

Searching for Answers

HAVE YOU FOUND THE **ANSWERS**
TO THE **GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE?**

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS TO THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE

**AUTHORS: L. JETER WALKER
RON TUTTLE**

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Global University
1211 South Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65804
USA

www.globaluniversity.edu

For more information, contact the Global University or ICI office in your area:

or visit us on the worldwide web:

www.globaluniversity.edu

www.globalreach.org

or contact:

Center for Evangelism & Discipleship (CED)

Global University

1211 South Glenstone Avenue

Springfield, Missouri 65804

1-800-443-1083

Global University
Springfield, Missouri, USA

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Dear Friend,

Do you sometimes wonder what life is all about? Why you were born? How do you find happiness? If so, these six lessons will be very helpful to you. The six lessons are:

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Although the first lesson is complete in itself, it serves also as an introduction to the other lessons. These lessons answer the great questions that every person asks about life.

Each lesson is carefully designed to help you better understand the content. Scripture memorization and study questions are an important part of this design. Please take time to memorize the Scripture verses and answer the study questions in each lesson.

As you complete a lesson, turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book and answer the review questions for that lesson. Do the same as you complete each lesson. When you finish all six lessons and answer the questions for each lesson, mail the Lesson Review Questions to the address provided on page 2. Then we will mail you a certificate of completion.

As you might imagine, searching for the answers to life's great questions will require some effort on your part. However, you will find that these lessons are interesting and easily understood.

We will be happy to receive your personal letters. Ask any questions that may come to your mind during the course of this study. We will always be glad to hear from you!

Welcome to the Global University family.

~Your Friend

1 WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE WORLD?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *How Can You Know the Truth?*
 - *How Did the World Begin?*
 - *What Went Wrong With the World?*
 - *Is There Any Hope for the World?*
-

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?

SCIENCE, HISTORY, AND OBSERVATION

You can learn many wonderful things about the world and its people through science, history, and observation. However, you cannot learn the answers to many of the great questions of life from these sources. They do not tell how life began, what its purpose is, and what the future holds.

THE HOLY BIBLE

Only the One who made the world can tell you how He did it and why. He tells us the truth about these things in His book, the Holy Bible. It is a book of instructions for living in this world.

The only way to learn the truth about the creation of humankind and the world is from the Holy Bible.

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

These lessons are based on the Holy Bible. They quote from it some of the many verses that answer your questions. Before each quotation is the reference: the name of the book, chapter, and verse where the words are found in the Holy Bible.

There are many different translations of the Holy Bible from the languages in which it was first written. It has been translated into several hundred languages. The words in these lessons are quoted from some of the modern English translations.

HOW DID THE WORLD BEGIN?

DID IT JUST HAPPEN?

Do you ever ask yourself, “Where did the world come from? Did it just happen? Or did a great mind plan it and a great power make it?”

When you see a bicycle, a car, or an airplane, you know that it could not have just happened. Someone planned it and made it so that it would operate according to fixed rules.

THE WORLD WAS MADE ACCORDING TO A PLAN

The world and everything in it functions according to fixed patterns that we call the laws of nature. The more science discovers about these laws, the more sure we are that Someone planned every detail of the universe, made it, and keeps it functioning according to His plan. That Someone is God, the all-powerful and all-wise Creator. He is the Lord, or Ruler, of the Universe.

Someone planned every detail of the universe. That someone is God.

Memorize This

Genesis 1:1. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

John 1:3. “Through him all things were made.”

GOD MADE A PERFECT WORLD

God created the sun, moon, stars, and earth. He fixed their orbits so they would not crash into one another. He ordered the exact distance of the earth from the sun—not too close, or everything would burn up; not too far away, or we would freeze. Ocean and land were in perfect proportions, and the atmosphere was just right. Then God made the living things. Last of all, He created man and put him in a beautiful, wonderful world.

Memorize This

Genesis 1:31. “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”

WHY GOD MADE THE WORLD

God made the world for His own enjoyment. He created the human family to be His children that He would love and enjoy. He made the earth for their home. God would enjoy the beauty and the orderliness of His universe, but most of all He would take pleasure in the love of His children.

God made the human family and the world for His own enjoyment.

Revelation 4:11. "You created all things, and by your will they were created."

Psalms 149:4. "The Lord takes delight in his people."

God wanted His children to be like himself and to share in His work. So He gave Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, a nature like His own in many ways. God would teach them. With His help, humankind would rule over the earth.

Genesis 1:26. "God said, 'Let us make man in our image . . . and let them rule . . . over all the earth.'"

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- What book tells us how and why the world was made? _____
- Who set the patterns for life that we call the laws of nature? _____
- For whose pleasure was the world created? _____
- Was the world good or bad? _____
- God gave Adam and Eve a nature that is like ____.
- God wanted the human family to enjoy His love and be His _____.
- With the help of _____ humankind was to rule over the _____.

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS BY LOOKING OVER THE SECTION YOU JUST STUDIED.
CORRECT ANY THAT ARE WRONG.**

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THE WORLD?

SOMETHING WENT WRONG

Look around and you will see suffering, sorrow, quarrels, violence, war, hunger, and death. The world is not perfect now. What went wrong? This once-perfect world has been spoiled by an enemy of God and by man himself.

GOD'S ENEMY

God has an enemy called Satan or the devil. He was made by God, but he became proud and rebellious. Now Satan is against everything that God is for. For example, God is good, but Satan fights good with evil. God wants to help us, but Satan tries to destroy us. God wants to enjoy humans' love and fellowship, but the devil tries to separate us from God. Satan tries to make us follow him instead of God.

God wants to help us; Satan tries to destroy us.

HUMANITY'S SIN

Satan told Adam and Eve lies about God. He persuaded them to sin, that is, to disobey God. God had warned Adam that sin would bring death, because sin separates a person from God. Life comes from God, so separation from Him ends in death. Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan instead of God. They broke God's rules and went their own way with tragic results for the world.

THE EFFECTS OF SIN

Sin brought disease and death into the world.

Romans 5:12. "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."

Disease and death were brought into this world by sin.

Sin has broken the fellowship between God and humans. As long as people are rebellious, disobedient, and sinful, they cannot have fellowship with God. Instead of being servants of God, they are servants of sin.

Romans 6:16. "When you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness."

By choosing to disobey God, we join Satan’s rebellion and accept his rule. The earth has become a battlefield between God and Satan. You must choose on which side to be.

