



## WORLD CHANGER BOOKMARK BIBLE STUDY

Welcome to the World Changer Bookmark Bible Studies (WCBBS). There are 28 separate Bookmarks in this Bible Study Series and they are a basic introduction to the main themes and truths of Scripture. As it says in Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Our prayer is that you will enjoy discovering the truths about Jesus, His love for you and the people you will share these Bookmark Bible Studies with. This set of WCBBS will encourage you to interact first with the Word and then with each other.

**Each WCBBS is made up of four (4) parts;**

1. The title of the Bible Study and a brief introduction about the topic to be studied.
2. Key Bible verse/s (please note that the page number is in brackets for the Bible reference) for you to look up and to reflect on. The Bible verses are followed by a brief statement or question to support your dialogue and exploration of the Word.
3. A couple of focussed Discussion Questions
4. One Commitment Question

Before you lead out in the Bible Study please try and read through all the verses given on the World Changer Bookmark Bible Study so that you are informed about the topic, however when you are conducting the Bible Study, do not feel obligated to use all the Bible references. Stick to the timeframe!

For some extra help you may wish to look at the front of your World Changers Bible in the Discipleship chapter entitled “Starting out in the Word” Most importantly you must, take the time to pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten your mind and to share the Bible study journey with you. There are specific questions supplied for the Bible Study on each Bookmark, however feel free to use the reflection questions below to check for understanding as you lead out.

### Reflection Questions during the Bible Study

After reading the Bible verses you may want to ask the question, “What do you think the Bible is saying here?” or you could check for understanding by asking “What message do you get from the Word?” Remember that this is an opportunity for your interest to share what they think, based on what the Bible states.

### Books of the Bible

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Genesis GEN	Isaiah ISA	Romans ROM
Exodus EX	Jeremiah JER	1 Corinthians 1COR
Leviticus LEV	Lamentations LAM	2 Corinthians 2COR
Numbers NUM	Ezekiel EZE	Galatians GAL
Deuteronomy DEUT	Daniel DAN	Ephesians EPH
Joshua JOSH	Hosea HOSEA	Philippians PHIL
Judges JUDG	Joel JOEL	Colossians COL
Ruth RUTH	Amos AMOS	1 Thessalonians 1THESS
1 Samuel 1SAM	Obadiah OBAD	2 Thessalonians 2THESS
2 Samuel 2SAM	Jonah JONAH	1 Timothy 1TIM
1 Kings 1KGS	Micah MIC	2 Timothy 2TIM
2 Kings 2KGS	Nahum NAHUM	Titus TITUS
1 Chronicles 1CHRON	Habakkuk HAB	Philemon PHILE
2 Chronicles 2CHRON	Zephaniah ZEPH	Hebrews HEB
Ezra EZRA	Haggai HAG	James JMS
Nehemiah NEH	Zechariah ZECH	1 Peter 1PET
Esther ESTH	Malachi MAL	2 Peter 2PET
Job JOB	Matthew MT	1 John 1JN
Psalms PS	Mark MK	2 John 2JN
Proverbs PROV	Luke LK	3 John 3JN
Ecclesiastes ECC	John JN	Jude JUDE
Song of Solomon SONG	Acts ACTS	Revelation REV

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To help facilitate and foster a supportive learning environment you may like to use the equipment list below so that those you are studying the Scriptures with can take notes on what they are learning. At the end of each study when you ask the Commitment Question, you might get your interest to sign their name in their Exercise Book if they accept or agree with the topic being studied.

### Equipment List for Leader (You)

- 1 Bible
- Book Mark Bible Studies

### Equipment List for Attendees

- 1 Exercise Book (to keep notes on what is being studied)
- 1 Pen

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The SPD Youth Department would like to acknowledge Pr Murray Hunter for his contribution to the Bookmark Bible Study Series.



## GOD'S WORD

*Ever had to move around in the dark without a torch? It's slow going and you bump into things.* Depending on where you are at the time, it can be downright dangerous. Many people today are stumbling through life, not sure where they are going and not sure how they are going to get where they want to be.

**PS 119:105 (501)** The Bible is sometimes called the 'Holy Scriptures' or the 'Word of God'. It's actually a collection of 66 individual books or letters written by 35 different people from all kinds of different backgrounds over a period of about 1600 years. It is divided into two main sections, the Old Testament, which contains 39 books, and the New Testament, which contains the remaining 27 books. The Bible has been written as a guide for your life.

**2 PET 1:20-21 (982)** The Bible was written by men who were guided by God. It's a book all about who God is, who we are, where we've come from, where we are now and where we are headed.

**2 TIM 3:16-17 (961)** Even though it was written long ago you can still turn to the Bible today for sound advice on the challenges life throws at us.

**HEB 4:12-13 (966)** The Bible pulls no punches, it tells us that God means business, He knows you inside and out, you can't hide anything from Him. God made you and He wants to direct your life.

**JN 5:39 (856)** If you study your Bible, you'll find Jesus. The Bible is 'His-story', it's all about Jesus wanting to have a relationship with you and ultimately wanting to spend eternity with you.

**PROV 30:5 (535)** People tell lies but God doesn't, you can always depend on Him to tell the truth. By studying what happened to people in the Bible we can learn from them, it can save us from experiencing a lot of life's problems.

**1 THESS 2:13 (953)** Studying the Bible will help you to believe in God and it will change you.

**JMS 1:22-25 (975)** Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves. James says if someone listens to God's word but doesn't do what it says, he is like a person who looks at his face in a mirror, <sup>24</sup> studies his features, goes away, and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> However, the person who continues to study God's perfect teachings will be blessed if he follows them.

**2 TIM 3:16 (961)** Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another, showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. Do you think that God can still speak to us through the Bible today?
2. The Bible gives answers to the three big questions in life. Where did we come from? Why are we here? and where are we going? Are you interested in finding out these answers?
3. Would you like to learn what the Bible can teach us about life?



## THE GODHEAD

*If you've ever studied geometry you'll know what makes a triangle a triangle, it has 3 sides and 3 angles.* Each side and each angle have a very important part to play, take a side away, or lose an angle and you no longer have a triangle! God is also made up of 3 different sides, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and like the triangle, each play a very important role in being God. The Bible reveals to us who each of them are and how they work together as One.

**DEUT 6:4 (155)** A square can never claim to be a triangle, neither can a circle. Many people believe that there are many gods. The Bible outlines that there is only one true God, the God of heaven who made this world.

**GEN 1:1 (3)** The Bible begins by saying that God created our world and everything in it. The word 'God' used in Genesis 1:1 is plural in the original Hebrew language.

**JN 1:1-3,14 (851-2)** God the Son created this world in the beginning, and then eventually came to live here as a human named Jesus.

**GEN 1:1-2 (3)** The Holy Spirit was involved in creating the world too. The Holy Spirit has always been one of the faces of God.

**MT 28:19-20 (800)** When the Bible speaks about 'God' it often mentions three separate identities who go together in order to make up the one God.

**2 COR 13:14 (937)** In a family, usually each member has different roles to play, but they are still one family. That's how it is with God-three 'persons' each with roles to play.

**JN 14:8-11 (867)** God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit never disagree with each other. They all share a common purpose and by getting to know one of them you automatically get to know all three of them.

**JN 10:30 (863)** God the Father and God the Son are of one heart and mind.

**LK 1:35 (820)** All three members of The Godhead were intimately involved in the plan and process of God becoming human.

**JN 3:16 (854)** God the Father is a loving God, He gave His Son to die and pay sin's penalty because He knew we would never be able to do it ourselves.

**COL 1:13-20 (950)** Jesus became the image or face of the invisible God. God the Father used the life and death of His Son to bridge the gap between us and Him.

**JN 14:16-18, 26 (867)** God the Father and God the Son have sent God the Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us who the Godhead is.

**ACTS 1:8 (874)** When Jesus left earth bound for heaven He promised not to leave us alone, He'd send the Holy Spirit to guide us.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

1. How is the Godhead like a family?
2. What role can Father, Son and Holy Spirit play in your life?
3. Would you like to get to know the Father Son and Holy Spirit better?



## THE FATHER

*Origami classes are a lot of pressure.* Origami is the Japanese art of folding paper. The teacher stands up the front with a crisply folded paper boat complete with sails and a flag, it really looks like you could take a ride in it! Then they give you a sheet of paper and tell you to make one the same. If you end up with something that vaguely resembles a boat you're brilliant. If you wind up with something that actually floats, you're a genius! Unless you go through the step by step process and listen carefully to the experts you have little hope of success.

Being a father can be like that, there is a model and instructions on how best to do it but many ignore the advice, some don't even try while others make a good go of it. What is a good father? The Bible talks about the absolute model father, someone worth copying!

REV 4:11 (992), GEN 1:1 (3) God the Father is the only reason we exist. If it wasn't for Him we would be nothing!

EPH 1:3 (942), JN 3:16 (854) Father God is in the business of providing us with rich blessings; He even gave us His Son Jesus so we could be saved from sin! Through His Son, He offers us eternal life.

GEN 1:1 (3), 1 TIM 1:17 (957) God the Father gives and sustains life. God is eternal, immortal, invisible and wise.

ROM 8:15-16 (909) It's difficult to imagine we could ever relate intimately to God, or be given permission to do so! However, God asks us to call Him Father a term we are familiar with. Abba is an Aramaic word, it was used by small children and suggests trust and intimacy in a relationship, it means 'daddy'.

EX 20:1-17 (64) Our heavenly Father is fair, honest and moral, He encourages us to act the same by giving us clear instructions on how to do so.

DEUT 8:10 (156), PS 56:8 (467) God is kind and generous. He is soft, gentle and tender.

EX 34:6-7 (77), PS 34:6-7 (455) God the Father is strong and firm when he needs to be. Sometimes He needs to make sure His children understand what is best for them in the long run.

JN 8:29 (860), 14:7-9 (867) God is the original father. He is the ideal, the standard. Anyone who wishes to become the best parent they could be need only look to the Father in heaven as their ultimate example. Even Jesus used God the Father as His template for His human existence.

REV 19:1 (1001) The Father helps us with the battles we face now and will give us victory over death at the end of time.

