



## **CARE GROUPS**

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## **TEACHING RESOURCE**

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## **STEPS TO JESUS SERIES**

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## GOD'S LOVE FOR SINNERS

1. What is the essential character or nature of God?  
1 John 4:8; Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18
  
2. When Moses asked to be shown God's glory, what did he 'see'?  
Exodus 34:6,7
  
3. How has God manifested His love to us?
  - a) Gen 1:26, 27, 31
  
  - b) Psa 145:15,16; Matt 6:25-33
  
  - c) 1 John 4:9; John 3:16
  
  - d) 1 John 4:10; Rom 5:8
  
4. How can we know and understand God's love towards us?  
John 1:18; Matt 11:27; John 14:9

*NB: In spite of the many evidences of God's love for us that we can see in the things of nature and understand by the tenderest and closest earthly relationship, all these represent His love only imperfectly. Jesus came to live among us in order to reveal to us the infinite love of God in its fullest manifestation. All that we need to know, or can know, about God is seen in the life of His Son, Jesus Christ.*

## GOD'S LOVE FOR SINNERS

5. How did Jesus describe His work here on earth – the work that was to demonstrate to men what God is like? Luke 4:18
  
6. What do we see of the love of God in the earthly life of Jesus?  
  
Matt 8:16  
  
Mark 10:14, 16  
  
John 8:11  
  
Matt 23:37
  
7. What is the greatest evidence of God's love as revealed in the life of Jesus?  
John 10:17  
  
*NB: In other words, God loves us so much, that He even loves Jesus more for giving His life to redeem us. By becoming our substitute and dying for us on the cross, Jesus endeared Himself to His Father because of the intense love God has for fallen men and women.*
  
8. How do we know that the death of Jesus was not made in order to 'create' a love for us in the Father's heart-to make Him willing to save us?  
2 Cor 5:19; John 3:16
  
9. What do we become as a result of God's great love for us manifested in His Son?  
1 John 3:1
  
10. Can anything separate us from God's love? Rom 8:38,39

## THE SINNER'S NEED FOR CHRIST

1. What was man's original nature when God created him?  
Genesis 1:27, 31; Ecclesiastes 7:29

2. What happened to change all this?  
Genesis 2:16, 17; Genesis 3:6

*NB: There was nothing in the perfect environment God had created that would disrupt the harmony of this new world. It was man's decision to disobey God's one simple command that brought an end to the sinless perfection of Eden.*

3. What is the result of this disobedience to God's express command?  
Genesis 3:8,9; Isaiah 59:2; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23
4. But people today cannot be blamed for what Adam and Eve did. Why must we suffer the effects of sin? Romans 3:10-12, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10
5. What is our nature, or natural tendency, now that we have all followed the sinful example of our first parents? Psalms 51:5; Romans 7:14,18; Jeremiah 17:9; 1 Corinthians 2:14
6. But can't we change our nature, and decide to live righteously?  
Job 14:4; Romans 8:7; Jeremiah 13:23;

## THE SINNER'S NEED FOR CHRIST

*NB: As sinners we are in an awful predicament. Alienated from God, under the condemnation of our sins and the sentence of death, we are completely helpless, of ourselves, to escape the fearful pit into which we have fallen..*

7. Is it not enough to desire to do right, to acknowledge the lovingkindness of God and His benevolence? Romans 7:16, 12, 14, 22-24

*NB: The apostle Paul recognized intellectually the goodness of God and that the claims He makes upon men are right, proper, for man's own good. He longed for purity and righteousness. But Paul found that his sinful human nature rebelled against obedience, setting up a fearful conflict in his life. Read Rom 7:7-25.*

8. What is Paul's solution (and ours)? John 1:29
9. Is there really nothing we can do to save ourselves from sin? John 3:3,7  
1 John 3:1
10. Where does this power come from? Who is the only One who can give us this new life? John 1:4, 12, 13; 1 John 5:11, 12
11. Is Jesus really the only source of salvation? Is there no other way?  
Acts 4:12; John 14:6