YOUR CHOICE—GOD’S WAY OR SATAN’S WAY

Joshua 24:15. “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, . . . as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

<p>GOD OFFERS US</p> <p>IN NATURE</p> <p>A Perfect Creation Abundant Provision Balance Order</p> <p>IN OUR BODY</p> <p>Life and Health Wholesome Appetites</p> <p>IN OUR THINKING, FEELING, AND ACTING</p> <p>Wholesome Love Good Thoughts Freedom of Choice Fellowship with God Obedience Helpfulness Happiness Justice Confidence Peace Humility Trust Purpose Wisdom Truth Creativity Faith Joy</p>	<p>SATAN OFFERS US</p> <p>IN NATURE</p> <p>A Corrupt Nature Disorder Poverty Chaos Hunger</p> <p>IN OUR BODY</p> <p>Disease and Death Vices Lust Gluttony</p> <p>IN OUR THINKING, FEELING, AND ACTING</p> <p>Enslavement to Sin Separation from God Rebelliousness Selfishness Crime Aimlessness Wars Bad Thoughts Hatred Destruction Sadness Unbelief Pride Suspicion Error Injustice Fears Fighting Folly</p>
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TO HELP YOU LEARN

Put an X by everything you want in the chart and a zero (0) by those you do not want.

- According to what you have marked, would you rather be on the side of God or Satan? _____

IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR THE WORLD?

GOD STILL CARES FOR THE WORLD

God still loves us in spite of our sin. He has made a way to save us from sin, Satan, and eternal death. God still rules the universe and will one day bring the earth into obedience again.

THE SON OF GOD TOOK OUR PUNISHMENT

Every person on earth has sinned and has been sentenced to die. We had no way to save ourselves. God loved us so much that He sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to take our punishment.

Nearly two thousand years ago Jesus came to earth and was supernaturally born of a virgin in the land of Palestine. He taught people the truth about God and His love. He did nothing wrong in life. He treated everyone with respect and kindness. Yet He was treated as a criminal, nailed to a cross, and put to death. He died for our sins.

God showed the world that Jesus was His Son by bringing Him back to life after three days. Forty days later, Jesus went back to heaven.

Friends of Jesus who saw Him after His resurrection and watched Him go up to heaven have told us about it in the Gospels.

ACCEPTING JESUS MAKES US GOD'S CHILDREN

Since Jesus has taken our punishment, those who accept Him as their Savior are freed from the power of Satan. When we turn away from our sins, God makes us His children and gives us His life. God urges us to believe in His Son and be saved from sin, but He will not force us to do it.

Our punishment for sin has been taken from us by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5.17. "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."

Memorize This

John 3:16. "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."

Romans 6:23. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

YOU CAN LIVE IN A PERFECT WORLD

One day Jesus is coming back to the world to free it from sin and make everything new. If you accept Him as your Savior now, you will live with Him in complete happiness then. Even now, your life will be better because Jesus will come to live in you so you can do what pleases God. You can begin to enjoy today the blessings that belong to the children of God.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Write your name in the blanks.

For God loved

• _____

so much that He gave His only Son, so that

• _____

who believes in Him may not die
but have eternal life.

*If you want to accept Jesus as your Savior now,
pray this prayer.*

Prayer

Thank You, God, for loving me and sending Your Son to die for my sins. I accept Jesus now as my Savior. All the rest of my life, I want to be on your side and not on Satan's. Please make me the kind of person that You want me to be.

CONGRATULATIONS.

- You have completed Lesson 1.
- Turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book.
- Answer the questions for Lesson 1.
- Then continue with your study of Lesson 2.

May God richly bless you!

2 WHAT'S THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *Why Should You Know the Truth About God?*
 - *How Can You Know the Truth About God?*
 - *What Is God Like?*
 - *How Does God Want You to Worship Him?*
-

WHY SHOULD YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD?

It is important for you to know the truth about God:

BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

God is the Creator, the Ruler, and the Judge of the universe. As Creator He has made everything that exists. As Ruler He has certain laws for the good of all His creatures and His world. As Judge He will decide the final reward of men and women according to how they have responded to Him. Since God is your Creator, Ruler, and Judge, you need to know the truth about Him and His plan for you.

You need to know the truth about God because He is your creator, ruler, and judge.

God is a loving Father, too; He offers you true joy. You need to know Him to enjoy His love and blessings.

BECAUSE IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH FOR YOU

God is the Giver of life. He offers you a better, fuller life now and a never-ending perfect life after death.

Memorize This

John 17:3. “This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

BECAUSE TO PLEASE GOD, YOU MUST KNOW HIM

God’s children love Him and want to please Him. If you have received Jesus as your Savior, you are now a child of God. You will want to know your heavenly Father better every day, and you will want to find out what He likes so you can please Him in all that you do. This is the only way to find real satisfaction in life, because you were created to do the things that please God.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Fill in the blanks.

It is important for me to know the truth about God because

- of _____ God _____
- it is a matter of _____ or _____ for me.
- to _____ God, I must _____ Him.
- of John 17:3. This is _____ that they may know you, the _____ and _____ whom you have sent.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD?

BY LOOKING AT HIS WORKS

You can learn some things about a person by looking at his or her work. When you look at the world that God has made, you know that He is very wise and powerful.

Romans 1:20. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

FROM OTHERS

You can find out the truth about a person from those who know the individual personally. In the Holy Bible we read thrilling accounts of many people who knew God personally. He talked with them, solved their problems, and supplied their needs. He healed their bodies and gave them strength and joy. God has not changed. On every continent today you can find thousands of people who know and love God. They will tell you how wonderful He is.

1 John 1:3. "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

FROM WHAT HE SAYS

You can know a person by reading his writings and by hearing him talk. God talks to you in the Holy Bible. In it you discover His character, His plans, His feelings, and His love for you.

John 5:39. "You diligently study the Scriptures.... These are the Scriptures that testify about me."

***You can know
the truth about
God from what He
himself says in
His word, the Holy
Bible.***

THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

You can know a person well by living, talking, and working together with him or her. God wanted us to know Him in this way, so He sent His Son Jesus Christ to live among men and women. Jesus is just like His Father, so in Him you can see the nature of God. You can know God through Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-3. "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. . . . The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being."

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, He will reveal God to you. As you talk with Him in prayer and read His Word, you will experience His presence and come to know Him in a way you never dreamed was possible.

John 14:21, 23. "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to

***You can know
the truth about
God from your
own personal
experience.***

him. . . . My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Listed below are five ways to get acquainted with God. Are you coming to know Him through all of them? Draw a line under those you need to begin to do or do more.

- Appreciate His works in nature
- Listen to those who know God and His Word
- Read His book, the Holy Bible
- Learn about His Son, Jesus Christ
- Talk with God personally in prayer

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

GOD IS AN INFINITE, ETERNAL SPIRIT

God is not limited by time, space, and natural laws as we are. He has always existed and always will. He is everywhere. He knows everything and can do anything.

GOD IS THREE PERSONS IN ONE

Some people think of God as an impersonal force that controls the universe, or as an influence for good. We know that He is a Person because He thinks, feels, and acts.

God is not an impersonal force. He is a person who thinks, feels, and acts.

