B) We have to “cut-off” our sins. You have to hate your sin only then you will change. Is there any sin in your life you still don’t hate?

Scriptures Used

Luke 13:5
Acts 26:20
Matthew 5:28-30
2 Corinthians 7:10
Ephesians 4:22-32
Acts 2:38
Psalms 51:1-17

WARNING: If you have any liking towards any sin still, you may give it u temporarily but will go back to it again!

4) 2 Corinthians 7:10

Generally we always feel bad about sins. Bible says we can have 2 different types of sorrow towards sin.

- 1) Godly sorrow is that you really feel bad for your sins and it brings true and lasting changes and you never do it again. This leads to salvation.
- 2) Worldly sorrow is you feel bad for the sins but you don’t change. You do the same sin again. This leads to death (hell)

ILLUSTRATION: CAUGHT WITHOUT A TICKET

5) Ephesians 4:22-32

Scripture specifically says we need to “put-off” old self with its desires and practices. It is not enough to put-off or stop our old sinful desires and practices. We need to “put-on” new self. In other words we need to replace our old bad habits with new right habits or attitudes. Replace bad thoughts by righteous thoughts[renewing our mind].

Eg: v.25 Put off falsehood or lies and replace it [by putting-on] by speaking the truth.

V.28 Put off stealing[old practice] replace it by getting a job and by sharing with those in need.

V 29 Put off unwholesome talk and replace it with talk that will build and benefit others.

V 31-32 Put off bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, and malice and replace it with [put on] kindness, compassion and forgiveness.

This is how we can change.

Now what do I do after repentance?

6) Acts 2:38

C: First repent and then get baptized, only then your sins will be forgiven, are you ready for this?

7) Psalms 51:1-17

Read this Psalms as a prayer at the end of the study and encourage the seeker to be broken before God about his sins like David was about his sins. Let us pray.

Extra Repentance Lesson

Luke 13:5

God gives us only 2 options: 1) Repent or 2) Perish just like Heaven or Hell, you are in light or in the darkness. There is no gray area for God. If you don’t repent you will perish! Which option you like?

What Repentance is not

1. Not just feeling guilty Acts 24:25

- Felix felt guilty but did not repent.
- We feel guilty about our sin. This feeling comes before repentance, but is not

repentance itself.

2. Not just being sorry for your sin 2 Cor 7:10

- Some people are sorry because of the consequences of their sin or because they have been caught.
- Many are sorry not for what they have done wrong, but for the penalty they receive for being caught.

3. Not just trying to be a good person Is 64:6

- Many people try in their own strength to become a better person and change their way of life.
- Any self-effort has a root of self-righteousness in it, which does not acknowledge the need for God and of repentance from sin.

4. Not becoming religious Lk 18:9-14

- The Pharisees were extremely religious in behavior and in practice.
- They fasted and prayed and attended many religious ceremonies and tithed; yet never repented.

5. Not just knowing the truth James 2:19-20

- Having intellectual head-knowledge of truth does not necessarily guarantee that truth has become a living reality in one's life.
- Believing with the head and believing with the heart are different. [Rom 10:9-10]

What true repentance is

1. Being sorry to God for your sins **Ps 51:1-4, Ps 38:8**
 - True repentance is a sorrow not just toward one's self, or toward another person, but first and foremost it is true sorrow towards God.
2. Being truthful about your sins **Ps 32:5, 1 John 1:9, James 5:16**
3. Renouncing your sin **Prov 28:13**
4. Hating sin **Matt 5:29-30**
5. When possible, paying back to others what you owe **Luke 19:8**

What Repentance involves

1. Turning from sin **Gal 5:19-21, Eph 5:5, Zech 1:4**
2. Turning from the world **1 John 2:15, James 4:4**
3. Turning from yourself **2 Cor 5:15, Lk 14:26**
4. Turning to God **Acts 20:21, Acts 26:20, Zech 1:3**
5. Putting off old-self and putting on new self **Eph 4:22-32, Col 3:5-14**

Conclusion: **Acts 2:38**

C: First repent and then get baptized, only then your sins will be forgiven, are you ready for this?