*NB: There must be a power working from outside of man before he can be changed from sin to holiness. This change is such a completely new way of living that it is pictured as being born all over again..*

## REPENTANCE

1. When convicted of their sins by Peter's preaching, what did the crowd ask and what was Peter's reply? Acts 2:37, 38
2. A little later, what did Peter tell a similar group? Acts 3:19
3. What is repentance? 2 Corinthians 7:10; Luke 3:8

*NB: Repentance includes a deep heart sorrow for sin and a turning away from it as evidenced by a change life.*

4. What are some examples of insincere or false repentance? Matt 27:3-5

*NB: This confession was wrung from his lips by an awful sense of condemnation and a fear of judgment that filled his soul with terror. But there was no heartfelt grief that he had betrayed the spotless Son of God.*

5. In contrast, what was the nature of David's repentance for his great sin with Bathsheba? Psalms 51:1-4, 10

*NB: David's main consideration is his sin, not its punishment. His sorrow is for the sin itself, not for its consequences to himself. It is purity of heart he longs for, not release from punishment.*

6. What story did Jesus tell to illustrate the fact that repentance cannot exist in the heart that is spiritually proud? Luke 18:10, 11, 13)

## REPENTANCE

7. Can we develop this attitude of genuine repentance in our own heart? Acts 5:31

*NB: Repentance, then, is a gift from Jesus Christ. We cannot manufacture it for ourselves; we can only receive it from Christ as a gift of His grace. We can no more repent without Him than we can be pardoned without Him.*

8. Must we wait until we have repented of our sins before we can come to Jesus for forgiveness? Matt 11:28; John 12:32

9. How does Jesus awaken in us a desire for the repentance that only He can give?

John 16:8 – Spirit will \_\_\_\_\_ the world of sin

Romans 2:4 – The \_\_\_\_\_ of God leads to repentance.

10. Since God's love and mercy toward sinners are so great, will He not save even the unrepentant? Exodus 34:6, 7; Ezekiel 33:13

11. What about quieting a troubled conscience by planning to change a life of evil later when one chooses to do so? Proverbs 5:22; 2 Corinthians 6:2

12. What is the Lord's invitation to those who under His influence are longing for a peace of souls they do not have? Isaiah 27:5; Revelation 22:7

13. What is the reaction of heaven when a sinner repents? Luke 15:10

## CONFESSION

1. In the old testament sacrificial ritual what was the sinner to do when he brought a sacrifice for his sin? Lev 5:5, 6

*NB: Confession does not persuade a reluctant God to overlook our sin. It is not a manipulative maneuver we can use on Him to gain leniency. Confession changes us – not God. It is our acknowledgement that we recognized the hideousness of our sin and that we need and desire the forgiveness that God has already offered and longs to give us.*

2. Although we no longer are required to make an animal sacrifice when we sin, is confession still required by God? Prov 28:13

*NB: Confession, the heartfelt acknowledgement of our sins, is still a basic requirement for forgiveness. We need not make long, wearisome pilgrimages or perform some painful penance. We need only to confess our sins sincerely to Him, asking for His mercy and for His grace to forsake them.*

3. Are we to confess to others besides God? James 5:16

*NB: We are to confess our sins to God who is the only one who can forgive and restore us to spiritual health. But those sins or faults which have injured or given offense to a friend or neighbour should be freely confessed to that individual as well as to God. We should ask forgiveness to those fellow human beings whom we have wronged as well as asking God's forgiveness.*

## CONFESSION

4. What is the nature of true confession? Lev 5:5

*NB: True confession is always of a specific character and acknowledges the very sins of which one is guilty*

5. For example, when the ancient Israelites wandered away from God in the days of Samuel, they lost confidence in God's ability to lead them from heaven as in the past. They clamored for a king like other nations. Later, when in repentance they turned back to God, what specific confession did they make? 1 Sam 12:19.