In fact, the Holy Bible teaches that God is three Persons in one, the Triune God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are just the same in nature, power, and purpose. They work together in perfect harmony as one Person—one God.

Matthew 28:19. "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

GOD IS LOVE

God is love—love is His nature. He loves everyone. He loves you and wants to give you what is best for you in life. Then He wants you to live

with Him in His wonderful home in heaven.

1 John 4:8. "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

GOD IS PERFECT

God is completely good, pure, truthful, and right in all He does. He is generous and kind.

Matthew 5:48. "Your heavenly Father is perfect."

GOD IS JUST

God is a righteous judge. This means that He always does what is right. Because He loves everyone, He has made a way for them to know Him through Jesus Christ. He rewards those who accept Jesus by giving them eternal life. Those who reject Jesus and follow Satan receive the punishment God intended for Satan. Through Jesus, He wants to save us from sin and all of its effects. But if we won't let Him, He can only allow us to feel the evil results of our wrong actions.

Those who reject Jesus and follow Satan receive the punishment God intended for Satan.

Psalms 19:9. "The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous."

Romans 3:26. God is "the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

God knows the past, present, and future. He sees, hears, and understands everything that happens. He knows your thoughts and why you do what you do. God knows what is best for you and wants to help you make the right choices.

God is a God of love. He knows everything and He can do anything.

Genesis 16:13. "You are the God who sees me."

1 John 3:20. "God . . . knows everything."

GOD CAN DO ANYTHING

The Creator has built into His world certain patterns that we call the laws of nature. Everything functions according to these patterns. God is above these natural laws and is not bound by them. He does supernatural

works called miracles, things that are beyond the power of humans or nature.

Jesus did many miracles when He was on earth. He healed the sick, raised the dead, and changed lives. He is still the Great Physician and enjoys making us well in both body and soul.

Matthew 19:26. "With God all things are possible."

Exodus 15:26. "I am the Lord, who heals you."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

One of the following statements is NOT true. Draw a line through it.

- God loves you and wants to help you.
- God is a righteous judge who punishes sin.
- God is impersonal.
- God sees and knows everything, everywhere.

THINK: Does it make you feel good or uneasy to know that God is watching you? Why?

HOW DOES GOD WANT YOU TO WORSHIP HIM?

In worship we show God that we love, honor, and respect Him. We thank Him for what He has done, and we talk with Him. People have tried different ways to worship God. But how does He want you to worship? What will please Him?

BE HONEST AND SINCERE

To worship God, you must mean what you say. You must believe in God and be willing to obey Him.

John 4:24. "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Hebrews 11:6. "Anyone who comes to him [God] must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

WORSHIP ONLY GOD

Your Creator is the only true God. He does not want you to pray to any other gods, persons, spirits, images, or things.

Exodus 20:3. "You shall have no other gods before me."

Acts 14:15; 17:29. "We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, ... we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill."

THANK THE LORD FOR HIS BLESSINGS

In song and prayer, and even in the silence of your own heart, thank God for His love and goodness and for all of His blessings to you.

God wants you to thank Him for His blessings to you.

Psalm 98:1. "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things."

Psalm 150:6. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

WORSHIP HUMBLY BUT WITH FAITH

Recognize that you cannot make yourself good enough to come before a holy God. However, since you have asked Jesus to be your Savior, God has forgiven you and accepted you as His child. So talk to Him as you would talk to your Father and tell Him whatever is in your heart.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- **THINK:** Do I worship God in the four ways suggested in this lesson? Do I plan to do it?

Pray to God now in your own words, asking Him to reveal himself to you. Worship Him.

CONGRATULATIONS.

- You have completed Lesson 2.
- Turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book.
- Answer the questions for Lesson 2.
- Then continue with your study of Lesson 3.

May God richly bless you!

3 WHAT'S LIFE ALL ABOUT?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *Why Were You Born?*
 - *How Are You Like God?*
 - *How Are You Not Like God?*
 - *What Kind of Person Do You Want to Be?*
 - *How Can You Know You Are a Child of God?*
-

WHY WERE YOU BORN?

YOU NEED TO KNOW

What would you think of a person who tried to use a straw hat as a cooking pot or a glass bottle as a hammer? What would you think of a person who used up all his life before finding out its purpose?

Until we put our lives to the use they were made for, we are like the hat on the fire or the bottle used as a hammer. We go through life without finding satisfaction and fulfillment.

God has a purpose and plan for your life. He has a work for you to do on earth and has prepared a wonderful home for you in heaven. You were born to fit into God's plan.

YOU WERE BORN TO BE GOD'S CHILD

You have learned that you were created for God's pleasure, to be His child, enjoy His love, and love Him in return. Whatever else you do, if you do not have this fellowship with God, you have missed the main purpose of life.

We were born to be God's children and to grow in His likeness.

Psalm 16:11. "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures."

YOU WERE BORN TO GROW IN GOD'S LIKENESS

For you, a child of God, life on earth is like a school to prepare you for eternity. Your experiences are lessons to equip you for the part you will have in God's kingdom. The problems and struggles you experience now are designed to teach you patience, faith, and obedience. They will help you to mature spiritually, so you will be more like your heavenly Father. Let God make you the dependable person He can use both now and in the future.

2 Timothy 2:12. "If we endure, we will also reign with him."

YOU WERE BORN TO WORK WITH GOD

You were born when you were, where you were, and how you were so that you could be a blessing to your family, your community, your country, and the world. God wants you to be His partner and work with Him. He will help you lead others to Jesus Christ and to a better life in Him.

***God wants you to
be His partner and
work with Him.***

Ephesians 2:10. "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- God has given me life so that I can: be His _____, grow in His _____, and _____ with Him as His partner.

Ask yourself:

- Does my life really please God?
- Do I accept suffering and struggles as opportunities to develop patience and character?
- Am I doing what I can to help others?
- Do I live as though death were the end of everything, or am I using my life now as a preparation for eternity?
- Do I enjoy fellowship with God?
- Have I started to follow God's plan in my home and community?

HOW ARE YOU LIKE GOD?

GOD GAVE YOU A SPIRIT MADE IN HIS LIKENESS

God made Adam's body out of dust, giving it an earthly nature like that of other earthly creatures. You have inherited that earthly nature. Adam's inner life, his spirit, came from the breath of God. Adam's spirit was like God. Your spirit, too, is like God in many ways.

Memorize This

Genesis 1:26; 2:7. "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.' ... The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

GOD'S IMAGE IN YOU IS SHOWN IN MANY WAYS

This special spirit makes you different from the animals. We call it the image of God in human beings.