ISA 64:8 (602) He is the ultimate Carer. God the Father can pick up any broken life and mend it. He shapes it into something useful, something beautiful.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. What is your definition of a good father?
2. How does God the Father show us that He loves us unreservedly?
3. Does knowing that you have a father in heaven who loves you, make a difference in your life?



## THE SON

*Have you ever been asked to give 100%?* Sometimes you might hear someone say, “I gave it 110%!” The truth is, you and I can’t give 110%, we are just not that special. We can give it ‘our best shot’, we can ‘give until it hurts’, but we can’t really give 110%.

Jesus is different, He didn’t give 100%, or even 110%, Jesus gave 200%!!! Jesus gave 100% as a human and 100% as God. Only He could do that. It’s not something that we will ever really understand, all we have to do is accept that He did, and thank Him for it.

COL 1:17 (950), JN 1:1-2 (851) Jesus didn’t begin His existence as a baby in a barn in Bethlehem. Jesus existed long before that.

JN 1:3 (851), COL 1:16 (950) Jesus was at creation, in fact He did the creating!

JN 1:14 (852), 3:16 (854) Jesus, the Son of God agreed to become mankind’s sin payment, the Saviour of the world.

**JN 10:30 (863), COL 1:19 (950)** Jesus came to the earth in human form, and therefore became 100% man but at the same time remained 100% God. God put into human form would be like a human being choosing to become an ant! This nature of Christ, is something we can't ever really understand.

**JN 1:17-18 (852)** As Jesus lived His life on earth as a human being He gave us a beautiful picture of what God the Father is like.

**JN 14:6-10 (867)** If we study how Jesus lived and related to others it will give us a clear picture of what the Father in heaven is really like.

**JN 1:17-18 (852)** The kindness, the truthfulness, the understanding, the grace of God the Father can be seen in the life of His Son Jesus Christ.

**JN 14:2-3 (867)** We live in a stressful world, we live in difficult times. But Jesus has left a promise for everyone who believes in Him.

**ROM 6:23 (908), 2 COR 5:17 (932)** Jesus died on the cross and took the sinner's place. Eternal life can now be offered to all who believe in Him and accept His sacrifice.

**HEB 2:14 (965)** Jesus gave up everything for us, he willingly died on the cross in our place and because He defeated death. Jesus defeated the devil and his plans to kill us eternally. We can have victory over the devil through Jesus!

**HEB 7:25 (968)** Jesus is in heaven right now with God the Father, He is our intercessor and advocate with God the Father.

**1 PET 2:21 (979), HEB 9:28 (970)** If we want to be saved eternally we need to live with Jesus as our example and eagerly wait for His promised return.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

1. Why did Jesus come to earth as a human?
2. How should we respond to Jesus life, death, resurrection and His promise to come back?
3. Would you like to live your life the way Jesus lived His?



## THE HOLY SPIRIT

*You can't see the wind, but you can see its effects, the leaves of the trees move, the clouds float by, the waves of the sea continue to roll in.* You can't see electricity, but you can see its effects, the light illuminates, the stove becomes hot, the car starts.

You can't see the Holy Spirit, but you can see His effects, a heart is softened, a temper subdued a life is transformed.

**GEN1:1-2(3)** The Holy Spirit isn't something that has just popped up recently - He's been around as long as God the Father and Jesus. He had a part to play at creation.

**LK 1:35 (820)** Jesus being born as a baby was the work of the Holy Spirit.

**LK 2:47, 52 (823)** When he was a young boy Jesus felt compelled to spend time in the temple. People noticed that Jesus was markedly different from others. Do you find that your behavior and attitude is different when you spend time with God?

**MT 3:16 (773)** The Holy Spirit was present at Jesus' baptism, the official beginning of His earthly ministry.

LK 4:18 (825) During Jesus' ministry He depended upon the Holy Spirit in order to do His work.

From the time He was born to the time He was raised from the grave Jesus allowed Himself to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, it gave Him superhuman powers;

<i>He defeated demons</i>	Mk 5:1-20 (805)
<i>He cured the blind</i>	Jn 9 (861-862), Mk 10:46-52 (812)
<i>He cured cripples</i>	Mk 2:1-12 (802)
<i>He cured lepers</i>	Lk 17:11-19 (842)
<i>He raised the dead</i>	Jn 11:44 (864)
<i>He commanded nature</i>	Mk 4:39 (805)

ACTS 3:1-7, 2:41(876), 28:3-5 (902) People in the Bible, who were just ordinary people, after being transformed by the Holy Spirit did some amazing things.

JN 14:16-18 (867) Jesus tells us we can receive the Holy Spirit just as He did.

When we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives we can enjoy certain benefits;

<i>He brings the love of Christ into us</i>	1 Jn 3:24 (986)
<i>He transforms &amp; gives us a new start</i>	Titus 3:5 (963)
<i>He teaches us about God</i>	Jn 14:26 (867)
<i>He will unpack what is truth to us</i>	Jn 16:13 (868)
<i>He will assign certain gifts</i>	1 Cor 12:4-11 (924)
<i>He will give us power to witness</i>	Acts 1:8 (874)
<i>He will give us joy and peace</i>	Rom 14:17 (914)
<i>He will live in us</i>	2 Tim 1:14 (960)

JN 14:12 (867) Just as the Holy Spirit worked in Jesus' life He will work in ours too if we let Him. He says that if we exercise our faith in Him we will also be given the power to do amazing things.

JN 15:26 (868), 2 COR 3:18 (931) The greatest work of the Holy Spirit is to lead us to Jesus Christ. He will impress our hearts and minds with thoughts and actions that will make us more and more like Jesus.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. Is the Holy Spirit God?
2. What do you think is the main role of the Holy Spirit?
3. Would you like the Holy Spirit to be a part of your life?



## CREATION

*It's easy to tell if someone's walked along the beach, they leave footprints in the sand.* It's easy to tell if the wind has been blowing, there's leaves everywhere. It's easy to tell if it's been raining, it's wet on the concrete. It's easy to tell if someone's really old, check the wrinkles. God doesn't reveal Himself to us through our senses, we can't see, hear or touch Him but we do know that He exists because we can clearly see the evidence by looking at the world around us. He has left clear footprints for us to see and follow.

**GEN 1 (3-4)** There have been a lot of strange and different theories put forward throughout the ages suggesting how the world began. The Bible says that the God of heaven created it. He created everything in just six days - He spoke it all into existence - He's God.

**GEN 2 (4)** The Bible clearly outlines how mankind came into existence too. God created both man and woman and He gave them His newly created world to live in and look after.

**PS 33: 6-9 (455), HEB 3:4 (966)** If you trace everything back to its source, you'll find God, He started it all.

**ROM 1:19-20 (904)** God exists, it is quite plain to see if we open our eyes and look around. The invisible things about God and who He is can be understood from the visible things He made.

**EX 20:8-11 (64)** In order for this world to be a place of happiness God formulated some basic laws for mankind to live by. If man obeyed these laws life would be a joy. By the time Moses lived the world had become evil and had forgotten God's laws, so He wrote them down for all His people to read. God reminded His people to 'remember' His laws, especially the one about the day of rest He created in the beginning.

**PS 8:1 (444), 19:1-6 (449)** The pattern, order, beauty and exactness of the heavens above us testify to God.

**ISA 40:26 (581)** The heavens above are perfectly synchronized, they are finely balanced and controlled. Only the God of the universe could be responsible.

**PS 33:6-9 (455), JOB 38-40:2 (438-40)** God deserves our worship. He deserves our obedience. He made everything, He owns everything, He is to be praised by all creation.

**PS 104 (490-1)** Those who say there's no God are fools. Look to His creation for clear evidence He exists.

**MT 6:28-29 (776), JOB 12:7-10 (421-2)** Take a close look at the plants and animals, the way they are put together, their detail. Take a close look at a butterfly's wing, a bird's feather, a snowflake, a spider's web, the way birds migrate, the way bats use radar at night, the way bees behave. All these and much more testify to the fact that there is a supreme Creator Being - these things can't have evolved just by chance, these are the footprints of a Creator God.

**PS 139:14 (507)** The human body is a marvelously complex and amazing machine. A study of the eye, the ear, the brain, or the nerves and muscles bear witness to a God of design, detail and exactness. The human body is one of the best and most convincing evidences that our world is the result of a carefully orchestrated plan.

**DAN 4:37 (713), HEB 11:3 (971)** Even though we can't see God with our own eyes, we can, by faith, 'see' and believe He created the world by studying His handiwork. Like King Nebuchadnezzar, we can say, God is the King of Heaven.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

1. Nature testifies that God created the world. Do you agree?
2. If God created the earth and everything in it, what should we do to best care for it?
3. God created the world with so much care, do you think he loves you?



## THE NATURE OF MAN

*Why is it you feel like running over the person who cuts you off in traffic, or pushing the person who jumps the queue at the shops, or punching the big mouth at school, or hoping the arrogant shopper gets a flat tyre while leaving the car park.* There's no doubt, we are born with evil tendencies, being nasty and immoral seems to come naturally!

**GEN 1:26-28 (3-4)** When God created man and woman He did so in His image, and He gave them the power of choice.

**GEN 2:7 (4)** God formed man from clay - Adam means 'red man'. God breathed into Adam's form and he became a living soul/person/being (Body + Breath = Living Person). From the beginning and still now, we remain dependent upon God giving us breath to allow us to continue living.

**GEN 2:16-17 (4)** God placed a limitation on Adam and Eve, it was a test of their loyalty and obedience to Him.

**PS 8:4-8 (444)** God made man and gave him the earth to populate, rule over and enjoy everything it had to offer.

**GEN 3:1-8 (4-5)** When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned, the image of God in them was spoiled. They fell from their noble position and became subject to decay and death. When we take the 'fruit of life' into our own hands we end up making a mess, things become chaotic.

**ROM 5:12-13 (907)** When Adam and Eve sinned something changed, humanity gained a sinful nature and became subject to the consequences of sin. Ever since that day in the Garden of Eden, human beings have been born weak with a tendency to do evil.

**ROM 5:14-17 (907)** God had a plan to rescue people from eternal death if they sinned.

**ROM 3:23- 24 (905), 6:23 (908)** God reconciles the whole of mankind to Himself again through the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross - Jesus paid for our sin.

**JN 17:20-23 (869-70), ACTS 17:27 (892)** God wants us to live our lives to the full, He desperately wants to have a relationship with us. God did not create us and then leave us alone, He wants to come close and be near to us.