USEFUL SCRIPTURES TO HELP PEOPLE REPENT SPECIFICALLY

These scriptures are to be used to deal with specific areas of repentance. Our goal is to make them see how their specific sins have hurt others and hurt God. In this study and help them to see how their sin has affected their character and challenge them to make those character changes.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People who refuse to repent Romans 2:4 2. People who love the world James 4:4. 3. People who love money Luke 16: 13-15, Proverbs 15:27 4. Difficult to forgive Matthew 6:14-15. 5. Abortion Jeremiah 1:5 ; Psalms 139:13-16 6. Womanizing / Weak-willed women 2 Timothy 3:6-7, Ephesians 5:15-17 7. People who are lazy/Who do not want to work 2 Thes 3:10 8. Sexual abuse of children Mark 9:36,42; Luke 17:1-2. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Homosexuality 1 Corinthians 6:9 10. Self righteousness/ Looking down on others Luke 18:9-14 11. Pride Phil 2:3 , Proverbs 13:10 12. Deep rooted selfishness 2 Timothy 3:1-5 13. Deep rooted bitterness Hebrews 12:15, Colossians 3:5-8 14. Marriage Issues Col 3:18, Ephesians 5:22-31 15. Deceit Proverbs 15:4 16. Relationship with boy friend / girlfriend Ephesians 5:3.
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BAPTISM STUDY

Purpose : After preaching about the cross, Peter calls his hearers to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins (*Acts 2:38*). This study helps establish the link between Christ's sacrifice and our forgiveness of sins by means of baptism.

- Acts 2:36-41** Peter preached that One must believe and accept that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. One is personally responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus.

The message cut to the heart of the hearers and they asked "what shall we do?"

Peter replied that first of all one must repent of their sins and secondly get baptized for the forgiveness of their sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2) John 3:3-5

Q: If we want to go to heaven, what must happen, according to Jesus? (We must be born again. We must be born of water and spirit)

Q: When are we born of water and spirit? (At the time of baptism)

3) Matthew 28: 18-20

Q: What kind of people should be baptized? (People who are old enough to be taught, understand and obey everything Jesus commanded (v.20) Implies not infants and small children!)

C: Also we see baptism is a command of Jesus. We must obey His command.

4) Romans 6:3-7

V.3, when we are baptized we are baptized into Jesus death.

V.4 when we are baptized We are buried with Christ.

We are baptized (v.4) so that we may live a new life.

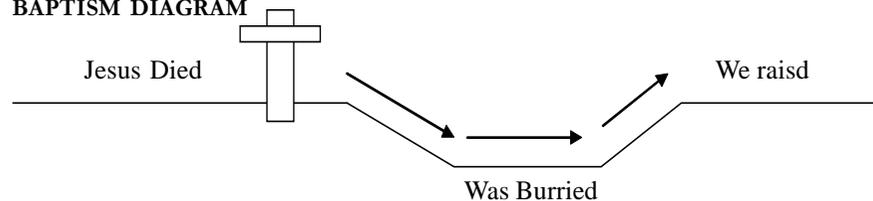
When we are baptized our old self is crucified with Christ (v6)

When our old self dies, what are we set free from? (v.7) Sin

Scriptures Used

Acts 2:36-41
 John 3:3-5
 Matthew 28:18-20
 Romans 6:3-7
 1 Peter 3:20-21
 Acts 8:26-39
 Acts 16:13-15
 Acts 22:1-16

BAPTISM DIAGRAM



In baptism, we share in his death, burial, and resurrection

We die (repentance)

We are raised

We are buried (in baptism)

C: So we see that baptism is participation, by faith, in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To become part of Christ we must get baptized.