You can see the image of God in yourself through:

- Your moral nature: sense of right and wrong.
- Your aesthetic nature: love of beauty.
- Your intellectual nature: desire to know the truth, ability to reason, power of speech, and communication.
- Your spiritual nature: desire to worship and ability to have fellowship with God.
- Your creative nature: desire to improve your surroundings. Humans build skyscrapers, channel rivers, harness electricity, and invent machines to work for them. They create beauty in music, art, architecture, poetry, song, and motion.

***All of these
abilities show
that you have the
image of God in
you.***

These things come from God's nature and make humans very different from the animals. This attention that God has given to each person shows that He has a special purpose for each person's life.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- The spirit that God placed in people is a reflection of His _____ and makes us different from _____
- We see traces of the image of God in people in their enjoyment of beauty, or aesthetic nature; ability to reason, or _____ nature; inventions, or _____ nature; sense of right or wrong, or _____ nature; search for God, or _____ nature.

You can see how these abilities make you very different from the rest of God's creation. Think of something you did that is an example of each God-given ability. You have many ideas and powers that no other creature has. A monkey cannot write a book; a lion cannot fly a jet. Thank God for each part of your nature that causes you to be like Him.

HOW ARE YOU NOT LIKE GOD?

YOU HAVE A PHYSICAL BODY

God is an infinite, eternal, all-powerful Spirit. He is not limited by time or space. He will never die. Your spirit lives in a body which has very limited strength, can only be in one place at a time, and will die some day. However, it is a wonderful gift from God to you. Because of your body, you can work for God in ways that would be impossible if you were just a spirit. You should take good care of your body because it is a home for your spirit and a temple for God to use.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? Therefore honor God with your body."

Your body is neither good nor bad. It is a tool for you to use.

Some people blame their bodies for the bad things they do. They punish their bodies to try to make themselves good. Your body is neither good nor bad. It is like a tool that you use. You decide what to do, and your body does it. You can use your body for either good or evil, for Satan or for God. God uses His Spirit for only good.

Romans 12:1. "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God."

Be sure to control your body. It is a good servant but a poor master. If you allow its physical needs to rule your life, you will have trouble. You can even become a slave to habits that will destroy your health and make you do sinful things that are evil and displeasing to God. When you neglect the needs of your spiritual nature and live only to satisfy the desires of your body, you become less and less like God.

SIN HAS RUINED YOUR NATURE

Sin has blurred the image of God in you. People get worse and worse as they try to rule their own lives and ignore God's purpose for them.

Galatians 5:19–21. "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

When you do things that are wrong and live only to satisfy the desires of your body, this shows that the image of God in you is ruined.

YOU CANNOT PLEASE GOD BY YOUR OWN EFFORTS

God has a good purpose for you. But unless He helps you, you will not be able to follow it. No matter how hard you try, you will never be strong enough to do what pleases Him all the time. He must change you.

Romans 7:18–20. "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it."

YOU MUST BE RENEWED AND CHANGED INWARDLY

You cannot change yourself by going on religious pilgrimages or trying to be good. You need God to help you. If you let Him, He will send His Holy Spirit to restore His nature in you. Only then will you be able to please Him.

In order to please God, You must allow Him to change your nature and to restore His image in you.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Our body is a wonderful _____ from God.
- We become less and less like God if we let our _____ rule over us.
- Can you please God by your own efforts?

WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO YOU WANT TO BE?

A piece of clay can be either an ugly lump or fine porcelain. The outcome depends on the owner's desires and the potter's skill.

Human nature left to itself goes from bad to worse. It becomes a filthy wallow of hateful thoughts and wicked actions. However, in the hands of God, the Master Potter, your life can become an example of beauty and usefulness.

Romans 12:2. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Do you want God to renew you and change you inwardly? _____. In your own words, ask Him to do it.
- If you are already a follower of Jesus, maybe you want to get rid of what you know displeases Him and become more like God. If so, tell Him about it and ask His help.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD?

The minute you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, God accepts you as His child. He makes you aware of this in three ways:

- Through His Word, which says you are a child of God.
- Through the inward assurance of the witness of the Holy Spirit
- Through the change in your life

Romans 12:1. "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God."

1 John 5:10-12. "Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart....

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life."

Romans 8:16. "The Spirit himself himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

1 John 3:14. "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers."

God shows you that His image has been restored in you through His Word, through the witness of His Holy Spirit, and through the changes in you.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? _____
- Do you know that you are a child of God? _____
- Believe what God's Word says about it and thank Him now for having made you His child.

CONGRATULATIONS.

- You have completed Lesson 3.
- Turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book.
- Answer the questions for Lesson 3.
- Then continue with your study of Lesson 4.

May God richly bless you!

4 HOW CAN YOU MEET YOUR GREATEST NEED?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *What Is Your Greatest Need?*
 - *How Does Jesus Meet Your Greatest Need?*
 - *Is Jesus Your Savior?*
 - *What About Your Other Needs?*
-

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST NEED?

IS IT FOR YOUR BODY OR SOUL?

The person who is lost in a desert or jungle, or who is adrift on a raft in the ocean, needs to be rescued. The starving man needs food; the condemned prisoner needs pardon. The person who has been poisoned needs medicine.

Although these needs are vital, you have an even greater need. You are much more than a body. You have a spiritual nature, a soul. Your soul is the spring of real life in you. Without God, though, it is ruined. You are like a person dying of thirst. Life and health for your soul are more important than the most urgent need of your body.

Romans 5:12. "Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

YOUR GREATEST NEED IS A SAVIOR

The Holy Bible teaches us that the human soul is lost, starving, deathly sick, and condemned to die. Therefore, each person needs a Savior to find, feed, cure, and pardon him or her. A Savior is your greatest need because you cannot save yourself.

- Having religious parents will not save you.
- Being a religious person will not save you.

- Trying to be good will not save you.
- Without a Savior, you cannot be saved.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Which phrase describes the greatest problem a person can have? Draw a line under it: physical disease, spiritual death, lack of food.
- I, (your name) _____, may have many needs, but my greatest need of all is for a _____, because I cannot _____ myself from sin and death.
- If you have already accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, this lesson is still very important for you. It tells how He will help you day by day.

HOW DOES JESUS MEET YOUR GREATEST NEED?

JESUS IS THE SAVIOR GOD HAS SENT FOR YOU

God sent His Son to find, feed, and cure your sick, starving soul that was lost in sin. He became a man so that He could die in your place and give you a pardon. His name is Jesus, which means Savior. Only He can save you.

────────────
Jesus became a man so that He could die in your place and become your Savior.
 ────────────

Memorize This

Acts 4:12. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

JESUS SHOWS YOU THE TRUTH AND THE WAY

Satan has blinded our minds with error and unbelief. We have wandered away from God and lost our way. The devil tries to make us doubt God's Word, power, wisdom, goodness, and love. Some people even doubt that God exists.

2 Corinthians 4:4. "The god of this world has blinded the minds of

unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel.”

Satan deceives many people with false religions. Some pray to spirits or images.

