

THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE

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 studies are:

- 1. What's Happening to the World?**
- 2. What's the Truth About God?**
- 3. What's Life All About?**
- 4. How Can You Meet Your Greatest Need?**
- 5. What Happens After Death?**
- 6. What Is the True Church?**

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 booklet 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 at the end of your booklet. Then we will mail you a certificate of completion.

As you might imagine, finding 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.

~The Director

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WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE WORLD?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY

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

PART 1

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 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.

This Course — The Great Questions of Life

These lessons are based on the 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 Bible.



There are many different translations of the Bible from the languages in which it was first written. The words here may be different from those in your Bible. They are from the King James Version and Today's English Version (also called the Good News Bible).

PART 2

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 couldn't 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.

Memorize This

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



John 1:3. *All things were made by him.*

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. *And God saw everything 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.



Revelation 4:11. You have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created.

Psalms 149:4. The Lord takes pleasure 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, mankind would rule over the earth.

Genesis 1:26. And God said, Let us make man in our image . . . and let them have dominion . . . over all the earth.

For You to Do

- 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..... mankind was to rule over the

**Check your answers by looking back over the section you just studied.
Correct any that are wrong.**

PART 3

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 . . . God is good; Satan fights good with evil. God wants to help us; Satan tries to destroy us. God wants to enjoy man's love and fellowship, but the devil tries to separate us from God. Satan tries to make us follow him instead of God.

Man'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. Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result, death spread to the whole human race, because all men sinned.



Sin has broken the fellowship between God and man. As long as man is rebellious, disobedient, and sinful, he cannot have fellowship with God. Instead of being a servant of God, he is a servant of sin.

Romans 6:16. When you surrender yourselves as slaves to obey someone, you are in fact the slaves of the master you obey—either of sin, which results in death, or of obedience, which results in being put right with God.



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. Decide today whom you will serve, . . . As for my family and me, we will serve the Lord.



GOD OFFERS US

In Nature

A Perfect Creation
Abundant Provision
Balance Order

In Our Body

Life and Health
Wholesome Appetites

In Our Thinking, Feeling, and Acting

Wholesome Love
Good Thoughts
Freedom of Choice
Fellowship with God
Obedience
Helpfulness
Happiness Justice
Confidence Peace
Humility Trust
Purpose Wisdom
Truth Creativity
Faith Joy

SATAN OFFERS US

In Nature

A Corrupt Nature
Disorder Poverty
Chaos Hunger

In Our Body

Disease and Death
Vices
Lust
Gluttony

In Our Thinking, Feeling, and Acting

Enslavement to Sin
Separation from God
Rebelliousness
Selfishness Crime
Aimlessness Wars
Bad Thoughts Hatred
Destruction
Sadness
Unbelief Pride
Suspicion Error
Injustice Fears
Fighting Folly

For You to Do

Put an X by everything you want in the chart and a zero (0) by those you don't want.

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

PART 4

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 back 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 2,000 years ago Jesus came to earth and was supernaturally born of a virgin in the land of Palestine. He taught men 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.

Romans 5:17. Through the sin of one man death began to rule . . . But how much greater is the result of what was done by the one man, Jesus Christ! All who receive God's abundant grace and the free gift of His righteousness will rule in life through Christ.

Memorize This

John 3:16. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

Romans 6:23. For sin pays its wage—death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with 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.

For You to Do

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 ON YOUR COMPLETION OF LESSON 1.

Turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this booklet. Answer the questions for Lesson 1. Then continue with your study of Lesson 2.

May God richly bless you!