6. Should we ever urge an unwilling confession either from ourselves or others? Prov 12:22; Prov 34:18

7. What other characteristics will make our confession of sin insincere, and thus unacceptable to God?

- (a) Psa 66:18; Isa 1:16-17

An unwillingness to part with \_\_\_\_\_

- (b) Gen 3:11-13

An attempt to excuse our sins, blaming circumstances or \_\_\_\_\_ for our disobedience.

*NB: True repentance and confession will lead an individual to bear his guilt himself and acknowledge it without excuses or attempts at self-justification. Such a life will be marked by a genuine change in which those things offensive to God are put away .*

8. When we confess our sins sincerely, can we be sure they are forgiven? What if we still don't feel forgiven? 1 John 1:9



## CONSECRATION

1. If we are to find God and His peace for our sin-stained souls, how intense must be our search for Him? Jeremiah 29:13

2. Why does it seem so difficult to consecrate our entire being to God?  
1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1; Isaiah 1:6,7; 2 Timothy 2:26

*NB: To yield yourselves completely to Christ, surrendering the will to God, requires a terrible struggle against the natural self. But such a surrender is necessary before God can renew us.*

3. Is such a surrender to be a blind submission in which we give unreasoning allegiance to God's control? Isaiah 1:18

*NB: God has no desire to force the will of any of His creatures. He cannot accept an allegiance that is not freely and willingly given.*

4. When we choose to surrender ourselves to God's benevolent control, how complete must such a consecration be? Luke 14:33

5. What incident in life of Jesus illustrates that only a complete consecration is acceptable to God? Matthew 19:16-17, 19-21

*NB: Whatever the object may be that keeps us from a total consecration, it must be surrendered if we are to be a follower of Jesus. The Master will accept nothing short of complete consecration.*



## CONSECRATION

6. Does Christ ask more of us in way of sacrifice and consecration than He is willing to demand of Himself? Philippians 2:5-8; Romans 8:32

*NB: All heaven has been poured out in behalf of sinful man through the incomprehensible sacrifice of Jesus. No matter what we give up in order to consecrate ourselves entirely to Him, we can never approach the magnitude of His consecration to us.*

7. Does God ever ask us to give up anything that is for our best interest to retain? Psalms 84:11

*NB: God always has something vastly better in store for us than that which we are seeking for ourselves. He has no desire to see His children suffer or be unhappy.*

8. What kind of master is Jesus to all who accept His control? Matthew 11:28-30

9. How can such a total consecration to Christ be made? Joshua 24:15

*NB: Many want to give themselves to Christ but they are weak in moral power, full of doubts, and enslaved by long-held habits of sin. It is true that we cannot change our own hearts and give the affection to Christ of ourselves. But we can choose to serve Him. We can give Him our will, weak as water though it be. This is our part and all that we can do.*

10. What is God's promise to those who surrender the will in total consecration to Him? Philippians 1:6

## FAITH AND ACCEPTANCE (Part 1)

1. On what basis does God offer His salvation to us? Isa 51:1, 3; Rom 5:18
2. Although God offers salvation to us as a free gift, what did it cost Him?  
1 Peter 1:18, 19
3. What is God's promise regarding forgiveness of sin? Isaiah 1:18; Ezekiel 36:26
4. Can we have assurance that God really means what He says? Numbers 23:19
5. What is necessary on our part if we are to receive those things we pray for?  
Mark 11:24
6. Was this same belief, or faith, necessary on the part of those whom Jesus healed of physical ailments while He was on earth? Mark 5:34; 10:52
7. To what greater blessing did Jesus hope to direct the attention of those whom He healed of disease? Mark 9:5, 6

*NB: Physical healing was designed to draw the sufferers' attention to the spiritual healing Jesus could provide.*

8. What is the Bible's definition of faith? Hebrews 11:1

## FAITH AND ACCEPTANCE (Part 1)

9. Of ourselves, can we manufacture or produce faith in our own hearts? Eph 2:8, 9; Rom 12:3

*NB: Faith and the salvation it brings, is a gift of God. Every individual has received 'a measure of faith', not one is left without some faith.*