(C: As we see in Eph 1:7, the blood of Jesus saves us. And Romans 6:3-4 show that in baptism, we come into contact with the blood by faith by being buried with Jesus)

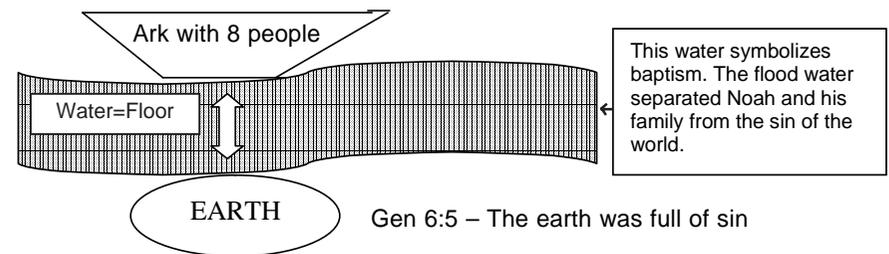
5) 1 Peter 3:20-21

Q: In the days of Noah, how many people were saved? (8)

Eight people were saved through water – what does this mean?

Just as the water made a separation between the sin on the earth and the eight in the ark, so baptism makes a separation between our sin and us. That is the reason that Peter says, "this water symbolizes baptism that saves us also."

Floodwater symbolizes baptism[not vice versa]. The Bible never calls baptism symbolic.



Q: According to V.21, what does baptism do? (It saves us)

Now let us look as some examples of people who got baptized in the Bible.

6) Acts 8:26-35

Q: What was the eunuch doing on the way home? (Reading the Bible)

Q: Was he humble or a proud man? (Humble – he asked for help (V.30-31)

- Q: The eunuch was a good religious man. But he was not saved nor a true Christian. So they studied the Bible together in the chariot, just like we have been doing. Philip told him the good news about Jesus.
- Q: What is the good news about Jesus? (He came, helped the people, died for our sins, was raised again and so we too can be saved)

Acts 8:36-39

When they saw water, they both went down “into the water” and Philip baptized the eunuch (v.38). Baptism was by full immersion- that is what ‘baptize’ means in the Greek.

- Q: Why did not the eunuch wait until they got back to Ethiopia? (He wanted to be forgiven immediately)

C: So again, as in Acts 2, we see urgency before baptism and joy afterwards.

7) Acts 16: 13-15 (For Women)

God opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.

- Q: How did she respond to the message? (Immediate baptism)

- Q: Why do you think she did not wait? (She wanted salvation)

8) Acts 22:1-16 (For Everyone)

- Q: What was Paul like, before he was a Christian? (A violent persecutor of the Church)

- Q: What happened to him? (Jesus appeared to him)

- Q: Did he believe in Jesus, once he spoke to him? (Yes)

- Q: But was he saved yet? (No)

- Q: Did he obey Jesus? (Yes in V.10-11 Paul went to Damascus)

- Q: But was he saved yet? (No)

C: According to Acts 9:9-12, for three days Paul did not eat or drink anything, and he was praying.

- Q: But was he saved yet? (No. His sins had not been washed away)

- Q: When did Paul get saved? (v.16) (When he was baptized)

- Q: What is the purpose of baptism according to v.16? (To wash sins away)

- Q: Did Ananias want Paul to wait? (No, v.16 says, “What are you waiting for?”)

C: Once again we see urgency and joy as Paul was immediately baptized. (Acts 9:18)

- Q: What are you waiting for? When will you be baptized?

CONCLUSION:

- Q: What do you think you need to do?

- Q: When do you want to get baptized?

- Q: Why do you want to get baptized? (To be saved, to be forgiven and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit)

JESUS IS LORD

Purpose : To teach what it means to make Jesus as our Lord. We confess at the time of baptism that Jesus is my Lord. What should that confession mean, how would that affect our life and choices we make in life. This study sets out what the ‘call to follow Jesus’ really means. What does it mean to say you are a follower? What is the heart of one who follows Him? What kind of commitment is meant to be demonstrated? What is the life of one who had decided to follow Jesus?

For Christian Background people : You can ask “Are you a Christian? What makes you a Christian?[Let them answer] Today, we can learn through the scriptures what makes one a Christian. First of all let us see where the word Christian first appears in the Bible.