**PS 51:10 (465), EZE 36:26-27 (696), HEB 10:16-17 (970-1)** The good news is that God can and wants to create a Genesis renewal in each of our chaotic lives if we allow Him to. He promises restoration of that which has been lost.

**2 COR 5:19 -20 (932), 1 PET 1:22, 23 (978)** Through the power of the Holy Spirit working day by day in one's life the image of God can be restored in us.

**REV 21:4 (1003), 1 COR 15:51-55 (928)** There is coming a day in this earth's future where humanity will be fully restored to the image of God and their sinful nature will be no more.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

- 1.** Why do so many 'hide' from God?
- 2.** Is this world becoming more evil as time goes by? Why?
- 3.** Would you like God to renew your heart with His Spirit?



## THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

*Big Heinz was a fighter who escaped to Australia from East Germany years ago.* Not long after he arrived word got out that he could box. The then Australian boxing champion was looking for a sparring partner leading up to his world title fight - someone he could practice on. Heinz was commissioned. The Australian climbed through the ropes and began to dance around the ring swinging this way and that, jabbing, ducking and weaving, gloves at the ready. Heinz stood calmly in the middle and looked on, hands by his side. The bell sounded. Heinz took a step forward, fired off a right uppercut, and 'bang', the Australian was out cold. It was all over. That's how it will all end - Jesus is going to knockout the devil.

**REV 12:7-9 (996-7)** It all started with a fight in heaven between Lucifer (satan) and God. A proud Lucifer claimed that God was unfair, unreasonable and harsh, His laws too hard to follow. Lucifer wanted to be ruler. God couldn't allow that so He cast Lucifer and his followers out of heaven. Ever since then there's been a great controversy between Jesus and satan - all over God's character, His laws and His authority.

**REV 12:4-6 (996)** Before he left heaven, Lucifer convinced a third of the angels he was right and that they should mount a rebellion against God. Lucifer eventually found himself a place here on earth, where he began to do his evil work. CONTINUED

It began in the Garden of Eden. He knew that sooner or later the Messiah would be born on Earth. He'd wait and prepare to kill Him as soon as it happened.

GEN 3 (4-5) God had created a perfect world, but satan was now out to destroy it. Using a snake, satan tricked Adam and Eve into distrusting God, they sinned as a result. God put a plan into effect that would save the world from sin; it'd be a battle, it'd be painful, but it would work!

GEN 6-8 (7-8), MT 24-25 (794-6) It wasn't long until the world became so evil that God had to step in and do something before mankind wiped itself out! Even though He gave everyone a lot of warning about what He intended to do; only eight people survived the flood He sent. That's how it will be at the end of time - even though God has been warning us for a long time about what to expect in the future, many people will still be caught by surprise.

ISA 14:12-14 (559-60) Lucifer became proud, thinking he deserved to take over from God. Lucifer fell from his high position in heaven; he became the devil of this Earth. In the Bible the city of Babylon thought it would rule the earth forever too. It became a symbol of evil, a kingdom power fighting against God and His people.

EZE 28:12-18 (688-9) Lucifer began as head angel in heaven! He was very special; beautiful and wise. His focus on himself and not God was his undoing; he became proud and evil as a result.

2 PET 3:6-7 (983) As sin took hold of this earth people fought each other, they forgot who God was. The world became so evil God destroyed it with a flood. The world has become evil again; God will destroy it again not by a flood but by fire. The fight will eventually be over and God will win.

MT 24:14 (794), 1 COR 4:9 (919), 2 PET 3:10 (983) Noah preached for 120 years that the flood was coming, those who took no notice perished. As God's people we are to preach a message similar to Noah's. God has asked us to spread the word that He's coming soon.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. In a world that misunderstands God, how can we find out the truth about Him?
2. How does the battle between God and satan involve you personally?
3. Would you like to be on God's side in the battle?



## LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

*Have you ever seen on T.V. the faces of families who have just lost everything they own in a house fire?* It's a look of utter despair, they realise there are things lost that can never be replaced. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden something went missing; our perfect relationship with God. Since that day, humanity's sinful nature has been unable to do anything about repairing our relationship with God. So, God came looking for us, He devised a way of finding and bringing us back from being lost.

**JN 3:16 (854)** God loved us so much that He made sure we could be saved through belief in Him.

**JN 1:14 (852), ROM 8:3 (909), PHIL 2:5-7 (947)** God came to earth in human form - He was incarnated so He could begin to repair the broken relationship between us and God. He came to disprove satan's claim that God's Law couldn't be kept by human flesh. Jesus is able to sympathize with our situation.

**HEB 4:15 (966-7), JN 8:46 (861)** Jesus lived His human life without sin and therefore not under the condemnation of God's law, but He chose to provide a sinless sacrifice to pay for our sin.

ROM 5:6-10 (907) Jesus is happy to credit His sinless life to pay our sin account if we surrender to Him and remain faithful.

ISA 59:2 (598), 1 JN 3:4 (985), ROM 6:23 (908) God's law shows us what God is like; breaking that law is rebellion towards God, punishable by death.

HEB 2:9 (965), ISA 53:6 (594) God refuses to abandon us, He sent His Son to live perfectly and then die in our place.

1 COR 15:3-4, 17-18, 20 (927), JN 14:19 (867) Jesus had to rise from the dead and prove His power over the grave and death.

JN 20:17 (872)

### **Jesus had to ascend to heaven;**

1. To receive His Father's approval for His earthly mission.
2. So the Holy Spirit could come in His place.
3. To guarantee a Second Coming and our final redemption and ascension to heaven.
4. To continue His saving work as our priest in heaven prior to the Second Coming.

ACTS 2:33 (876), ROM 8:31-34 (909), HEB 7:25 (968) Through the gift of the Holy Spirit and by His intercession in heaven, those who individually accept Jesus' life, death and resurrection and wish to take advantage of His saving power can be saved.

LK 18:7-8 (842), HEB 9:28 (970) Jesus is coming to take His people home. God will condemn satan for what he really is, evil. Everyone will have to admit God is fair and His ways are just.

MT 25:31-34 (796) At the Second Coming, Jesus will save the faithful and they will be rewarded. He will undo the tragic events depicted in Genesis 3.

1 PET 2:21-22, 25 (979) God expects us to live our lives using Jesus as our example.

1 JN 4:10 (986) God loved us first, even before we realized we needed Him and salvation.

COL 1:16-20 (950) No-one and nothing can compare to Jesus.

PHIL 2:6-11 (947) Jesus' example is set before us. If we're to benefit from His death, we must, through the power of the Holy Spirit, do our best to resemble His life.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

1. How is Jesus both our Creator and Saviour?
2. Did Jesus need to rise from the dead, does He need to come back for us to be saved?
3. What significance does the life, death and resurrection of Jesus have for you?



## THE EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION

*Ever been caught short?* Not enough money to make a purchase? Not enough time left on the clock to win. Not enough knowledge to work out the problem? Not enough patience to wait for an outcome? Not enough strength to qualify? Not enough room to fit? Not enough height to reach? When it comes to being eligible for heaven, on our own, we come up way too short. God knew that'd be the case, we'd never be able to save ourselves, so He gave us Jesus to make up the shortfall, to bridge the gap between us and Him!

**JN 3:16 (854)** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God and commits their life to Him will enjoy salvation and eternal life. That's God's promise to us simply because He loves us so much.

**ROM 5:12, 14-21 (907)** God knew we could not keep His commandments as outlined by Moses and the Old Testament prophets. He knew we would come up short, because we are all sinners. So He sent Jesus, who lived a perfect life, and proved it could be done. According to God's law Jesus didn't have to die because He didn't sin, but He died anyway and God counted Jesus' death as payment for our sin! That's grace!

#10

**2 COR 5:17-21 (932), COL 1:19-22 (950)** When Jesus died for our sins He built a bridge between us and God and effectively brought us back into a saving relationship with the God of the universe! When we daily accept Jesus' death as our personal payment for our sin, God the Father counts Jesus' death as payment for our sin debt. We are forgiven; we are given a fresh start! As a friend of God we're to be His agents, we need to share the good news, God offers forgiveness and salvation to all!

**GAL 4:4-7 (939-40)** In the Garden of Eden we became separated from God by sin. By accepting the death of Jesus as payment for our sin the gap between us and God has at last been repaired. Through Jesus we can claim family rights. We've been adopted by God, we are counted as His sons and daughters; we are heirs to the kingdom!

**TITUS 3:3-7 (963), ROM 8:14-17 (909)** A life controlled by sin has no benefits. God knew we could do nothing ourselves to bust free from the consequences of sin so He gave us Jesus. By believing Jesus died for us and by allowing the Holy Spirit to constantly work in our lives our relationship with God the Father is restored.

**JN 5:39 (856), ROM 10:17 (911)** To be saved we need to form a relationship with Jesus. We can get to know about Jesus from the Gospel messages found in the Bible.

**GAL 3:2 (938)** We can't receive salvation just by trying to be good. Instead we need to let the Holy Spirit guide us to the truth found in the Bible - that truth will create a desire in us to want to respond to God.

**ROM 8:1-4 (908-9)** The Law of God reminds us how far away from salvation we really are. The standard it demands we reach is far too high since we've been so weakened by sin. Instead of trying harder to obey the Law perfectly we need to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us each day to accept what God's done for us through Jesus.

**ROM 12:2 (913)** If we allow the Holy Spirit to help us fix our attention on Jesus daily we will become more and more like Him and we'll want to live our lives for Him. It's the road to a transformed eternal life through Jesus Christ.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

- 1.** What role does Jesus play in your salvation?
- 2.** What role does the Holy Spirit play in your salvation?
- 3.** Would you be interested in inviting Jesus to be your Saviour?



## GROWING IN CHRIST

*It's hard to have a healthy vegetable garden if you're short on good soil, or you don't have enough water, or ample sunshine.* These things are essential in order for a garden to flourish. In order to grow and develop as a Christian there are certain 'nutrients' needed. These nutrients are in abundant supply, if we know where to look for them, and if we use them wisely they'll enable us to grow into healthy strong followers of Christ.

**JN 15:1-8 (868), MK 6:3-9 (806)** Unfortunately many people fail to grow spiritually because they fail to develop an ongoing relationship with Jesus.