10. Can we cooperate with God and increase or develop faith? Romans 10:17

*NB: By listening to God's voice, by reading and following His Word, we can increase and strengthen the faith He has imparted to us.*

11. When we have faith in Jesus and accept Him as our own Saviour, what is the result? Romans 4:5; 3:28; 5:1; Ephesians 2:8

*NB: Saving faith in Jesus brings justification, forgiveness of sin, peace and salvation.*

12. Must we be on probation and prove to the Lord that we were reformed in life before we can claim the blessings of faith? Luke 23:42, 43

*NB: This man had lived a life of sin and crime. Now he was being executed for those crimes. In his final hours of life, he called on the Saviour for mercy and forgiveness. What is the immediate reply? The point is that Jesus immediately – today – promised this repentant sinner eternal life! It is true that an inevitable change will take place in our lives when we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and experience salvation. But we have passed from death to life the moment we exercise saving faith. There is no probationary waiting period in which we must demonstrate our faith.*

## FAITH AND ACCEPTANCE (Part 2)

13. Can we have the same assurance of forgiveness and pardon that this criminal received?

1 John 1:9

Isaiah 55:7

Isaiah 44:22

Ezekiel 33:11

*NB: Here is where thousands fail to experience the joy of forgiveness – they do not believe that Jesus actually pardons them personally, individually. They do not take Jesus at His Word. Jesus is waiting to strip the sin-polluted garments from you and clothe you with the white robe of His righteousness. Jesus loves to have us come to Him just as we are – sinful, helpless, totally dependent upon Him. When we come in all our weakness and sinfulness and fall at His feet in sorrow, it is His joy and glory to lift us up in His arms of love and cleanse us from all impurity.*

14. Jesus told a story of a son who left home to squander his father's wealth in sin and impurity. When the boy repented and determined to go home, how did the father receive him? What does this tell us about the heavenly Father's acceptance of us when we turn to Him? Luke 15:20

*NB: As beautiful as this picture is of the Father's love, it falls short of expressing the infinite compassion of God for sinners. God does not merely wait for us to decide to return to Him so that He can restore us to His love. He actively works to draw us home again..*

## FAITH AND ACCEPTANCE (Part 2)

15. What further declaration of His never-ending love does God make? Isaiah 49:15

*NB: What strong symbol or more tender language could God use to convince us of His love? With such rich promises, how can we doubt that He will accept us? Hen a sinner wants to return to God and receive forgiveness for his sins, can we believe that such a God of love would sternly forbid him and hold him at arm's length? God hates sin, but He loves the sinner!*

16. What follows this initial step of faith and acceptance? Colossians 2:6

*NB: We continue day by day in the Christian life the same way we take the very first step – through faith and acceptance. Every day we receive from Him what we need for that day.*

## THE TEST OF DISCIPLESHIP (Part 1)

1. How can we know if we are truly a disciple – a follower of Jesus? 1John 2:3, 4, 6; 2 Cor 5:17
2. Does this mean that a genuine Christian will never sin, but keep all of God's commandments perfectly? 1 John 2:1
3. How complete is the transformation that takes place in the life of the person who truly accepts Jesus as his Saviour? John 3:7
4. How did Jesus describe the work that the Holy Spirit accomplishes in the human heart? John 3:8

*NB: Although the Spirit's work is silent and imperceptible, its result are clearly manifest. When the heart has been renewed by the Spirit, the life will bear witness of the fact.*

5. What great principle of human behaviour does Scripture declare? Luke 6:45; Prov 23:7

*NB: It is true that we are not able to change our own heart or bring it unto harmony with God. A change will be seen in the habits and interests of life. Character is determined, not by the occasional good deed or misdeed, but by the tendency of the habitual words and actions*

## THE TEST OF DISCIPLESHIP (Part 1)

6. But don't some people simply exhibit an outwardly correct and blameless life, while inwardly they are strangers to God's grace? Luke 6:43-44