Acts 11:25-26

1. How would you define the word “disciple” in a simple non-religious way?
2. According to this scripture is there any difference between the word “Christian” and “disciple”? No. They both mean the same. Disciple = Christian
3. Do you know how many times the word “Christian” is used in the NT?[3 times -Acts 11:26,Acts 26:28,1 Peter 4:16]
4. How many times is the word “disciple” used? [Over 250 times]

Let us look at some scriptures that define following Jesus.

Mark 12:28-31

1. Most important two commandments are to Love God and then to Love our neighbor as ourselves.
2. Being a disciple is to have a loving wholehearted relationship with God and loving our neighbors.
3. When we understand these two commandments, then we can understand the expectation Jesus has from us to become his disciple.

Luke 9:23-26

1. Emphasize the *heart* that Jesus wants. This scripture tells us what Jesus expected of his followers.
 - Denying oneself.
 - Take up ones cross daily.

Scriptures Used

Acts 11:25-26
Mark 12:28-31
Luke 9:23-26
Luke 11:1-5
Luke 14:25-33
1 John 2:3-6
John 8:31-32
John 13:34-35
Matthew 7:21-23
Mark 1:16-20
Romans 10:9-13

- Willing to lose ones life for Christ.
 - Not to be ashamed of Jesus or His words.
2. How do you feel about these demands of discipleship?
 3. What does it mean to “deny yourself?” What does it mean to “take up your cross daily?”
 4. What will you find difficult to give up to follow Jesus?
 5. How can we be “ashamed of Jesus and His words?”

Luke 11:1-5

1. Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. He taught to call God “our Father”.
2. Being a disciple is to have a personal relationship with God as our Father. We can build a relationship with God by talking to him by prayer and listening to Him through the Word.

Luke 14:25-33

1. Jesus should be loved above family relationships and own life. [Does not mean one must not respect parents or serve them]
2. Be willing to carry ones cross and still follow Jesus.
3. Count the cost before following. Following Jesus should be a serious, lifelong decision and not just an emotional, for the moment decision.
4. Willing to give up everything attitude should be there.

1 John 2:3-6.

1. This scriptures tells us how we can know if someone is a Christian or not.
2. Someone who knows Christ, should obey Christ. Otherwise his claim is false. [Luke 6:46]
3. Sign of someone who is living in Christ is that he must walk as Jesus did.

John 8:31-32

1. Belief is not enough to be a disciple [Christian].
2. Obedience [hold to my teaching] is a must to be a disciple.

John 13:34-35

1. This is a New Command Jesus gives because he is asking us to follow his example of love.
 2. The sign of being a disciple of Jesus is Love.
- Loving the lost by seeking and saving them, learning to be a fisher of men, obeying the Great Commission. [Matt 28:18-20, Luke 19:10, Mark 1:16-20]
 - Loving the Poor. [Matt 25:32-46]

- Loving our family. [1 Tim 5:8]
- Loving the church. [1 Pet 1:22, Gal 6:10]
- *Even* Loving our enemies. [Mat 5:44]

Mat 7:21-23

1. Making Jesus Lord means much more than saying the words.
2. It is not enough to be religious calling Lord, Lord or even prophesy and perform miracles.
3. We need to do the will of the Father for salvation.
4. Only one who does the will of the Father will enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 1:16-20

1. This scripture talks about the way Jesus called his first disciples Simon, Andrew, James and John and how they responded to the call.
2. How did Simon and Andrew respond? How did James and John respond?
3. How are you going to respond to the call of Jesus to follow him?
4. What does it mean to be ‘fishers of men’?

Romans 10:9-13 – We are going to confess at the time of baptism that ‘Jesus is my Lord’. What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord?

- a) This confession is a declaration of our total commitment and devotion to Jesus Christ.
- b) It means that I have decided to choose his will over my own.
- c) It means that I have decided to obey him, whatever the cost.
- d) Confession with our mouth alone is not enough, we have to believe with our heart.
- e) [2 Tim 2:19-21] Confessing Jesus as Lord means one must turn away from wickedness and do good work.

Conclusion: Being a disciple of Jesus or making Jesus your Lord is having a loving, obedient and sold out relationship with him. We are willing to put our relationship with Jesus above all else.