**ACTS 2:42 (876), 9:40 (883), DAN 6:10-23 (715)** Every great and mature follower of Christ has realized the need for daily Bible study and prayer. If we desire to become spiritual giants we need to develop and maintain a daily Bible study and prayer habit.

**PHIL 4:6-7 (948-9), 1 THESS 5:17 (954)** As air is to our physical life, prayer is to our spiritual life.

**JMS 1:5 (974), JER 29:11-13 (634)** Praying to God is more than just words, prayer opens the door of our hearts to let God in; it gives Him access.

**JMS 5:13-18 (977)** Prayer is as powerful as God Himself! There's nothing more powerful in this world than a follower of God on their knees. If you want to be in good standing with God - kneel!

**MK 1:35 (801), MT 14:23 (784), LK 5:16 (826)** Our prayer life needs to follow the example of Jesus; He dedicated a time, a place and a regular routine for prayer - He needed to stay in contact with His Father - so do we!

**PS 113:1-2 (496), 51:3-14 (464-5), MT 7:7-8 (776)** When we pray we should consider; praise to God, thanks to God, requesting of God, confession to God, and claiming His promises.

**ROM 7:18-20 (908), 8:7-8 (909), GAL 5:16-21 (941)** Unfortunately, we have the natural tendency to allow sin to control us. If we neglect to pray daily and study God's Word, we will have little chance to grow into a strong healthy follower of Christ.

**MT 4:4 (773), GAL 5:22-25 (941), 1 PET 5:6-8 (981)** Regular Bible study is vital for spiritual growth. If prayer is the 'breath' of a healthy spiritual life, then Bible study is the food!

**2 TIM 3:15-17 (961), JN 8:31-32 (860)** We must deliberately and consistently set aside time to devote our efforts to Bible study. It will make us wise, lead us to understand what truth is and bring us into a closer relationship with Jesus.

**HEB 4:2 (966), PS 119:105 (501), 1 PET 1:23 (978)** Just reading the Scriptures is not enough, we need to trust and believe them to be the true light to our life's path.

**JN 4:28-42 (855), MK 5:19-20 (805)** If prayer is the 'breath' of a healthy spiritual life and Bible study is the 'food', then sharing our knowledge of Jesus is the exercise!

**JMS 2: 14, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 (975-6)** Real faith in what God says in Scripture will demand action from us.

**REV 12:11 (997), 1 PET 5:8-10 (981), ROM 8:37-39 (910)** The devil wants to attack and destroy our spiritual growth. But his attacks need not worry us if we are a child of Jesus.

**JN 1:12-13 (852), GAL 2:20 (938)** Jesus died on the cross and conquered sin - He broke the power of satan. We can be comfortable knowing that if we are counted as children of God He'll live out His purpose in, and through us.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

- 1.** Why is it important to develop and maintain prayer and Bible study habits?
- 2.** What role does prayer, Bible study and sharing your faith play in a person's spiritual growth?
- 3.** Would you like to develop your relationship with God and see His hand in your life more?



## THE CHURCH

*What is it that defines a family, its street address?* Is it because they go on holiday together? Share the same bathtub? It's not really any of these; the thing that really defines a family is the people in it! A family is made up of people...the church is the same. The church isn't so much about timber, bricks and mortar, it's about people, it's about a community. God has always had a group of people called His church because it's His way of letting people know He exists and cares for people in every age.

GEN 12:1-3 (11) The idea of 'church' being a community or family was started in the beginning by God Himself.

EX 35:1 (78), ISA 49:6 (590), MT 28:19 (800), ACTS 1:8 (874) God has always and will continue to have big plans for His church.

EX 3:7-10 (49), 12:25 (57) Since ancient times the church has been a community of God believers who have joined together to worship, fellowship, and celebrate the Creator and Saviour God.

PHIL 2:5-11 (947), COL 1:17-18 (950) The church is a faith community of which Jesus is the Head.

JN 15:9-17 (868), EPH 5:23 (945) God is the head of the church; He wants to share a love relationship with us, a deep love just like a married couple has for each other.

ACTS 2:42-47 (876), 4:34-35 (878) The church, or God's family, is supposed to be a community of people that loves and is excited about sharing God's love with the world. He has always wanted His church to be the kind of place where everyone feels welcomed and cared for.

EPH 4:11-15 (944) God wants His church to know Him and instruct others about His Word. God assigns each of us work to do in the church; we are to work together like a well-oiled machine!

EPH 3:8-11 (943) God doesn't expect each of His church members to be 'all things to everyone all the time'. He promises to equip us for our specific individual task He's given us to do. Remember, God is keen to use anyone who agrees to be used!

MT 16:14-20 (786), ACTS 10:17-48 (884-5) God is depending upon us to do His work for Him, it is often said, "We are His Plan A and there is no Plan B!"

JN 10:10 (862), ACTS 16:30-33 (891) It's not until we become members of God's family that we begin to really understand what opportunities God gives us to enjoy life. A life lived with God is exciting and fulfilling, it's a life that will demand action and service!

JN 3:28-29 (854) John the Baptist called Jesus the Bridegroom and His followers (the church), 'His Bride'.

EPH 3:17-20 (944), ZEPH 3:17 (756), REV 22:17 (1004) Jesus loves His church! He will eventually return to the earth and present Himself to His church as the Bridegroom who comes to take His bride.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. What would you say is the main role of God's church today?
2. Why do you think God loves the church?
3. Can you see why we need to be part of God's church?



## THE REMNANT CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

*Have you ever played the game 'Truth or Lie'?* Each player is invited to share three statements about themselves, two are lies and one will be true. The hearers must decide which statement is true and which two are false. It can be difficult picking out the true statement if you don't know the person very well. However, if you're good friends it's easier to spot the fake statements, and if you're family, that's a clear advantage!

**DEUT 6:6-8 (155), JN 8:31-32 (860), ACTS 20:20-21 (895)** God's people throughout the ages have been given the responsibility of delivering His message of truth to the world.

**ISA 60:1-3 (599)** In every era God has needed a people to share His message of Truth to others. In the Old Testament God planned that Israel would be that people who'd share the knowledge of God with the other nations.

**EX 20 (64-5), DEUT 4:12-13 (152)** God's chosen people were to be considered a holy nation, that is, they were to be 'set apart', dedicated to God. God wrote down for His people the terms that would dictate holiness, they have become known as the Ten Commandments.

**2 COR 5:20 (932), 2 PET 3:10-14 (983)** In New Testament times God chose His new church to be His ‘chosen people’. The church was to share God’s truth about redemption through Christ and His soon return.

**ACTS 1:8 (874), 2:16-18 (875), 1 PET 2:9 (979), JMS 2:8-12 (975)** The early church was to exhibit the same characteristics as that of ancient Israel; it was to have a world-wide mission, display the gift of prophesy, be a holy nation and to respect His law.

**REV 12:17 (997)** The Bible tells us who will be considered God’s ‘chosen people’ in the last days. Revelation 12 is a history of the church from the time of Jesus until the end of time. The last verse of this chapter identifies who will be God’s people; those who keep the Commandments and have the Testimony of Jesus. The word ‘rest’ in this verse means: remnant, remainder, last part. These people are the continuation of God’s people from times past.

**REV 19:10 (1002), JN 14:1-3 (867), REV 14:14-15 (998)** Revelation 12:17 mentions another quality of God’s people at the close of this world’s history. They will have what’s called, ‘The Testimony of Jesus’ (Rev 12:17). Later on in Revelation the same phrase is identified as ‘the spirit of prophesy’ (Rev 19:10). God’s chosen people at the end of time would share the prophetic message that the prophets of old shared, namely God’s love and His plan to save mankind; to return one day and take His people to heaven with Him.

**REV 14:6-7 (998)** God’s last day church is to deliver a special message; God offers salvation through Jesus, judgment will precede Jesus’ second coming, and a call to worship the true Creator God.

**REV 14:8 (998), 18:2, 4 (1000), 2 PET 3:10 (983)** God’s last day church will also call God’s followers to leave all false worship (called Babylon in scripture), and turn back to God. To warn people who reject God’s offer of mercy and grace, that they will receive His displeasure and eventually be destroyed at Jesus’ second coming.

**REV 14:12 (998), 2 TIM 3:1-5 (961)** God wants His people to turn away from the evils that surround them and become part of His remnant church.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

- 1.** What does the word ‘Remnant’ mean?
- 2.** Is it important to follow the truths of God’s word in the Bible?
- 3.** Do you want to be part of God’s chosen people in the last days of this earth’s history?



## UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

*Leave the yeast out of the bread making process and see what happens to your loaf!* Leave the plug out of the pool and watch the water disappear. Leave the sparkplug out of the mower and watch the lawn turn to jungle. Leave a piece out of the jigsaw puzzle and you'll never have the complete picture. Leave you out of the church and prepare for a drop in ministry horsepower.

Assemble the orchestra but fire the conductor and be prepared for an endless tune-up session! Leave Jesus out of the church, and watch things disintegrate and terminate!

**1 COR 12:27-30 (925)** God's church isn't brick and stone, its people. Paul likens the church to a human body, the body has many parts and each part, no matter how small, has an important function to perform. Members of the church are all different; each has unique gifts and talents that need to be used for God's purpose. List some of them.

**EPH 5:23 (945), HEB 1:1-2 (964), REV 14:7 (998)** In scripture the church is referred to as the body of Christ and Jesus is called the Head. The church is a community of people who worship Jesus as their Creator and Saviour.

**1 COR 12:14-20 (925)** Jesus considers all individuals in the body to be significant. Each has a specific role to play in order that the body can function effectively, all must work in unison.

**MT 28: 18-20 (800)** The church is a community of people who, with God as leader, commit to work together to deliver the Gospel to the world. What did Jesus ask His disciples to do?

**EPH 4:1-6, 15-16 (944)** The church is better able to do God's work if its individuals work together in peace, love and tolerance. If God remains as The Head, the body will grow in wisdom and health.

**1 THESS 5:11 (954), HEB 10:25 (971)** A church community that loves and encourages one another and actively prepares for the soon return of Jesus will grow into a strong dynamic community of faith.

**MT 18:20 (788)** The Bible teaches that when we meet and worship together as The Body of Christ, we gain strength and encouragement. What did Jesus promise to us if we make disciples?