Romans 1:22–23. “They became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.”

Satan lies to us about what is good for us and what is right or wrong. We go down the wrong road looking for happiness, but we find death instead.

Jesus, unlike Satan, came to find us and lead us back to God, to happiness, and eternal life. In Him and His teaching you will learn the truth and be free from unbelief and error.

Memorize This

John 14:6. “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

Luke 19:10. “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

John 8:12. “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:32. “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

If anyone comes to God sincerely wanting to know the truth and willing to follow it, God will show it to him or her. Read the Holy Bible and pray with an open mind; be willing to do what God wants.

John 7:17. “If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”

Ephesians 4:22–23. “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds.”

TO HELP YOU LEARN

*Answer with the word **Jesus** or **Satan**.*

- Who blinds us as to what is good? _____
- Who shows us what God is like? _____
- Who frees us from error and unbelief? _____
- Who makes us doubt God's Word? _____
- Who leads people into false religions? _____

Prayer

Thank You, God, for sending Your Son Jesus to teach me the truth. Please show me the truth and help me to follow it, whatever it costs.

JESUS CURES THE DEADLY SIN OF YOUR HEART

You have already learned that sin is disobeying God's orders. So the greatest sin of all would be to disobey God's most important command, wouldn't it? Jesus told us which one this is.

Matthew 22:37-39. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

The greatest sin is to disobey God's most important commandment, which is to love God.

We have all broken God's two most important commandments. Selfishness, the root of all sins, has filled our hearts and smothered out love. We have repaid God's love with indifference and ingratitude. We think much more of ourselves than we do of God or of others. What sinners we are! Our self-centered hearts cause conflict and problems between individuals and among nations. Sin in the heart produces a sinful world.

2 Timothy 3:2–4. “People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

JESUS CAME TO CURE YOU OF SIN AND FILL YOU WITH GOD’S LOVE.

1 John 1:9, 7. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. But if we walk in the light, . . . we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

Romans 5:5. “God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Have you broken God’s two greatest commands?
_____.
- Read 2 Timothy 3:2–4 again and draw a line under every sin mentioned that you have been guilty of at least once in your life.
- Ask God to forgive you and fill your heart with His love.

JESUS BREAKS THE POWER OF SIN AND SATAN

Sin has weakened our willpower until we cannot do what we know we should do.

John 8:34. “Everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”

Romans 7:14–15, 18. “I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. . . . I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”

Jesus breaks the chains of sin and delivers from bad habits. He delivers us from uncontrolled anger, immorality, cheating, stealing, and lying. He frees us from harmful addictions such as to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and gambling. He breaks the power of evil spirits and Satan.

Memorize This

John 8:36. "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

***Jesus breaks
the chains of sin
and the power of
Satan.***

JESUS TOOK YOUR PLACE—SECURED YOUR PARDON

Because God is just, He cannot ignore sin. Death is God's punishment for sin as well as the result of sin. But God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die in your place. When Jesus died, it was as if you had died. Because He rose again and went to heaven, so can you.

1 Peter 2:24. "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness."

Galatians 2:19–20. "Through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. 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."

When you accept Jesus as your Savior, you accept His death as your death, and His life as your life. In that very minute you become a child of God. Sin once separated you from God, but through Jesus you have pardon, new life, and fellowship with God, as if you had never sinned.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- I do not have to die for my sins because Jesus _____

- If you have any habits from which you want Jesus to free you, tell Him about them in prayer and ask Him to deliver you.

Is JESUS YOUR SAVIOR?

It Is UP TO YOU TO DECIDE

Jesus is willing to be your Savior, but He won't force you to accept Him.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACCEPT HIM

If you have not yet accepted Jesus as your Savior, do it now. Now is the best time.

Later might be too late. Besides, you want to enjoy every day possible of this wonderful new life in Him. He is knocking at the door of your heart today; let Him in.

Revelation 3:20. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock."

Hebrews 3:15. "Today, if you hear God's voice, do not harden your hearts."

2 Corinthians 6:2. "Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."

The best time for you to ask Jesus Christ to save you is now.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Jesus is right there by you and can hear your prayer. In your own words thank Him for dying for your sins, and ask Him to be your Savior. If you have already done this, thank Him for the ways He meets your greatest need.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR OTHER NEEDS?

YOUR FATHER CARES FOR YOU

Matthew 6:31-33. "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

TALK WITH GOD EVERY DAY ABOUT YOUR NEEDS

Philippians 4:6. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

JESUS WILL BE YOUR HEALER

He still heals the sick in answer to prayer.

God will meet your needs for food and clothing if you will give first place to Him.

Acts 10:38. “Jesus . . . went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil.”

Hebrews 13:8. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Thank God for His care, and ask His help with any problem that you may have.

CONGRATULATIONS.

- You have completed Lesson 4.
- Turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book.
- Answer the questions for Lesson 4.
- Then continue with your study of Lesson 5.

May God richly bless you!

5 WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *After Death—What?*
 - *What Are Heaven And Hell Like?*
 - *How Important Is Your Choice?*
 - *How Can You Go to Heaven?*
-

AFTER DEATH—WHAT?

THE INITIAL, TEMPORARY CONDITION

What happens when you die? Your spirit leaves your physical body. Your body will remain here, since it was made to be in this world. However, you will always be fully conscious.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ, you will go to be with Him at once. But if you have refused God's offer of eternal life, you will go away from Him to the place which is called Hades or Hell. Hell was prepared for Satan and all those who follow him.

Luke 16:22-23. "The beggar died and the angels carried him ... The rich man also died and . . . in hell, ... he was in torment."

The bodies we now have are not suited to heaven. They are temporary "houses" that are given to us for our life on earth. When we die, we leave them behind. God has prepared a new kind of body or home for us, one that will fit into His new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:1. "We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."

When a child of God dies, his or her spirit goes to be with God at once.

Hell is the place God has prepared for Satan and all who follow him.

THE RESURRECTION

Jesus is coming back again, possibly very soon, for those who belong to Him. At that time, those who have accepted Him will be changed. We will be given new bodies like His.

John 11:25. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.'"

1 Corinthians 15:42–43. "The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power."

Philippians 3:20–21. "We eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

When Jesus returns to earth, all those who belong to Him will receive new bodies that are like His.

Memorize This

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17. "The Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

As children of God we will be judged according to what we have done on earth and why we did it. Rewards will be given for faithful service. God will assign us certain responsibilities and privileges in His eternal kingdom.

2 Corinthians 5:9–10. "We make it our goal to please him, ... For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

THE MILLENNIUM

After this first judgment, Jesus will come back to earth with His followers. The devil will be imprisoned for a thousand years.

Jesus will set up His kingdom and rule over all the earth for a thousand wonderful years of peace and prosperity. This period of time is called the Millennium. Even the wild animals will live at peace with one another and with humans.