*NB: 'Every tree is known by his own fruit'. We can determine, then, if we are truly a disciple of Jesus by considering carefully the tendency of our life. Who has our heart? Whom do we love to think of and talk about? Who has our warmest affections and best energies? If we belong to Jesus, our sweetest and most enjoyable thoughts will be of Him.*

7. What 'fruits' will grow in the life of the genuine disciple? Gal 5:22-23
8. What does genuine repentance involve? Ezekiel 33:14-15

*NB: There is no genuine repentance without a reformation of life. The things we once hated, we now love, the things we once loved, we now hate. The proud become meek; the vain become humble.*

9. What kind of commitment and service does Jesus require of His disciple? Luke 14:33; Matt 11:28-30

*NB: Jesus requires total surrender and complete allegiance. But those who make such a commitment find that the yoke He places on them is easy and not a burden.*

10. How did Jesus express this same thought? 1 John 5:3

## THE TEST OF DISCIPLESHIP (Part 2)

11. During the incarnation as a human being, what did Jesus say about His attitude toward the will of His Father? Psa 40:7-8

*NB: The attitude of Jesus, His loveliness of character, will be seen in His followers. It was His delight, as a man on this earth, to do His Father's will.*

12. Against what twin errors do God's children especially need to guard themselves?

(a) Romans 3:20

*NB: First error is that we can save ourselves or earn salvation by the good deeds that we do or by the good character we develop.*

(b) Romans 6:1-2

*NB: The second error – and no less dangerous – is that our belief in Christ releases us from any obligation to keep God's law; that since we are saved by faith alone, our obedience has nothing to do with our redemption.*

13. Is there a belief or faith that is not saving faith? James 2:19

*NB: Even the devil believe there is a God. But in contrast saving faith is that belief that accepts Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and that enters into a relationship of love, trust and obedience.*

14. What is the extent of this obedience that is so important that we cannot be saved without it, although it alone does not save us? Psa 51:16,17; Heb 10:16

## THE TEST OF DISCIPLESHIP (Part 2)

15. What is the relationship between faith and obedience? Eph 2:8-10; Rom 3:31

*NB: We do not earn salvation by our obedience. But obedience is the fruit of faith.*

16. What did Jesus say regarding the perpetual nature of God's law? Matt 5:18-19

17. What solution to the problem where our natures are weakened by sin, does Paul give us? Gal 2:20

*NB: We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. Christ character stands in the place for your character and you are accepted before God just as it you had not sinned.*

18. Is this wonderful transaction all that is involved in Christ's work for us? 1 John 3:5-6

*NB: Christ not only takes our sin and gives us His righteousness. He actually changes our heart. As long as we maintain a connection of faith with Him, He will work in us to reproduce His character in us.*

19. How will love for Jesus be manifested in the life? John 14:15

*NB: Obedience – freely given from love – is the test of discipleship.*

## GROWING UP INTO CHRIST (Part 1)

1. How does the Bible describe the change of life by which we become children of God? John 3:3
2. Once we have become spiritual infants by being 'born again', what is God's further plan for us? 1 Peter 2:2
3. What other symbol or figure of speech does Scripture use to describe this important change? Matthew 13:24, 37, 38
4. Just as a seed is planted in order to grow, what should we do who have been 'planted' in God's kingdom? Ephesians 4:14-15

*NB: It is God's purpose that as soon as we become His child by accepting Jesus as our Saviour, we are to begin growing in the Christian life so that we will be more and more like Jesus.*

5. Who causes both our new spiritual life and also its subsequent growth? Mark 4:26-28

*NB: The farmer who plants his seed does not actually give them life to cause them to grow. He can co-operate with the laws of nature and provide the necessary conditions for life and growth, but only God can actually give life. So it is in our heart; only through His grace can spiritual growth take place.*

## GROWING UP INTO CHRIST (Part 1)

6. How does Jesus illustrate our dependence upon Him for spiritual life and growth? John 15:4-6

*NB: We are just as dependent on Jesus to live a holy life as the branch is upon the trunk of the vine. Apart from Him, we have no life; no growth. Apart from Him, we have no power to overcome temptation or to grow in grace. But by remaining connected to Him we may flourish and be fruitful, developing a life like His.*