**REV 12:17 (997), 19:10 (1002)** The true body of Christ can be identified by two characteristics;

1. They are a people who still recognize that all the Commandments of God are significant and binding.
2. They are a people who have a prophetic message or testimony to proclaim to the world - Jesus is Lord and Saviour.

**ACTS 2:42-47 (876)** The church is a community of people who share a common purpose; fellowship, worship, prayer, teaching, learning, serving and sharing their faith...

**PS 133:1 (505), COL 3:12-17 (951)** The world is in chaos, there is trouble and strife everywhere, to be a part of the body of Christ is a blessing, as it allows you to work together in unity and peace.

**JN 17:20-23 (869-70)** Before Jesus died on the cross He prayed for His followers, He wanted them to enjoy all the benefits He enjoyed in serving the Father. Can we be as one with God if we work together?

**JN 17:24-26 (870)** Jesus prayed for the mission of the church and its eventual deliverance from a defiled, divided, deceived and dangerous world. How do we become part of His plan?

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### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What do you think the phrase, 'God created the church on purpose for a purpose' means?
2. What special gifts and talents can you offer the church and God?
3. Would you like to be part of God's church family in the future?



## BAPTISM

*Open a bank account.* Seek approval for a credit card. Apply for a passport. Make application for a driver's license. Plan to get married. In all of these you'll need to produce one very important piece of information. Proof of your age. That's where a Birth Certificate comes in very handy, it will tell you when you were born, where you were born and who you were born to. None of us can remember the events surrounding our natural birth, but none-the-less, it's a very important date because it marks our entry into the world and into a family. Baptism is like that, but it's a second birth, it too marks our official entry into a family - the family of God.

Sin is separation between us and God, its effect on us has caused us to fall away from Him. We are in need of a fresh start, a new birth, we need to bury our old life of sin and begin a new life with Him. Baptism is a public demonstration that testifies to the fact that we choose to join the Family of God and therefore enjoy all the benefits of its membership. The bible outlines what Baptism symbolizes in Romans 6:1-13 (907)

1. Dying to the old life of sin: verse 3
2. Burying the ungodly life: verses 4-5
3. Raised to walk with God in a new life: verses 4-5
4. Dead to sin, alive with God: verses 11-13

**ACTS 2:38 (876)** In order for us to change the sinful ways we think and act it's essential that we turn away from our old way of living and step towards God. When we decide to live for God He makes sure that the Holy Spirit is there to guide, lead and encourage us every step of the way. He also expects us to join His family by being baptized, when we get the opportunity!

**ACTS 16:30-33 (891)** It's not until we become members of the God's family that we'll have opportunities to really experience and enjoy life. A life lived with God is exciting and fulfilling, it's a life that will demand action and service! What does God's word say about life with God?

**ACTS 22:16 (897)** Don't be afraid or embarrassed to show that you count God as your best friend. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to get baptized and let people know where you stand. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to do it as quickly as you can.

**COL 2:12-13 (950-1)** There's no long-term future for those who continue to let sin rule their lives, it's a dead end. Resurrect a dead life by responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and accept Jesus' death as payment for your sin.

**MT 28:18-20 (800)** The Bible demands that Jesus' followers go out and tell others about the life God has on offer. They are to teach everyone how to follow Him. What did Jesus say to His disciples to encourage others to be baptized into His family?

**MK 1:5-10 (801)** The Bible is clear on how we are to get baptized. Not the sprinkling or pouring of water over someone, but full immersion! In fact the Greek word 'Baptizo' literally means 'to plunge or dip under'.

**1 COR 12:13 (925)** Life needn't be reduced to a pay-cheque and a weekend. Consider life with God as a big life! If God is your partner make your plans big - trust Him to call the shots for you! When we are baptized into God's family we join a team that has muscle, direction and purpose.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

- 1.** What are some things that cause people to avoid baptism?
- 2.** After baptism how do we best ensure that we continue to 'walk closely with God'?
- 3.** Can you see the need for people to be baptised according to the bible?



## THE LORD'S SUPPER (COMMUNION)

*Signs and symbols grab our attention; they're used to promote a product, to remind us of a want or need.* Signs and symbols can remind us of an event or inform us of an impending one. Some just warrant a casual glance, others demand closer attention. When a sign or symbol is coupled with an action it can become a powerful teaching tool. The Bible contains many signs and symbols also, Jesus was constantly using them to illustrate a point and teach a lesson. The night before Jesus died on the cross He used signs and symbols in an act that would clearly teach His disciples what God's love really means.

**JN 13:1-7 (866)** When Jesus washed the feet of His disciples He had more in mind to teach them than just a simple lesson on humility. Jesus told His disciples that they wouldn't fully understand what He was doing at the time, but they would realise its significance later.

**JN 13:8-12 (866)** Jesus outlined to His disciples that this foot washing custom was of utmost importance. He was illustrating an act they must perform in the future if they wished to continue being a true friend and disciple of His.

**JN 13:14-17 (866)** In performing the foot washing ceremony Jesus taught that all people are of equal worth. Do you think those who practice the ceremony and appreciate its worth will be blessed?

MT 25:40 (796), ROM 14:7 (914), HEB 10:24 (971)

**The foot washing service is;**

1. An example of what Jesus means when He says “we are to serve others.”
2. Considered by God an opportunity for us to directly serve Him by serving others.
3. A reminder that we perform God’s duty when we use our influence for good.
4. A reminder that we are to help others meet Jesus and experience the cleansing from sin He offers.

1 COR 11:23-29 (924) When Jesus shared the last supper in the upper room with His disciples He used a common mealtime occasion to commemorate and memorialize His death. He used the bread as a symbol to represent His body that would be broken on the cross, He used the wine (grape juice) as a symbol to represent the blood He would spill. Jesus ensured His disciples took active part in the ceremony, He expects us to do the same in order to remember His death. This ceremony is called taking part in the communion service.

1 COR 11:24-26 (924) Jesus told us that we are to observe the communion in order to remember the significance of the sacrifice He made for us on the cross.

1 COR 11:26 (924) Jesus made it clear that at some stage in the future He would return to rescue us. He asked that we take part in communion and look forward in hope for His return.

1 COR 11:28 (924) When we engage in the The Lord’s Supper Jesus asks us to take the time to examine ourselves; to consider our position in life, where we are headed, what our motives are, our goals, our wants and needs. Why?

JN 6:48-58 (858) Jesus calls Himself the ‘Living Bread’. He was born in the town of Bethlehem (meaning, ‘The House of Bread’) and is the sustainer of all life. If we remain in contact with Jesus every day, ‘feast’ on His Word and follow the example of His life, He’ll continue to nourish us. What does the Bible say about living a life with God?

MT 4:4 (773) The Last Supper teaches us a lasting lesson; just like the children of Israel were kept alive in the wilderness by manna each day, we too will be kept alive by the Word of God, we are to depend upon it.

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**Questions to Consider:**

1. Why did Jesus wash the disciple’s feet before the communion service?
2. How often should we celebrate the The Lord’s Supper?
3. Do you now understand why, we need to follow the example of the disciples and take part in the communion service?



## THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

*Most people love to get gifts.* Long ago about the only time anyone could expect to receive a gift was on their birthday. Today we find all sorts of reasons and dates to give and receive gifts; Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, Valentine's Day, Christmas, Secretary's Day, Teacher's Day, the list goes on. There's hardly a day in the calendar where a gift isn't expected by someone from someone. God loves to give gifts too, because He loves us. When Jesus finally returned to heaven after His resurrection He promised He would send us a gift, the Holy Spirit.

**ACTS 1:8 (874)** Jesus said the power to witness comes from us allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

**JN 6:63 (858)** The state of a person's spiritual health is dependent upon them receiving God's Spirit. Why is religion dead and worthless without the Spirit of God?

**LK 24:49 (851)** Jesus knew the early church would require a lot of assistance after He left to go back to heaven. The church would have many needs, so He promised the Holy Spirit would come and endow it with 'gifts' that would equip it for service.

**1 COR 12 (924-5), ROM 12:6-8 (913)** God wants to use us for His purpose. He gives the church, according to its need and commitment, a wide range of ‘Spiritual Gifts’, they are to be used as resources. The gifts of the Spirit bring unity into the church and equips, supports and allows it to continue to minister for God.

**ACTS 5:12-16 (878)** The gifts of the Spirit make it possible for the church to continue doing the work that Jesus Himself did while He was here on earth. How blessed would the church be if everyone used their gifts to do their duty?

**1 COR 12:4-11 (924)** The gifts are not to be used as a test for one’s spirituality. They are not given as an indicator of one’s superiority. These gifts are owned, given and governed by the Spirit of God who gives them for the benefit of the church and its mission.

**1 COR 12:29, 30 (925)** No body receives all the gifts just for themselves, rather, each of us are given certain gifts and then we are all expected to work together to do what God has assigned for His church.

**1 COR 1:4-7 (917)** God’s Spirit will continue to empower us with gifts and give us victory as we wait for Jesus to return.

**1 COR 12:11 (924)** In order for a person to receive the Holy Spirit and His gifts, God must first see the need to allocate them. He will decide what gifts to give, when to give and who He’ll give them to.

**ACTS 2:1-4, 38 (875-6)** In order for a person to receive the Holy Spirit and His gifts, they must have a commitment to God’s work.

**ACTS 3:19 (876), 5:32 (879), ROM 12:1 (913)** In order for a person to receive the Holy Spirit and His gifts, one must recognise their need for repentance and become obedient to God. We need to give our lives completely over to God in order to enjoy His gifts!

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### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What do we need to do to receive God’s spiritual gifts?
2. What gifts do you think would best help God’s people today?
3. Would you like to receive the gifts the Holy Spirit offers?



## THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

*So many people are financially ruined because of the poker machine and other forms of gambling.* How many people chance it with the Lottery and never win a thing! How many weird theories and promises have you heard about all kinds of stuff that turn out to be inaccurate or untrue! When people attempt to guess what will happen in the future, that's what always remains; a guess. Not so with God, He has been sharing what will happen in the future for centuries, and His messages have always been spot on. Throughout history God has used people called 'prophets' to deliver His special messages about the future.

GEN 3:8 (5) When God created the world He spoke face to face with man.