Revelation 20:4. "They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Isaiah 11:6. "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, . . . and a little child will lead them."

Isaiah 35:1, 5–6, 10. "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. . . . Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, . . . and the ransomed of the Lord will return. . . . Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away."

THE RESURRECTION AND JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED

After the Millennium and a final conflict between Christ and Satan, the devil will be thrown into the lake of fire. Then the dead who did not accept God's plan of salvation will come to life again and be judged. All those who insisted on following Satan instead of God will have to go to the place of punishment prepared for the devil.

Revelation 20:11–12, 15. "I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. . . . I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. . . . The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

THE ETERNAL STATE

The righteous (those who are right with God and who are His children) will enjoy forever all that God has prepared for them. Those who have refused His salvation will be separated forever from God.

Matthew 25:46. "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Choose the right word.

- After death the spirit is _____
_____ (conscious, unconscious).
- Those who have not accepted God’s plan of salvation go to _____ (heaven, hell).
- After death, those who have accepted Christ will live
- on in _____ (heaven, hell).

WHAT ARE HEAVEN AND HELL LIKE?

One of two places will be your eternal home: heaven or hell. The word *hell* refers both to Hades and to the lake of fire.

HELL <i>Separation From God</i>	HEAVEN <i>At Home With God</i>
<p>Matthew 25:41. “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”</p>	<p>John 14:2. “In my Father’s house are many rooms....I am going there to prepare a place for you.”</p> <p>Revelation 21:3. “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people.”</p>

Everything good comes from God. With Him are light, life, beauty, and joy. Separated from Him, there are darkness, suffering, sorrow, and death.

HELL <i>Suffering</i>	HEAVEN <i>Perfect Happiness Forever</i>
<p>Luke 16:23–24. “In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, ... So he called to him, ... “I am in agony in this fire.””</p> <p>Matthew 25:30. “Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”</p>	<p>Revelation 21:10–11, 18. “The Holy City ... shone with the glory of God The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.”</p> <p>Revelation 22:5. “There will be no more night. . . . The Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.”</p>

HELL <i>Suffering</i>	HEAVEN <i>Perfect Happiness Forever</i>
Revelation 20:10. "They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."	Revelation 21:3-4. "God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain."

Think about what kind of neighbors we will have when we choose our home for eternity.

HELL	HEAVEN
Matthew 25:41. "'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"	John 14:2-3. Jesus said, "I am going to prepare a place for you I will come back and take you to be with me."
Revelation 21:8. "'But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.'"	Hebrews 12:22-23. "You have come to ... the city of the living God. ... to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Beside the Holy Bible verses in the chart above, write NO by every line that tells of something that you do not want in your eternal home or that you do not want to experience. Write YES by whatever you do want.

How IMPORTANT Is Your CHOICE?

Do not blame God for sending anyone to hell. He wants to save everybody, but each person must choose between heaven and hell.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20. "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him."

Whether you choose heaven or hell, others will follow you there. Think of your family and friends. Where do you want to lead them?

TO HELP YOU LEARN

- Thank God for sending Jesus to save you. Pray for any of your family or friends who are on their way to hell. Ask God to help you warn them and lead them to the Savior.

HOW CAN YOU GO TO HEAVEN?

If you want to lead others to heaven, first be certain that you, yourself, have taken these steps. Then help your friends to take them.

GET OFF THE WRONG ROAD

We have all been traveling the road of SIN away from God and toward hell. We must turn away from our sin, determine to obey God and go His way. We must ask His forgiveness for our disobedience. This is repentance, the first step toward heaven.

We must acknowledge the wrong we have done to others and do what we can to straighten it out.

We must forgive our enemies, ask forgiveness of those we have wronged, and return what we have stolen. As we confess all our sins to God, He will forgive us and help us in whatever we have to do.

You have chosen to follow the road to heaven when you have confessed your sins to God and accepted Jesus as your savior.

Memorize This

1 John 1:9. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

2 Peter 3:9. "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT ROAD

God has given you a road map, the Holy Bible. It says that Jesus Christ is the Way. Follow it, and follow Him.

Memorize This

John 14:6. "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 6:37. "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

CHOOSE THE RIGHT ROAD

Choosing the right road means to accept Jesus Christ the Son of God as your personal Savior and Lord of your life. Believe that He accepts you too, and trust in Him.

Memorize This

Acts 16:31. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

John 20:31. "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

FOLLOW THE RIGHT ROAD TO THE END

Follow Jesus the rest of your life. He will guide and help you as you read the Holy Bible and pray.

1 Peter 2:25. "You were like sheep going astray, but now you have been returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

TO HELP YOU LEARN

In this part of the lesson, going to heaven has been described as taking a journey.

- Have you personally taken the steps that will lead to heaven? _____
- If not, will you now? _____
- Find a friend or member of your family and explain the steps of the journey to him or her.

CONGRATULATIONS.

- You have completed Lesson 5.
- Turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book.
- Answer the questions for Lesson 5.
- Then continue with your study of Lesson 6.

May God richly bless you!

6 DOES GOD HAVE A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *Does God Really Care About You?*
 - *Does God Care About What You Do?*
 - *What Does God Want You To Do?*
 - *What Does God Want You To Be?*
-

DOES GOD REALLY CARE ABOUT YOU?

DOES GOD CARE ABOUT PEOPLE?

Yes, God cares about each of us personally! He cares about every part of our lives. He cares because He is our Heavenly Father. Sometimes human fathers fail their children. Sometimes they do not care for their children. But our Heavenly Father is not like that.

The Holy Bible says: *Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.* God's promise is: *I will never leave you; I will never forsake you.*

HOW CAN YOU KNOW GOD CARES ABOUT YOU?

You can know God cares about you because He gave His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be your Savior.

Romans 5:8. "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Jesus Christ died for your sins and for the sins of all people. He willingly paid the penalty for our sins. He did this to fulfill God's plan of salvation and to prove His love for us.

***You can know
God cares about
you because He
gave His Son, the
Lord Jesus, to be
your savior.***

1 John 3:16. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us."

Not only did Jesus die for our sins, He also rose from the dead. He defeated both sin and death. Because He is the Son of God, we become God's children when we receive Jesus as our Savior.

John 1:12. "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

God loves you with a love that is beyond human understanding. His love never changes. He does not love you one day and hate you the next day because you did something wrong. He always loves you.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Fill in the blanks

- To all who _____ him, to those who _____ in his name, He gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).
- What must we do to become the children of God?

DOES GOD CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?

DOES ANYONE CARE?

We live in a world that is full of indifference. People often become consumed by their own problems and needs. We see people all around us who have far more serious problems than our own, yet we hurry on past them like we do not even see them. Sometimes we wonder:

- Does anyone care about those who are poor and in need?
- Does anyone care about those who are hungry or starving?
- Does anyone care about those who are sick or dying?
- Does anyone care about those who are deaf or blind?
- Does anyone care about those who are addicted to drugs or alcohol?