7. How clear does Jesus make it that we must depend totally on Him?

*NB: Many people have the idea that they must do some part of the work of growing by themselves alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, but now they try to depend on their own efforts to live a holy life. All such efforts will fail.*

8. How are we to abide in Christ? Colossians 2:6; Hebrews 10:38

*NB: By faith you gave yourself to God to be wholly His – to serve and obey Him. You could not atone for your sins yourself or change your own heart. So by faith you gave yourself to God and believed that He did all this for you for Christ's sake. In the same way you are to grow up in Him – by faith. You are to give all – your heart, your will, your service. And you are to take all – Christ, the fullness of His blessings to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting Helper, to give you power to obey.*

9. What is one important ingredient in our personal spiritual growth? Psalms 5:3

*NB: Consecrate yourself to God each morning; make this your very first work. This is a daily matter. If you follow this practice, your life will be molded more and more after that of Jesus Himself.*

## GROWING UP INTO CHRIST (Part 2)

10. What is another vital component of spiritual growth? Psalms 37:5-7

*NB: A life that is growing in Christlikeness is a life of restfulness and quiet trust.*

11. Does a life of restful trust in Jesus mean that we will be inactive spiritually?  
Matthew 11:29

12.

*NB: The rest to be found in Christ Jesus is not the same as inactivity. Indeed, the Saviour says that only those who gladly shoulder His yoke will find rest. The heart that rests most fully upon Christ will be most earnest and active labour for Him.*

12. What is one of Satan's most effective methods of preventing our spiritual growth?  
2 Corinthians 4:4

*NB: It is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent us from growing through a connection and a communion with Him. The pleasures of the world, life's cares and perplexities, the fault of others, or own imperfections – to any or all of these Satan all attempt to direct our attention rather than have us keep the mind fastened upon Jesus.*

13. What great spiritual law is at work when we fasten the attention upon Jesus? 2  
Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 12:2

*NB: By beholding, we become changed. That is why Satan will always present attractions to break our connection with Jesus. Here is where we need to watch and to pray that nothing may entice us to choose another focus for our attention. We are always free to do this. But looking unto Jesus, we are safe.*

## GROWING UP INTO CHRIST (Part 2)

14. How did Paul express this idea of Spiritual growth through Jesus? Galatians 2:20

15. How did the early disciples of Jesus grow to become like Him? 1 John 1:2

*NB: The disciples were humans with the liabilities common to all of our. Even John, who came to most fully reflect the likeness of the Saviour, did not naturally possess this loveliness of character. He was by nature self-assertive and ambitious for honour, impetuous and resentful of injury. But by daily association with Jesus – day by day his heart was drawn out after Jesus. The regenerating influence of the Holy Spirit renewed his heart. The power of Jesus' love brought a transformation of his character.*

16. Before Jesus left His disciples to return to heaven, what assurance did He give them that their association with Him would continue?

(a) Matthew 28:20

(b) John 14:16, 18

(c) John 14:1-3

(d) John 17:20

17. What, then, is God's desire for all those who come to know and love Him? 2 Peter 3:18

## THE WORK AND THE LIFE

1. In view of God's example, what should be our attitude toward others – even those who mistreat us? Matthew 5:44,45

*NB: A life that is growing in Christlikeness is a life of restfulness and quiet trust.*

2. What is the work of the angels of heaven? Hebrews 1:14

*NB: Angels are ever engaged in working for the happiness and salvation of human beings. A selfish heart would consider it humiliating to serve those who are in every way inferior, but his work is the work and the joy of the sinless angels.*

3. When Jesus lived on earth, what was the one great object of His life? Matthew 20:28
4. What does Jesus' example mean for us? 1 Peter 2:21
5. When Phillip learned the great truth that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ, the Son of God, what was the first thing he did? John 1:45, 46
6. Likewise, what was Andrew's first reaction when he discovered Jesus? John 1:41, 42