GEN 3 (4-5), ISA 59:2 (598) When sin entered the world, direct communication between God and man was broken.

NUM 12:6 (124), AMOS 3:7 (735), HEB 1:1 (964) In Old Testament times God chose certain men and women called prophets to be His spokespeople.

ACTS 13:1 (886), EPH 4:10-11 (944) In New Testament times did God continue to use prophets to be His spokespeople?

1 COR 1:6-7 (917), 12: 27-28 (925) God tells us that He will continue to use prophets to convey His messages through till the second coming of Jesus.

PROV 29:18 (534), REV 1:1 (989) God knew people would need sound guidance in the last days of this world.

JOEL 2:28-32 (732-3), ACTS 2:17-21 (875) God promised He would continue to send prophets to deliver His messages right up until the time of Jesus' return. Prophets receive visions about the future and messages for the present.

REV 12:17 (997) God's church would be given a very special message to deliver at the end of time. We interpret the dragon to mean the devil and the woman to be the church.

REV 19:10 (1002) The term "testimony of Jesus" means, "the spirit of prophesy"

1 COR 12:4, 7, 8, 10 (924) The "spirit of prophesy" is the gift of being able to prophesy and is given by the Holy Spirit. The person who receives this gift is known as a prophet.

The Bible gives information on how to test whether someone is a true prophet;

1. Their message must be in harmony with the Bible: ISA 8:20 (555)
2. Their message must preach Jesus as a real Saviour who lived, died and rose again: 1 JN 4:2. (986)
3. Their message must come true: JER 28:9 (633), DEUT 18:21 (165)
4. Their lifestyle will match their message: MT 7:20 (776)

A godly woman named **Ellen White** (1827 - 1915) exhibited the gift of prophecy in harmony with the criteria listed above. Throughout her life, she preached about the truths of the Bible. She preached constantly about the crucified risen and soon coming Saviour, Jesus Christ. She predicted events and situations long before they occurred with incredible detail. She received insights into topics like health that have been proven today by modern science. Her life was in total harmony with the Christian message and her messages have been appreciated by millions of people around the world.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. Has God given us enough information about the future in order for us to be saved?
2. Would you like to read some of the prophecies of the Bible?  
SEE: MT 24 (794-5) & DAN 2 (709-11)
3. Do you think the gift of prophecy is a relevant gift today?



## THE LAW OF GOD

*A game of volleyball, basketball or football without rules is not a game really worth playing.* Imagine trying to play without rules where everyone can play as they please, the result would be chaos. God realised that a world without rules would be a world of chaos. God knew a life lived without rules would be a life of chaos. God gave us His commandments as a safeguard to ensure that we have the best opportunity to live happy and fulfilled lives.

**EX 20:1-17 (64)** The principles of God's law are found in the Ten Commandments. The first four Commandments are a statement of what our relationship to God should be. The remaining six are a statement of what our relationship to our fellow human beings should be. God's law explains how are to love God and humanity.

**MT 22:36-40 (792-3)** Jesus summed up the commandments in two statements, love for God and love for man.

**DEUT 6:24 (155)** God's commandments are an expression of His love for us. What does God want for us?

**DEUT 28:1-14 (171)** God promises us many blessings if we live in accordance to His commands. Obedience to God's law is beneficial to us.

**MT 5: 17-20 (774)** The life of Jesus is an example of how to live out the principles of the Law. See how He treated people and how He related to His Father. Jesus didn't come to change the Law but to show us the benefits of a life obedient to God's law.

**EPH 2:8-10 (943), JN 15:7-10 (868)** We can't work our way to heaven, salvation doesn't come from keeping the law. We're only saved by the grace of God. The law points out what's sin and shows us our real need for a Saviour. Our appreciation of the Saviour is shown by our desire to obey the law.

**ROM 3:20 (905), PROV 6:23 (516), JMS 1:23-25 (975)** Scripture tells us that working at keeping the commandments doesn't actually save us, rather the commandments are designed to expose sin, teach wisdom and encourage obedience to God.

**1 JN 5:3 (986), JN 14:15 (867)** To those who truly love God, the law is not oppressive but of great value. How do we express our love for God?

**PS 19:7-14 (449)** God is all seeing, all powerful, all knowing. He sees the end from the beginning, and He's been around forever. God is able to guide and teach us the wisest way to live our lives; all we need to do is trust His laws. Too many make a living but fail to make a life because they ignore God's Laws.

**REV 14:6-12 (998), REV 22:14 (1004)** The entire human race will stand before God one day and His law will be the standard by which everyone will be judged.

**PS 40:7-8 (459), EZE 36:26-27 (696), GAL 5:22-25 (941)** Obedience to God's law will develop our Christian character, it will transform us. God gives us His Spirit to help us be transformed into His image through obedience.

**JN 15:10 (868)** Jesus reinforced the importance of the commandments. He didn't ignore them or treat them as trivial.

**GAL 2:20 (938)** Our desire to keep God's commandments is an overflow of Jesus living His life in us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

**1. What is the consequence of breaking God's Law?**

See: **Rom 3:23 (905) & 6:23 (908)**

**2. If the law doesn't save us, what does and how?**

**3. Would you like to ask God to help you keep His laws in your heart?**



## THE SABBATH

*If your birthday happens to fall on the 10th of July, you can celebrate it on the 9th, or on the 14th, if you like.* You can invite your friends over, have the music blaring, cake, balloons, streamers, fireworks and presents - but, it will never really be a true birthday celebration unless you do it all on your birthday! God created the world in six days and then He decided to create an extra day, the seventh day. God set it aside as special and totally different from the other days; He called it a day of rest. Ever since then He's set aside the seventh day of every week as His special day to spend with us.

GEN 2:1-3 (4), PS 119:18 (499) God made the Sabbath using three divine actions; He 'rested', not because He was tired but because He was satisfied with His achievements. He 'blessed' it, meaning He spoke well of it. He 'sanctified' it, meaning 'set aside for a holy purpose'. If we allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes we'll learn to appreciate the significance and value of the biblical Sabbath.

EX 20:8-11 (64), DEUT 5:12-15 (154) 'Remember' denotes that the Sabbath wasn't a new idea at the time of Mt Sinai. 'Of the Lord your God' means that the Sabbath belongs to God, it's His possession.

EX 31:13-17 (75) Was the Sabbath is a special sign between God and His people.

ISA 58:13-14 (598) If we quit doing 'business as usual' and rest on Sabbath, we'll have time to enjoy God. Sabbath can become a delight. God asks us not to treat it as a common thing.

LK 4:16 (825) Jesus had two lifelong customs that are mentioned in scripture, prayer and Sabbath keeping. What example does he give us to follow?

EZE 20:12, 20 (680) Observing the Sabbath day is an outward sign of an inward ongoing conversion experience. Sabbath observance is a visible mark of allegiance by those who see God as the Creator.

LK 23:54-56 (850), MT 24:20 (794) Was the Sabbath kept after the crucifixion and will the Sabbath still apply in the last days?

GEN 2:1-3 (4), MT 12:1-8 (781), MK 2:27-28 (803) Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day, God rested and communed with them on the seventh which was the Sabbath. The Sabbath was created for mankind's benefit. God has authority over the Sabbath and claims this day as His own.

ACTS 16:13 (890) The New Testament sees the disciples continuing to observe the Sabbath after Jesus left the earth and returned to heaven. The Sabbath has always been the seventh day.

ISA 56:5-6 (596), AMOS 3:3 (735) The Sabbath is for everyone. Those who love the Lord will serve and obey Him faithfully. God blesses His faithful followers who keep the Sabbath.

ISA 66:22-23 (605) The Sabbath began in the Garden of Eden. Right throughout the Bible the Sabbath remained constant. When the earth is recreated, the Sabbath will continue to be the day where all creation will come together to worship the Creator.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. Do you feel there is value in having a Sabbath Rest?
2. How does keeping Sabbath help a person get to know God better?
3. Would you like to spend more time with God on His Sabbath day?



## STEWARDSHIP

*Unfortunately today people use rakes more than they use brooms.* Think about it, people are obsessed with gathering and hoarding stuff. We can call them ‘Rakers’ - because they go around madly gathering up piles of possessions and then stand proudly at the top of the pile, convinced that the person who builds the highest pile is the one most successful - the winner! A broom is best used to push things away. A ‘Broomer’ is someone who, rather than collecting things just for themselves, is happy to push what they have in the direction of others. We need to be careful we don’t get too busy making a living that we fail to make a life! Who would you rather be known as, a ‘Raker’, or a ‘Broomer’?

GEN 1:27 (4), PS 24:1 (451), 139:14 (507), COL 1:15-16 (950) Since God made us, who do we belong to?

GEN 1:26, 28 (3-4), 1 COR 4:2 (918) God placed us in this world as its faithful managers, (stewards). A steward is someone who is entrusted to manage someone else’s property responsibly.

MT 25:14-30 (795-6) As God’s stewards, we are to look after His assets according to the talents He has given us. He has given us life, time, skills and abilities to plan, produce and profit.

**MT 25:27 (796)** God desires to see His stewards wisely use what He's given them so His work will grow.

**LK 16:2 (840), MT 21:34 (791)** Do you think God expects a return on His investments?

**LEV 27:30 (111), MT 22:19-21 (792)** God requires a monetary tithe from us, a tenth of our increase. It is to be used to finance His work; we are to be astute stewards of God's money.

**MAL 3:8-11 (768)** God promises to bless those who are faithful in returning tithe and offerings.

**HAG 1:3-11 (757)** In order to fulfill its mission, the church needs a variety of gifts. God expects us to meet those needs and not ignore them.

**EX 20:8-11 (64)** God requires a tithe of time from us - a seventh of it. It is to be faithfully set aside so we have special opportunity to build our relationship with Him.

**1 COR 6:19-20 (920), GAL 5:19-23 (941)** God requires that we look after our mind & bodies too. He wants us in good condition so we can work for Him efficiently and effectively.

**ROM 15:26-27 (915)** A good steward is someone who's not afraid to support others less fortunate, they are generous, and share wealth. Essentially, a good steward is someone who becomes the 'hands and feet' of God.

**1 CHRON 29:14 (354), DEUT 8:17-18 (156)** The Lord wishes to richly bless those who honour Him who prove to be good stewards.