Sometimes people do not care about others who are in great need. But our Heavenly Father, the Almighty God, cares for all people everywhere. He cares so much about us that He even knows how many hairs we have on our heads.

Matthew 10:29–31. “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

WHY SHOULD GOD CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?

Not only does God know the number of hairs on your head, He knows everything about you. He wants to know everything about you because He loves you and cares for you. And because He cares for you, He has a wonderful plan for your life.

God’s plan is not a secret. He is not hiding His plan from you. He wants you to know His will and purpose for your life. The Holy Bible says, “Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is” (Ephesians 5:17).

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO DO?

SAUL OF TARSUS

A man named Saul asked this question almost 2,000 years ago. He was from the city of Tarsus, which is now in the country of Turkey. He was a leader of the Jewish religion. The elders in Jerusalem authorized him to persecute anyone who claimed to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

As Saul was on his way to Damascus in Syria to have the followers of Jesus put in prison, a bright light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He was blinded by the light and fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” Saul asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The answer came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9:4–5).

During the days following this, Jesus gave Saul instructions through a man named Ananias. He was one of Jesus’ followers. Saul himself became a follower of Jesus. He eventually wrote several letters to other believers. Those letters are now part of the Holy Bible.

God knew exactly what He wanted Saul to do. The following instructions were given to Saul:

Acts 22:14–16. “The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”

There are some important principles in the instructions to Saul that apply to all followers of Jesus.

GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

The very fact that you are reading these lessons called *Searching for Answers to the Great Questions of Life* is an indication that God is calling you to follow Jesus. It is important for you to understand that He has chosen you just as He chose His twelve disciples in the Holy Bible.

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."

GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO KNOW HIS WILL

The very first thing that God wants you to do is to decide to be a follower of Jesus. When you make the decision to follow Jesus, it proves that He has chosen you. He knows whether you will decide to follow Him even before He calls you. It is God's will for you to be a follower of Jesus. It is God's will for you to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

■
***God has chosen
you to be a
follower of Jesus,
to know His will,
and to see the
Righteous One.***
■

GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO SEE THE RIGHTEOUS ONE

Jesus is the Righteous One. It is possible that you may see Him in a vision or dream. Someday you will see Him face to face in heaven. However, right now God wants you to see Jesus as you read and learn about Him in the Holy Bible. God wants to reveal Jesus to you so that you will learn to know Him better and better.

GOD WANTS YOU TO HEAR HIS WORD

God speaks to us through His Word, the Holy Bible. So He wants you to read the Holy Bible. You should read and study it every day. You should study it with other people who are also followers of Jesus. In order to do this, you will need to meet with people in a church or house of prayer, or perhaps in someone's home.

GOD WANTS YOU TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR SINS

He wants to wash your sins away. This can happen because Jesus gave His blood on the cross when He died in your place. He took the punishment upon himself for your sins and for the sins of all people. All

our sins were nailed to the Cross in Jesus' body. Therefore, when His blood poured from His hands, His feet, His head and His side, it was poured out as a sacrifice so that our sins can be washed away.

1 John 2:2. "He [Jesus] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

God wants you to confess your sins to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you. He wants you to repent of all the wrong things you have done. To repent means to turn around and go in the opposite direction. You have been going in the direction of a sinful, dirty life. So turn around; turn away from sin and turn to God.

***Jesus is the
atoning sacrifice
for our sins.***

1 John 1:9. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

GOD WANTS YOU TO RECEIVE HIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

The Scriptures are very clear about this. All people have a sin problem. Sometimes we do not want to admit that we are sinners. However, we must all realize that we have done many things that are wrong. We have offended and harmed other people. We have been selfish and rebellious. We have chosen to go our own way, rather than God's way. We have allowed dirty thoughts in our minds. We have committed unclean and immoral acts. We have sinned against God, and that is why sin separates us from Him.

Memorize This

Romans 6:23. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God offers us forgiveness and His wonderful gift of eternal life! You can receive this gift right now. You do not have to wait until you die to know that you have eternal life. Eternal life is in Jesus Christ. When you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you also receive the gift of eternal life. You can have this gift by praying to God and telling Him you want to receive His gift.

GOD WANTS YOU TO CALL UPON THE NAME OF JESUS

This means God wants you to pray in Jesus' name. Prayer simply means talking to God. You can talk to Him about anything. You can ask

Him questions. You can tell Him how you feel. You can tell Him your problems. You can ask Him to forgive your sins. You can ask Him to give you strength and wisdom. You can ask Him to meet your needs. You can ask Him to heal you from sickness. You can ask Him to bless your family and He will.

God wants you to pray in Jesus' name. This means you can talk directly to Jesus. He has promised that He will hear you. He has promised that God will give us what we need when we pray in Jesus' name.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Fill in the blanks

- Who is the atoning sacrifice for our sins?

- If we confess our sins, what will God do in response to our prayers?

- What is the gift of God? _____

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO BE?

GOD WANTS YOU TO BE A NEW PERSON

When Ananias gave instructions to Saul, he said, ““And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name”” (Acts 22:16). Ananias was telling

Saul that his life would be completely changed. He would be a different person. His old sinful life of hatred and violence was going to leave. He would have a new life of peace and joy because of God's forgiveness and because Jesus would be his Savior. God wants you also to have this new life.

God wants you to have this same new life.

GOD WANTS YOU TO BE BORN AGAIN

To be born again does not mean reincarnation. The cycle of birth—death—rebirth is not God's plan for His children. He wants you to be a changed person right now.

John 3:3, 7-8. "Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. ... You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.'"

God wants you to be a new person and to be born again.

God wants you to receive this spiritual birth that Jesus described. When you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your life will change. Your old sinful ways and habits will leave. God will give you peace and joy. He will forgive your sins, and the Spirit of Jesus will come into your life. You will experience a spiritual birth that will change your life. This is what it means to be born of the Spirit.

Revelation 3:20. Jesus said, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in."

Jesus is waiting for you to invite Him into your life now. His promise is, "I will come in." And when Jesus comes into your life, you will be changed. You will be a new person on the inside because a spiritual birth will take place.

Memorize This

2 Corinthians 5:17. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

This is what happens when you receive Jesus as your Savior. He comes into your life by His Holy Spirit, and you enter into the ocean of His love. You are in Christ, and He is in you. When this happens, your life will change. And as you learn to know Jesus better, you will become more like Him in what you think and do.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Fill in the blanks

- Jesus said, "You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be _____ .'"
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ ; the old _____ , the new _____ .

GOD WANTS YOU TO BE BAPTIZED

God wants you to be identified with Jesus. He wants you to confess that Jesus is your Lord and Savior. One way to do this is to be baptized in water.