## THE WORK AND THE LIFE

7. How will this effort to bless others react upon ourselves? Luke 6:38
8. What are some of the specific benefits that come to us as a result of working with Jesus in ministry for others?
  - (e) 1 Peter 4:12-14, 16
  - (f) 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10
  - (g) Philippians 4:11, 13
9. What commission has the Saviour left us? Matthew 28: 19, 20
10. Must we go to far away lands to fulfill this commission? Mark 5:18-20
11. How has Jesus shown us that it is not only the talented and influential whom He has called to work for Him? Mark 13:34
12. What attitude should we bring to the work we do for God? Colossians 3:23,24

## A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

1. What is one method God uses to give everyone some knowledge of Himself? Psa 19:1-4; Romans 1:20

*NB: God speaks to us in the things He has made. Rightly understood, nature testifies of God's wisdom and glory.*

2. How did Jesus often illustrate His lessons in order to fasten them in the minds of His hearers? Mark 4:30-33 (c.f. Matt 6:25-36; Mark 4:2-9)

*NB: Jesus often bound up precious lessons of spiritual truth with illustrations from nature.*

3. What can we learn of God from His care over the things of nature? Luke 12:6,7; Matthew 6:25-26, 28-30
4. How completely does God know everything about us? Psa 139:1-4
5. How does nature help us understand an eternal world and God's love? Gen 1:31, 2:1 and 2 Peter 3:10,13

*NB: When the world came from the Creator's hand, it was beautiful beyond description. After sin is removed, God plans to make a new heaven and a new earth.*

6. How does the Bible describe God's way of speaking to us through His providential workings in our lives? Psa 107:40-41, 43

## A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

7. What help in knowing God did Jesus promise us? John 16:7, 12, 13
8. What is the clearest and most comprehensive way in which God speaks to us about Himself? 1 Cor 10:11; 2 Tim 3:16-17
9. Of whom does all Scripture – Old and New Testament alike – testify? John 5:39
10. How intense should be our study of God in His Word? John 6:53, 52, 63
11. What will a sincere study of God's Word do for us? Rom 10:17
12. What will the study of the Bible do for our minds? Psa 119:130
13. Must we rely on scholars to tell us the meaning of Scripture, or can we understand it for ourselves? Acts 17:11, 12
14. What are some important ingredients of successful Bible study?
  - (a) We must have a sincere desire to follow truth – John 17:17
  - (b) We must have a spiritual motivation and experience – 1 Cor 2:14-15
  - (c) We must compare Scripture with Scripture – Isa 28:10
  - (d) We must approach God with an attitude of prayer – James 1:5
15. How completely has God purposed to give us a knowledge of Himself? John 16:13-15

## THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

1. Why is prayer important to the healthy Christian life? 1 Pet 3:12
2. What is prayer? Psa 5:1,3; 61:1-3
  
- NB: Prayer is opening our heart to God as we would to a friend. This is not necessary, of course, to make known to God what we are, but such communion enables us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us; it brings us up to Him.*
3. What request did the disciples make of Jesus? Luke 11:1
4. What was Jesus' response to this request? Luke 11:2-4
5. What additional counsel regarding prayer did Jesus give? Matt 6:5, 6
6. What about the wording we use in our prayers? Matt 6:7, 8
7. What example did Jesus give us regarding the importance of prayer? Luke 6:12; Mark 6:46; Luke 5:16; 9:28
8. Is God really willing to listen to our prayers? Job 22:27

## THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

9. How anxious is God to answer our prayers with those things that are good for us? Matt 7:7-11
10. What effect does prayer have on temptation? Mark 14:38
11. What are some conditions to having God hear and answer our prayers?
  - (a) We must feel our great n\_\_\_\_\_ for His help. Matt 5:6
  - (b) We must not cling to any known s\_\_\_\_. Prov 15:29; 28:9; 66:18
  - (c) We must have f\_\_\_\_\_ that God will answer. Matt 11:24
  - (d) We must have an attitude of l\_\_\_\_\_ and f\_\_\_\_\_. Matt 6:12
  - (e) We must be persevering in p\_\_\_\_\_. Phil 4:6; Col 4:2
  - (f) We must be diligent in p\_\_\_\_\_. 1 Thess 5:17
12. As important as prayer is, should we withdraw from the world to spend all our time in prayer? John 17:15
13. What are we to think when it appears that our prayers have NOT been answered? James 4:3, Romans 8:26
14. Can we weary God with our prayers? James 5:11; 1 Peter 5:7
15. In whose name should we pray and what does this mean? John 16:23; 15:16
16. What should be an important ingredient in our prayers besides requests and wants? Psa 107:8

## WHAT TO DO WITH DOUBT

1. What problem did certain early followers of Jesus experience shortly after the resurrection? Matt 28:16,17
2. In this life, will we ever have all possibility for doubt removed? Heb 11:6  
  
*NB: God never asks us to believe without giving sufficient evidence on which to base our faith. However, all possibility of doubt will never be removed.*
3. Can our finite minds ever fully comprehend God? Job 11:7,8; Rom 11:33
4. Can we know enough about God, however, to trust Him? Deut 29:29
5. Can we understand all there is to know about the Bible – God’s word? 2 Pet 3:16
6. Two parties are involved in the writing of the Bible – who are these two parties? 2 Pet 1:19-21
7. If the Bible is so filled with mysteries beyond man’s understanding can we hope to hear God speaking to us in it? Psa 119:105, 130
8. What is one of the chief causes of doubt in the human heart? Obadiah 3

## WHAT TO DO WITH DOUBT

9. What effect does pride have on our ability to understand spiritual things? 1 Tim 6:3,4
10. What else is needed, besides a lack of pride, if we are to understand the Bible and avoid doubts? 1 Cor 2:14
11. Who has promised to help us in our search for truth if we are sincere in our desire to understand God’s will? John 16:13-14
12. In most cases, what is the real cause of doubt? Heb 3:12  
  
*NB: Disguise it as they may, most people doubt God and His Word because of a love for sin.*
13. What attitude is necessary if we are to overcome doubt? John 7:17
14. What is the one evidence available to everyone that will banish doubt? Psa 34:8
15. What will be the experience of those who let the brightness of God’s love dispel their doubts? Prov 4:18
16. Though there may be discouraging perplexities here in this life and things we cannot explain, what is the promise regarding the future world? 1 Cor 13:12



## REJOICING IN THE LORD

1. What does the Apostle Paul declare every Christian to be? 2 Cor 3:2-3
2. In what way are we to duplicate the work Jesus came to earth to do? John 17:18
3. As representatives of the Lord Jesus, what picture should we give of life in God's service? Psa 5:11; 1 Pet 1:8
4. What is the work of Satan in regard to the character of God? John 8:44
5. In reviewing our past lives, on what should we focus? Psa 105:3, 5
6. What practical benefit is promised as a result of being happy? Prov 17:22
7. Is there any logical reason for us to doubt the Father's love? Rom 3:31-32
8. When tempted by Satan to doubt God's goodness, what should be our defense? Isa 61:10, Phil 4:4



## REJOICING IN THE LORD

9. Can we avoid influencing others whether for good or evil? Rom 14:7
10. What was Jesus' personality like when He was on earth? Isa 53:3-4
11. If we are like Jesus, will our lives mirror His in this regard? Isa 26:3; Psa 119:165
12. How can we have and maintain this attitude of quiet, confident joy? Prov 3:5-6
13. Can we expect, then, no trails or difficulties in the Christian life? John 16:33
14. How does Jesus bring home to our hearts the wisdom of trusting Him? Matt 6:25-26, 28-30
15. What is Jesus' desire for each of His followers? John 14:27; John 15:11
16. In addition to the joy of following Jesus in this earthly life, what even greater cause for rejoicing does the Christian have? Matt 25:34, 23