THE CHURCH

Purpose : Encourage the seeker that he/she will not be left to fend for one's self after baptism. Instead, Jesus baptizes us into the body, the church (1st Corinthians 12:12-13) to be joined by a *team* of like-minded disciples in our devotion to Him. These brothers and sisters are meant to be a continual source of encouragement in our walk with Christ. The Greek word for church is "ekklesia" which is a compound word meaning *a calling out, an assembly*.

1) Colossians 1:18

- a) The church is the body of Christ.
- b) The body needs the head. Christ is the head of the church.
- c) The church is essential. One cannot say "yes" to Jesus and then say "no" to his church.

2) 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

- a) All who have been saved are members of Christ's body
- b) We are baptized by one Spirit into his body.
- c) Every member of the body is important and needed.
- d) There should be no division in the body of Christ.
- e) We should have mutual concern for one another.

3) 1 Timothy 3:15

- a) The church is God's household[family].
- b) Church is to be the pillar and foundation[base] of truth.

4) Ephesians 2:19-22

- a) God's church is built on Christ as the cornerstone.
- b) Apostles and Prophets are the foundation.
- c) The Bible is the church's authority on matters of doctrine.

5) Ephesians 4:11-16

- a) God provides his church with various ministers to prepare his people for works of service.
- b) God's desire is for his church to become mature and unified in the faith.
- c) His church grows when "each part does its work."
- d) How can God use you to build up his church?

6) Hebrews 13:17

- a) Church has appointed Leaders and one must submit to their authority.

Scriptures Used

Colossians 1:18
1 Corinthians 12:12-26
1 Timothy 3:15
Ephesians 2:19-22*
Ephesians 4:11-16*
Hebrews 13:17*
Hebrews 3:12-13
Hebrews 10:24-25
Acts 2:42
Colossians 3:12-17*
Matthew 18:15-17*
* Optional Scriptures

7) Hebrews 3:12-13

- a) We are to see to it that our brothers are helped to stay spiritual.
- b) For that we are to encourage one another Daily.

8) Hebrews 10:24-25

- a) We are to think about how to "spur" one another on in Christ. [Spur is also translated *stimulate, provoke, stir up*]
- b) We are to be devoted to the habit of meeting together (Acts 2:42).
- c) We are to encourage one another.

9) Acts 2:42

- a) The early church devoted [continued steadfastly] to the apostles teachings, fellowship, breaking of bread and to prayer. We need to imitate their devotion.

10) Colossians 3:12-17

- a) These qualities should characterize our relationships in God's church: Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- b) Bear with each other and forgive any grievances.
- c) Be thankful.
- d) Admonish and teach one another.

11) Matthew 18:15-17

- a) Jesus teaches how Christians are to resolve conflicts in the church.

Conclusion: Do you understand the plan of God for you to be part of His church? Do you understand what it means for you to be part of this church? In which way can you fulfill your responsibility as a member of God's church? How important do you see it is to attend church meetings?

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Purpose: To teach Christians the importance of making Jesus' mission to seek and save the lost as their mission. To heed to the call to go and make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus taught his disciples that they are to be the light of the world.

He challenged them to never extinguish or hide that light, but rather reveal that light to all men.

Bringing Christ to the world by your changed life will bring praise to God.

Purpose: Why is it important for you to share Christ?

Luke 19:10

Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Jesus' purpose was to bring salvation to the lost (world)

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Jesus came to this world to save sinners..

Remember; you are the example to the world that God can save anyone.

If God can save you, he can save anyone!

1 Timothy 2:3-4

God wants all men to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:8-9

God wants all men to come to repentance.

God's patience gives men the opportunity to repent.

God delays judgment so men can repent

Plan: How do we fit into God's plan?

Mark 1:14-18

From the start of Jesus ministry he calls his followers to fish for men.

"Come follow me...I will make you fishers of men". Jesus took his purpose and gave it to them.

Their response? Immediately.

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus commanded his followers to be active by making disciples of all nations.

"Obey everything" implies teaching followers to even obey this Great commission.

Jesus had a plan to multiply. It starts with you!