**GEN 1:28 (4)** God ultimately desires that the fundamental qualities of His character be reflected in the lives of His faithful stewards.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

- 1.** What are the rewards for good stewardship?
- 2.** Do you think God is concerned about how we live our lives?
- 3.** Can you see why it's important to honour God with our lives and resources?



## CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR

Researchers have told us for years that we learn best not by being told how to do something, but by being shown how to do it. Modeling is a powerful teaching tool - Jesus knew that. Jesus came to this earth and modeled the way in which we are to live our lives as His disciples.

**1 COR 10:31 (923), 2 PET 3:11-14 (983)** Rather than just a heap of rules Jesus gives us some principles to live by as Christians, He also provides scores of practical examples to illustrate these principles.

**JMS 4:11 (977), PS 19:14 (449)** God expects us to watch the way we speak, we should commit to building people up not tearing them down.

**1 COR 6:13-18 (920), MT 5:27-30 (774)** "Sex sells." Many businesses today say that they sell their product more effectively when they connect it to something sexual. The Bible warns us about the using sex for things other than it was intended.

EX 20:14 (64), EPH 5:25-28 (945), MT 19:3-9 (788-9) The Bible has great counsel on marriage. Paul uses twice as many words telling husbands to love their wives than he does telling wives to submit to their husbands. God intended marriage to be permanent.

1 COR 6:19-20 (920), LEV 11:1-47 (92-3) God can teach us how to get the most out of life and health; we simply need to live according to His counsel.

PHIL 4:8 (949), PS 101:3 (489), AMOS 5:15 (737) What we put into our minds will usually determine what we say and do.

ROM 14:7, 14 (914) Our actions affect others - we were created to be interdependent, not independent.

MT 16:24 (786), PROV 16:25 (524), PS 32:1-11 (454-5) Following Gods ways sometimes requires self-sacrifice, however the end result is worth the effort.

1 TIM 2:9-10 (957), 1 PET 3:3-4 (979), 1 SAM 16:7 (237) God is more interested in our faith and our character rather than our appearance. The true beauty of a person is found on the inside.

ROM 12:17-21 (913), ISA 33:15-16 (575) As Christ loves us, we should love others with honesty, truthfulness and integrity.

MIC 6:8 (747), PROV 21:6 (527), JER 17:11 (623) God requires us to be fair in our relationships and dealings with people.

PROV 16:11 (523), EZE 45:10 (705) We should be honest in our business dealings with others.

ROM 12:1 (913) Our bodies are a gift from God, we should offer our whole life to Him. He wants to build us for His service.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. There is value in living the Christian life, do you agree?
2. What's the best way to ensure that we build/maintain strong & healthy relationships?
3. Would you like to take a step toward living according to Gods standards?



## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

*In Australia a man married his T.V.*

In India a man married his dog.

Someplace else a man married a shrine!

Today, people are marrying some really weird stuff.

A lot of people have become really confused about what constitutes a healthy marriage and a good family. Thankfully the Bible gives us a picture of what marriage and family was originally designed to be and still can be today!

**GEN 2:1-3, 22-24 (4)** Even though we live in a confused and sinful world, we still have two things that remind us of the perfect world God created, marriage and the Sabbath. Both of these are vitally important to Him because they are both about His relationship to us.

**GEN 2:21-23 (4)** God performed the first marriage ceremony and established the first family at creation. Marriage was His idea.

GEN 2:24 (4) God originally required two non-negotiable elements for marriage, marry one person, and marry for life.

2 COR 6:14-15 (932) It's important for a marriage relationship to be based on respect, love, commitment and understanding, but in order to maximize the benefits of a marriage, at its core must be a relationship with God!

2 TIM 1:5 (960), 3:15 (961) God can shape and mould the characters of a married couple, a strong, healthy Christian marriage is one of the things God will use to save and mould children.

EX 20:12 (64), EPH 5:22, 25 (945) The love, care, grace and respect that God continually shows each of us is an example of how partners are to treat each other in the marriage relationship.

GEN 18:18-19 (15), EX 20:12, 14 (64) When those who are non-believers witness a marriage and a family rich in God's love, it becomes a powerful testimony about the Family of God, His Church and Christian marriage.

EPH 6:1-3 (945) Children have an important duty towards their parents they are to obey their Godly instruction and discipline.

DEUT 6:6-8 (155), 11:18-20 (159), EPH 6:4 (945) Parents are to model to their children Godly respect and they are responsible for bringing them up to love and obey the Lord.

MT 5:31-32 (774-5), 19:1-9 (788-9) Jesus taught that a marriage could only end if a partner died or became unfaithful (committed adultery).

MAL 4:5-6 (768) As the time of the end draws near, families need to be more united to overcome the challenges they will face.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. What do you consider to be the important skills a husband or wife must have?
2. Why did God create families?
3. Can you see how important a good family is to God?



## CHRIST'S MINISTRY IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

*You can't have a shadow unless you have some light; the brighter the light the better the shadow.* Sometimes it's difficult to tell what the object really looks like just by looking at its shadow, but usually it will give you a fair idea. The more detailed the shadow the more clues as to the real object. When the lights are turned off, the shadows disappear, and we are faced with an added problem - stumbling around in the dark.

**EX 25:8-9 (68)** In Old Testament times God wanted a place where He could live with His people, He asked that a sanctuary be built so He could have a presence with them. They came to the sanctuary to meet God and make things right when grievances occurred. If anyone committed a sin they brought an animal to sacrifice as an offering for their pardon.

**EX 29:38-46 (73), LEV 4:1-6 (86), HEB 8:1-5 (969)** This earthly sanctuary, its sacrifices and services was to be an example or 'shadow' of heavenly things. Its sacrifices and services were to demonstrate God's love, judgment, justice and salvation. It modeled God's plan of salvation to the Hebrew nation.

**HEB 9 (969-70)** The sacrifices & services all pointed forward to the future ministry of Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The work of the priest in the earthly sanctuary became a 'shadow' of the work Jesus was to perform in heaven as our High Priest.

#24

Each feature of the earthly sanctuary was symbolic to Jesus' role as our heavenly High Priest. For example in Exodus 25-27 (68-71) it outlines a clear description of the Sanctuary;

1. The earthly priest = we have access to God through Jesus our High Priest: **HEB 9:24 (970)**
2. The Altar of Sacrifice and the sacrificial blood = Jesus is our sacrifice for sin: **EX 27:1-4 (70), 1 PET 1:19 (978)**
3. The Laver = Jesus is the Water of Life: **EX 30:18-21 (74), JN 4:13-14 (854)**
4. The Branched Candlestick = Jesus is the Light of the World: **EX 26:32-35 (70), JN 1:9 (851)**
5. Table of Shewbread = Jesus is the Bread of Life: **EX 25:23 25 (69), JN 6:48-51 (858)**
6. Altar of Incense = Jesus continually intercedes for us before His Father in heaven: **EX 30:1-10 (73-4), HEB 7:25 (968)**
7. The Ark, Mercy Seat and Law = we break God's law; God shows us mercy because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. **EX 25:10-11 (69), HEB 4:15-16 (966-7)**

**HEB 10:4, 9:22 (970), ROM 6:23 (908)** The penalty of sin according to the Law of God is death. In the Old Testament sanctuary services, the sinner symbolically transferred their sin onto the sacrifice.

**LEV 1:4-5 (84)** The sinner had to bring an offering to the priest in the sanctuary, place their hands on the sin offerings' head, confess their sin and then slay the sacrifice - it was a sin payment.

**JN 1:29 (852), REV 5:12 (993)** When Jesus came to this world He offered Himself on the cross as THE sacrifice that would pay for the sins of all humanity.

**ISA 53:5-6 (593-4), ROM 5:8 (907), 1 COR 15:3 (927)** Jesus' sacrifice means we can approach God with confidence. We don't have to die for our sins; we are justified in God's eyes of His death on the cross.

**HEB 4:15-16 (966-7), 7:25 (968), 8:1 (969)** Jesus has dealt with our past sins, and now as our Saviour, He helps us to live a new life in Him daily. As our High Priest He makes heaven's power available to us so we can live our lives for God.

**1 JN 1:9 (984), HEB 9:24 (970)** We can continue to receive full salvation and forgiveness for our confessed sin. Salvation is free to all who wish to receive it through Jesus.

**JN 3:16 (854), 1 JN 2:1 (984), ROM 8:34 (909), JUDE 24 (989)** Jesus promises eternal life to all who believe in Him and accept the sacrifice He made on the cross. He is our sin sacrifice, He is our intercessory Priest, He is our Saviour.

**MT 28:20 (800), HEB 13:5 (974)** Jesus promises He'll never leave us.

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### Questions to Consider:

1. Do you believe Jesus work in heaven, as our High Priest, is important?
2. How are we saved from our sin today?
3. Do you want Jesus to be your high priest your advocate in heaven?



## THE SECOND COMING

*Is it possible to stop the clock?* Can you rewind back to yesterday and live it again? Can you celebrate two birthdays at the same time? Can you stop the wind blowing from one place to the next? Can you stop the waves crashing on the sea shore? The answer to all these questions is 'no'!

Can you stop Jesus coming back to earth a second time? According to the Bible the answer to that question is also 'no', He's coming back, you can bank on it!

**REV 1:7 (990)** When Jesus finally comes back everyone will know it when He arrives, it will be no secret. Those alive at that time will be in one of two groups of people - those ready for His coming and those who are not.

**1 THESS 4:13-18 (954)** When Jesus returns you'll hear it, see it and feel it! Those who counted Jesus as their best friend will be saved and will meet Him in the air and then go back to heaven with Him, but those who ignored and rejected Him will miss out and be lost for eternity.

**1 COR 15:51-54 (928)** The dead will be raised to life and those already alive will join together to meet Jesus. He's going to give us all an instant and complete makeover so we are ready and able to live for eternity in a new earth He'll recreate.

**2 THESS 1:7-10, 2:8 (955)** When Jesus comes the second time it will mean the end of sin. He will reward the faithful with eternal life. The unfaithful will see how satan has led them away from God forever.

**REV 14:14-20 (998)** The Second Coming is sometimes likened to a great harvest. When Jesus comes back with His angels they will 'harvest' earth's people; He will take the righteous to heaven, and destroy those considered unrighteous.