Perhaps you are wondering, why is it necessary to be baptized in water? The reason is because Jesus was baptized. A prophet named John the Baptist baptized Jesus. However, John did not feel that he was worthy to baptize Jesus.

Matthew 3:15-17. "Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

Since Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, those who are His followers should also be baptized. Followers of Jesus want to follow His example in all things. Water baptism tells others we have received Jesus as our Savior from sin.

Perhaps you live in a community that does not believe in water baptism. It is possible your family and community might reject you if you are baptized. Therefore, it is very important for you to find a group of people who are also followers of Jesus. They will guide you and help you grow in your relationship with God. They will help you understand when it is the right time for you to be baptized.

It is important for you to keep good relationships with your family and community so that they will also come to believe in Jesus. Then with God's help, many of your family members and friends will be baptized with you.

GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HIS WITNESS

God wants you to show your family and friends that you are a follower of Jesus by the example of a changed life. He wants to fill you with peace and joy. He wants you to live so that others will see God has forgiven your sins and filled you with hope. He wants you to show the love of God by helping people in any way you

***God wants you
to be His witness
and to kindly
and respectfully
tell people about
Jesus.***

can. He wants you to be a blessing to your family and friends by showing them kindness and love.

God wants you to be His witness, but He does not want you to offend people by trying to force them or entice them to become followers of Jesus. He wants you to love them, pray for them, and kindly and respectfully tell them about Jesus. One good way for you to be God's witness is to study these lessons with your family and friends. Then all of you can come to believe in Jesus together.

If you have not yet received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, please pray the following prayer. Make it your own prayer by adding your own words. Read it out aloud to God several times. Pray in Jesus' name.

*If you want to accept Jesus as your Savior now,
pray this prayer.*

Prayer

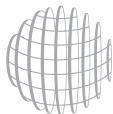
Father God, I admit that I am a sinner. I understand that my sin separates me from you. I believe that Jesus paid the penalty for all my sins when He died on the cross and rose from the dead. Lord Jesus, thank you for dying for me. I ask you to forgive all my sins. I repent of my ways and want to change the direction of my life. Lord Jesus, I open the door of my life. I ask you to come into my heart and be my Savior and Lord. I trust you alone for forgiveness of my sins. I receive your free gift of eternal life, in Jesus' name, Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS.

- You have completed Searching for Answers.
- Now complete the questions for lesson 6 in the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book.
- Then send your answers to the address on page 2.

May God richly bless you!

LESSON REVIEW QUESTIONS



DIRECTIONS

Please write in BLOCK letters:

Your Name: _____

Post Office Box: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____ Postal or Zip Code: _____

Country : _____

Email address: _____

In order to receive your certificate for
Searching for Answers, please
answer all the questions in this book.

Carefully remove the answer sheets and the page with the names
and addresses of your friends by cutting along the dotted line.

Send these pages to your local ICI director or office at the
address on page 2.

*Now you are ready to complete the Lesson Review Questions
for Lessons 1–6.*

*Answer all the questions as completely as you can, then send the
answer sheets to your ICI director or office as directed.*



L E S S O N 1

- 1 The only way to learn the truth about the creation of humankind and the world is from _____.
- 2 God made the human family and the world for His _____.
- 3 Disease and death were brought into the world _____.
- 4 Our punishment for sin has been taken from us by _____.

L E S S O N 2

- 1 I need to know the truth about God because He is my _____ my _____, and my _____.
- 2 You can know the truth about God from what God himself says in His Word, the Holy Bible. You can also know the truth about God from your own personal _____.
- 3 God is the God of love. He knows everything, and He can do _____.
- 4 God wants you to be honest and sincere in your worship of Him. He also wants you to thank Him for His _____ to you.



L E S S O N 3

- 1 You and I were born to be God's children and to _____ in His likeness.
- 2 As a human being, I am able to tell right from wrong, to appreciate beauty, to think, to worship God, and to make useful things. All of these abilities show that I have the _____ in me.
- 3 When I do things that are wrong and live only to satisfy the desires of my body, this shows that the image of God in me has been _____
- 4 In order to please God, I must allow Him to _____ my nature and to _____ His image in me.
- 5 When I accept Jesus as my Savior, I become God's child and His image in me is restored. God shows me this has happened through His _____, through the witness of His _____, and through the _____ in me.

L E S S O N 4

- 1 Circle each sentence which describes a person who has met his or her greatest need:

*Marta has received
spiritual life from God.*

*Thomas has found a way
to earn more money.*

*Jonas has been cured
of blindness.*

*Carl has asked Jesus Christ
to save him.*

- 2 The greatest sin is to _____ God's most important commandment which is to _____ God.
- 3 The best time for me to ask Jesus Christ to save me is _____.
- 4 The Holy Bible says that God will meet my needs for food and clothing if I will give first place to _____



L E S S O N 5

- 1 When a child of God dies, his or her spirit goes _____
_____.
- 2 When Jesus returns to earth, all those who belong to Him will receive new bodies that are like _____.
- 3 Heaven is the place God has prepared for all who _____, and hell is the place God has prepared for Satan and all who _____.
- 4 I have chosen to follow the road to heaven when I have confessed my _____ to God and accepted _____ as my Savior.

L E S S O N 6

- 1 How can I know God cares about me? Because He gave _____
_____ to be my Savior.
- 2 What has God chosen me to do? To be a _____ of Jesus, to know His _____, and to see the _____ One.
- 3 Who is the atoning sacrifice for our sins? _____
- 4 If we confess our sins, what will God do in response to our prayers?

- 5 What does God want me to be?
He wants me to be a _____
and to be _____
He wants me to be His _____



YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Perhaps you would like to express your personal comments about these lessons. If so, respond to each as you are directed.

- 1 Have you understood God's plan of salvation and accepted Jesus as your Savior before starting to study Lesson 1? Y / N
- 2 If you did not, did you accept Jesus as a result of studying these lessons? Y / N
- 3 If you have not accepted Him yet, will you accept Him now? Y / N
- 4 Would you like to have an address of a group of Jesus Followers in your area? Y / N
- 5 These lessons include many truths about God. Which has/have been the most help to you in your life right now? _____

- 6 If you like, state a special need or problem that you would like a follower of Jesus to pray about with you. _____

- 7 Would you like to have information about other courses like this that you can study? Y / N

Congratulations on having finished these lessons and completed the Lesson Review Questions. Send the answer sheets to your local ICI director or office whose address is shown on page 2.

May God bless you as you love and serve Him.



SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF YOUR FRIENDS

WE WILL SEND THEM LESSON 1 OF

“SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS.”

Print Clearly _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

Province or State _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

Country _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

Province or State _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

Country _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

Province or State _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

Country _____

Your Last Name _____

Your First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

Province or State _____ **Zip or Postal Code** _____

Country _____