Scriptures Used

Matthew 5:14-16

Luke 19:10

1 Timothy 1:15-16

1 Tim 2:3-4

2 Peter 3:8-9

Mark 1:14-18

Matthew 28:18-20

Romans 10:12-15

Acts 8:4

Acts 11:19-21

Act: Are we ready to go?

Rom 10:12-15

It says that all who call on the name of Jesus will be saved.

But how can people be saved without believing?

How can they believe without hearing?

How can people hear without someone preaching?

How can someone preach without being sent to preach?

Are you willing to be sent to preach?

Are you willing to be the one having the beautiful feet who takes the good news to people?

Acts 8:4

Persecuted Christians preached the word wherever they went, voluntarily. They were probably ordinary Christians and not prominent leaders of the church. What would you want to do?

Acts 11:19-21

Men who were scattered through persecution traveled very far to other cities to tell people the good news about Jesus.

The Lord's hand was with them and many people believed.

What would you do? Have a plan to tell people the Good News of Jesus.

Conclusion: As a Christian we need to have Jesus' Great commission on our heart. You were reached out to by someone and now you need to do likewise out of gratitude.

We need to share our faith with as many people as possible – with our friends, our relatives, with our colleagues at work and school, with anyone we can find. Evangelism is the fruit of your salvation. When you are saved you want everyone else to be saved like you. Help and train the seeker how to share his faith with his family, friends or even strangers. Go out with him and help him to be a fisher of men.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Purpose: Encourage the seeker that he/she will indeed receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit at baptism. After baptism, we are sustained by the help of the Spirit. He works powerfully in the life of every baptized disciple of Christ. You may want to combine this study with a study of the Church, as both help us hold fast to our confession to the end.

Acts 2:36-38.

We receive the Holy Spirit at the time of baptism. The Holy Spirit is a gift.

John 16:7-8

Jesus promised to send the Counselor [the Holy Spirit - John 14:26]. [Greek 'Paracletos' translated as – Counselor, Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor or Encourager]

The Spirit is sent to convict or convince the world[includes us] with regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Eph 1:13-14.

When we become a Christian we are marked with a seal of Holy Spirit.
Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our salvation.

Ephesians 3:16

We are strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:9, 15-16

If you do not have the Holy Spirit you do not belong to Christ. [v 9]
We have received a Spirit of sonship.[v 15-16]
The Spirit testifies that we are God's children.

Rom 8:26-27

The Spirit helps us in our weakness.[Helper]
The Spirit himself intercedes for us.[Intercessor]

1 Cor 6:19-20.

Your body is a temple[sanctuary] of the Holy Spirit
The Holy Spirit is in you. So we are to honor God with our body.

Scriptures Used

Acts 2:36-38.
John 16:7-8
Ephesians 1:13-14.
Ephesians 3:16
Romans 8:9, 15-16
Romans 8:26-27
1 Corinthians 6:19-20
2 Corinthians 3: 17-18
Galatians 5:16-18,22-23.

2 Cor 3:17-18

The Spirit helps us to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus.[an ongoing "life-long "process]. In other words, as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.

Galatians 5:16-18,22-23

We are to live[walk] by the Spirit [v 16]

We are to be led[guided, directed] by the Spirit [v 18]

If we are led by the Spirit and not by our sinful nature then we can bear the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.[v 22-23]

Your new life in the Spirit should bear it.

Conclusion : We need to rely on the Holy Spirit that is deposited in us by God at baptism and seek his fruit.

Other Useful Scriptures

Matthew 12:31 * Blasphemy[speaking evil] against Spirit is an unforgivable sin.

Acts 1:8 * Apostles received power from Holy Spirit to be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Acts 5:3 * Holy Spirit can be lied to as done by Ananias.

Acts 7:51* We can resist the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13 * All are baptized by one Spirit

Ephesians 4:30 * Do not grieve the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 * Be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 6:17-18 * Word is the sword of the Spirit

1 Thessalonians 5:19 * Do not put out the Spirit's fire

2 Thessalonians 2:13 * God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit

Hebrews 10:29 * We can insult the Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21 * Prophecy of Scripture came about when men spoke from God as they were carried along [moved] by the Holy Spirit.