**REV 19:11-21 (1002)** A king riding a white horse is a symbol of victory. Jesus and His angels will wage war on satan and his angels and win, destroying evil forever - it will be a complete annihilation.

**MT 24 (794-5)** Jesus foretells to His disciples both the destruction of Jerusalem and details about His Second Coming at the end of the world. He gives a clear picture of the signs to look for leading up to His Second Coming and tells a number of stories to illustrate what we must do in order to prepare for that day.

**2 TIM 3:1-5 (961)** In the last days leading up to Jesus' second coming people will be overtly evil. There will be many who appear and act religious but really are not. We need to be careful we're not tricked into following them, or their ways.

**1 THESS 5:1-6 (954), JN 14:1-3 (867)** The Second Coming of Jesus is an expected, necessary and imminent event to those who are living their lives for God, watching and waiting for His return. Even though no one knows the exact day or hour it will be, we do know it's going to happen. For those who have ignored and become indifferent to God the Second Coming will be a huge shock.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

1. How do we know that the Second Coming of Jesus is going to happen soon?
2. What happens to the righteous people at the Second Coming?
3. Would you like to be ready for Jesus when He returns?



## DEATH AND RESURRECTION

*When a battery finally dies and goes flat, you can rub it, shake it, paint it, kick it, yell at it and cry over it. But once you've done all that, it'll still stay dead, because it's finished, expired, done, kaput! Many people in the world today believe, if they are lucky, they'll get around 70 years to live their lives and then after that they'll die, all finished, expired, done, kaput! But the Bible proclaims, "Wait, there's more!"*

JN 5:26 (856), 1 TIM 1:17 (957); 6:15-16 (959) Only God is immortal.

GEN 2:7 (4), JOB 33:4 (434) We have life because God gave us a body and provided the breath (air) we need to survive; **Dust + Breath/Spirit = Living Soul/Being.** The Hebrew and Greek words which we translate into our English words soul and spirit appear about 1,700 times in scripture, but not once are either of them said to be immortal or eternal.

GEN 3:19 (5), PS 146:3-4 (510), JMS 2:26 (976) As long as the body and breath remain united there is life, but when the breath of life is taken away, body, spirit, soul cease to exist.

PS 6:5 (443), 115:17 (497), JOB 14:21 (423), ECCL 9:5-6, 10 (541) The dead know nothing.

GEN 2:9, 15-17 (4), ISA 59:2 (598) God warned Adam if he sinned he would have to be separated from the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden and he would die - therefore separation from God meant death.

GEN 2:15-17, 3:1-4 (4) Satan sold Adam the lie that he would not die if he disobeyed God. He contradicted what God told Adam.

GEN 3:6-19 (4-5) Unfortunately death came into the world because Adam and Eve did sin.

ROM 3:23 (905), 5:12 (907), 6:23 (908), 1 COR 15:22, 23 (927) The penalty for sin is death. All of mankind has inherited this death penalty because all have sinned.

PS 13:3 (446), 23:4 (451), JN 11:11-14 (863), ACTS 7:60 (881) The good news is that over 50 times the Bible compares death to a sleep or a shadow - meaning something temporary.

REV 1:18 (990), ROM 6:23 (908), JN 5:24 (856), 1 COR 15:22, 23 (927) The other good news is that everyone qualifies to have eternal life if they live for Jesus, because He broke the power of death!

ROM 8:35-39 (910) Death cannot rob eternal life from those who follow Jesus.

1 THESS 4:13-18 (954), JN 5:28-29 (856) For those followers of Jesus who die before His second coming, He promises to raise them up at His return. In the Bible, it's called, the First Resurrection. Those who are followers of Jesus and are alive at His second coming will also meet Jesus at His return.

REV 20:1-15 (1002), MT 25:31-46 (796) Those who have refused to follow Jesus and die before His second coming will remain dead at His return. For those who have refused to follow Jesus and are alive at His second coming they will perish at the time of His return. Both these groups will then remain in the grave until the end of the 1000 Years of Peace where they will be raised and judged. In the Bible this is called the Second Resurrection.

PHIL 3:20-21 (948) When Jesus returns, death will finally be beaten, the saved will be changed from being mortals to immortals!

1 JN 5:11-13 (986-7), JN 17:3 (869), REV 21:4 (1003) We can have eternal life in Christ Jesus!

2 TIM 4:6-8 (962) Eternal death need not worry us, we have something to look forward to, it's called eternal life!

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### Questions to Consider:

1. Should we be afraid of death?
2. How can a funeral be both a sad occasion and a happy occasion?
3. Would you like to be part of the first resurrection into life eternal?



## THE MILLENNIUM AND END OF SIN

*Ever walked into an exam knowing that it's just a formality - you've handed all your assignments in and passed your coursework even before the exam.* But, you are required to take the exam anyway because it's part of the requirements? It's a nice feeling knowing you've got the grades to pull you through; it's a lot less stressful looking at the examination clock knowing that when the buzzer finally sounds you are going to walk out with a pass.

No one likes having a cold; aching joints, runny noses and headaches aren't much fun. Usually it amounts to a few days of misery, but in time it's over and you're up and about again. There are many things in this world that cause us much pain and suffering, sin is a disease that affects us all - but not for too much longer.

#27

**JN 19:30 (872)** When Jesus died on the cross it was a victory against satan. The power of sin and death over us was conquered and the eventual fate of the devil was sealed.

**1 COR 15:51-55 (928)** When Jesus comes we will be rescued from this world. He's going to change us so we're best suited to live in heaven and in the new Earth. He died, and in doing so has the last word on death, He conquered it on our behalf.

**REV 20:6 (1002), 2:11 (990)** When Jesus comes the second time He'll raise the righteous dead from their graves, it's called the 'first resurrection'. He'll take them home to live with Him in heaven for a thousand years. No second death for them!

**REV 21:8 (1003)** At Jesus' second coming those who are alive and are righteous leave for heaven, but those who are unrighteous will have to be put to death. At the end of the thousand years the unrighteous will be raised again. This is called the 'second resurrection', they are raised up for their final judgment and destruction. This is called the 'second death'.

**REV 20:14 (1002)** The 'second death' will be the end of satan, his evil angels and all those who are unrighteous. They'll all be consumed with fire, and sin will never rear its ugly head again.

**REV 20 (1002)** The Millennium is that time where satan and his angels will roam the earth with no one to tempt, the unrighteous are all dead. Meanwhile the righteous are living it up in heaven and discovering why the unrighteous missed out. The Millennium will finish with a judgment and the defeat of satan, finally the earth will be rid of evil.

**1 COR 6:2-3 (920)** God is fair, He wants us to know that. During the Millennium He will allow us to look over the books and judge for ourselves why so many missed out on salvation and eternity.

**2 PET 3:10 (983), JER 4:23-26 (610)** During the Millennium while the righteous are in heaven, the earth is cleansed with fire and is absolutely desolate.

**EZE 28:18-19 (688-9), MAL 4:1 (768)** God destroys the wicked completely.

**REV 21:4 (1003)** The Millennium will be a time of healing and reflection and God will comfort all the faithful.

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### **Questions to Consider:**

- 1.** What are Gods people doing in heaven during the Millennium?
- 2.** Does the Millennium reveal God's justice and love?
- 3.** Would you like to be part of Gods family in heaven during the Millennium?



## THE NEW EARTH

*How can people all over the world talk, share pictures, videos and other information through facebook at the same time? How does a T.V. pluck pictures out of the air? How can you turn on a radio and hear a band in another country playing in a live concert? How does the internet work?*

All these are recent creations, and for most of us we have little clue how and why they work, we just know they do, and that's enough. The Bible says that God created the heavens and the earth in six days, how did He do that? Unfortunately, we all missed creation the first time, but, we've got an invitation to be around when He does it the second time!

GEN 17:1-7 (13-14), HEB 11:8-16 (971-2), ROM 4:13 (906) God made a covenant with Abraham. God promised that Abraham's descendants would eventually inherit a new home, a heavenly Canaan.

2 PET 3:13 (983), HEB 11:10 (972) People all through the ages have been looking forward to heaven and the new earth. Heaven is a real place.

GEN 1:6-8 (3), REV 19:17 (1002)

**The Bible uses the word 'Heaven' three ways;**

1st Heaven: The atmosphere where the birds fly.

PS 8:3 (444), GEN 15:5 (13) 2nd Heaven: The starry heaven where the planets are.

MT 6:9 (775), 2 COR 12:2-4 (936) 3rd Heaven: Paradise, God's home.

JN 14:1-6 (867), 1 THESS 4:13-18 (954) Jesus is now in Heaven with His Father and is preparing a place for His followers. He promised to come a second time and rescue us from this earth. He said He would take us back to heaven with Him.

JN 3:16 (854), REV 21:7-8 (1003), 22:14 (1004) Only those who have been faithful to Jesus and accept Him as their Saviour will be allowed to return to heaven to be with Him for eternity.

REV 20:1-6 (1002) We will live with Jesus for 1000 years in Heaven, the Holy City called the New Jerusalem will be there. Meanwhile satan will be left here on earth with no one to tempt.

REV 20:7-15 (1002), 21:1-2 (1002-3) After the 1000 years, the New Jerusalem will descend to this earth from heaven with us in it. It's then that the final battle between God and satan will be fought. God will win the battle and evil will be no more. Soon after God will make this old earth new again and we'll be there when He does it this time!

ISA 65:17-25 (603-4), 35:1-10 (576) When God creates the new earth it will be a lot different to the one we live in now. God's people will get to do some building and planting in the new earth.

REV 21:1-6 (1002-3) There will be no sin to bother us in the new earth; the Great Controversy will be over.

ISA 66:23 (605) Every Sabbath in the new earth the redeemed people will have opportunity to come into the Heavenly city to worship God.

REV 21:9-27 (1003) The New Jerusalem will be a glorious city.

REV 22:1-5 (1003) The Water of Life and the Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem will sustain the inhabitants of the new earth forever.

REV 11:15 (996), 21:3 (1003) All will declare that God is love and He'll live with His people and reigning the new earth for eternity!

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### Questions to Consider:

1. Where will the new earth finally be?
2. How does the destruction of satan and the wicked testify that God is a God of love?
3. Do you want to spend eternity with God and His family?

*Note: If you are interested in taking the next step towards building a relationship with God, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor will give you instructions on how the Adventist Church can support you spiritually.*