

# CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDY

FOR  
Junior Secondary School



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**JSS 1**

**CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**FIRST TERM**

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## Week 1

### TOPIC: THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

**Sovereignty** is the ability to do whatever you want without consulting or taking permission from anybody. It is the ability to independently do all things. **God** made the whole universe from His **Volition** and **Power**.

#### **God the Creator**

Before creation happened, the world was without form and darkness was everywhere. And then God created everything, using just the words of his mouth. Below is the creation account from day one to the day God rested from his creative activities.

1. **Day One:** God created light because without light there will be no order. He separated the light from dark and the light was named day while the dark was named night.
2. **Day Two:** God created the firmament with mass of water. Firmament means the sky and the heaven.
3. **Day Three:** God created the dry land and seas. The dry land is earth, He also made the seas and rivers on the third day. On this day God also made plants. There are more than 250,000 types of plants and all of them are different from each other. God is wonderful.
4. **Day Four:** God created the sun, moon and stars to lighten the earth. Sun to show light during the day and moon and stars to show light during the night. The sun is more than one million times bigger than the earth; but one star is bigger than the sun.
5. **Day Five:** God created the fishes in the water, the birds that fly. In other words, all animals in water and air were created on the fifth day. After creating them God instructed them to reproduce their kind
6. **Day Six:** God created the animals, all insects and creeping things. The most important creature created on the sixth day was man.
7. **Day Seven:** God rested, having completed all creations.

After God had created the heaven and earth; the animals, fishes, birds and plants He decided to create the man. God formed the first man, Adam out of dust from the ground, breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being. God created the Garden of Eden and made it a living place for Adam. The Garden of Eden was made beautiful with all kind of trees and flowers and rivers to water the water the plant and trees.

Names of GOD in different Nigerian languages

**Names of God in Yoruba** Olodumare – which means The Almighty or Olorun (God).

**Names of God in Igbo** (Chineke) Chukwu – which means the first force and existence of all beings.

**Names of God in Berom** (Biom) Dagwi – which means a source of being.

**Names of God in Edo** Osanobwa – a description for the one who carries and sustains the world.

**Names of God in Efik/Ibibio** Osa-Nudazi, denotes the impregnable and Abasi meaning the director of the universe from heaven.

**Names of God in Hausa** Ubangidi, denotes the Supreme Being.

### **ASSESSMENT**

1. What day did God create man?
2. What are the names of God in Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa
3. God created the firmament with mass of water on what day?

### **ANSWER**

1. Day six
2. Yoruba (Olodumare), Igbo (Chineke), Hausa (Ubangidi)
3. Day two

## **Week 2**

### **Topic: ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

#### **Contents:**

**Who is GOD?**

**Names of GOD**

**Attributes of GOD**

**Prayer:** Oh God, you are our creator, reveal yourself to us so that we may know you better (amen)

**Bible Text:** Genesis 1:27-29, John 3:16

#### **WHO IS GOD?**

As we interact with members of our community, we understand the better, and we also gradually develop an understanding of our own relationship with GOD, what we now call religion. Religion is a belief in the worship of and obedience to a supernatural power considered to be divine or to have control over human life and destiny this supernatural is God, he is all powerful, all knowing, all wise, he is the king and judge of all, he is immortal, holy and loving. GOD cannot be known in his entirety by humans but as we walk with him, we get to know more about him and his existence.

#### **NAMES OF GOD**

Nigerians call God by different names the Yorubas call him ELEDUMARE – The Supreme Being or Deity, The head and Source of life. They also often call him OLU – ORUN (Olu – Owner, Orun – Heaven) i.e. OLORUN – The Owner of Heaven. He is also called OLUWA – The lord of all. God is shown in some Yoruba names example Oluwabukunmi (God has blessed me) Oluwafunmilayo (God has given me joy), Oluwabusolatemi (God has added to my wealth).

The major IGBO name for God is CHUKWU ( chi –uk –wu) The Great Spirit, The source of life, another Igbo name for God is CHINEKE (the creator spirit). Chukwu Emeka is one of the popular Igbo names associated with God as creator, Onyekachi – Who is greater than GOD, Oluchi – GOD's Work. The Edo name of God is Osanobua (the source of everything and sustainer of all). The Calabar name is Abasi (Lord, the Igala Obo (Creator) the Ebire, Ohonmoruhi (Lord, Supreme, Deity) the Hausa name is Ubangiji (The great one Lord of all), The Esan people called God "Osenebra". It is often abbreviated as Ose.

Different Names of God in different Nigerian Languages

## YORUBA

- Olu aye – God on earth
- Olu orun – God in heaven
- Aribirabata – A Great God
- Olubukun – The Blessed God
- Oludamoran – The Great adviser
- Apata aiyeraiye – Rock of Ages
- Arugbo ojo – Ancient of days
- Eru jeje l’eti okun pupa – The Most powerful by the red sea
- Gbongbo idile Jesse – The root of the tribe of Jesse
- Ibere ati opin – The Alpha and omega

## IGBO and other Dialects

- Chukwu – The first force and existence of all beings
- Chi – Spiritual Being
- Eze ndi Eze – King of kings
- Dike na’gha – Mighty Warrior
- Ikuku amanoya – Unquenchable God
- **Esan Names**
- Ofuekenede – Merciful God
- Okakaludo – Stronger than stone
- Obonosuobo – The Great physician

## HEBREW NAMES

- **Elohim** = “God” as in the Creator: *In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heaven and the earth* (Genesis 1:1).
- **El Elyon** = “God Most High”: (Genesis 14:18-20).
- **El Roi** = “God Who Sees”: *Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, ‘You are a [El Roi] God who sees’; for she said, ‘Have I even remained alive here after*



*seeing Him?’ Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi [well of the living one who sees me] (Genesis 16:13-14).*

- **El Shaddai** = “God Almighty” or “God the All-Sufficient One”; *I AM El Shaddai. Live in my presence, be perfect, and I shall grant a covenant between myself and you, and make you very numerous. And Abram bowed to the ground (Genesis 17:2-3).*
- **Yahweh** = is God's holy Covenant name. The letters form a word or words from the verb “to be” and most scholars translate it as “I AM who I AM” or “I will be who I will be”, or “the Self-Existent One: *Moses said to God, ‘Look, if I go to the Israelites and say to them, The God of your ancestors has sent me to you, and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what am I to tell them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM He who is. Tell them that I AM who I am sent you (Exodus 3:13-14).*
- **Adonai** = “Lord” : *Then Moses said to the LORD, ‘Please Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since you have spoken to your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue. And the LORD said to him, ‘Who has made men’s mouth? Or who make him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?’ (Exodus 4:10-12, NAB).*

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

The attributes of GOD can not be explained, GOD is all things, He is everything, He is everywhere. Jesus came to reveal the God of the Bible. And God has revealed Himself in His book. Any deviation from that insight from Him is a made-up god.

**Wisdom:** “Wisdom is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve these ends by the most perfect means.” In other words, God makes no mistakes. He is the Father who truly knows best, as Paul explains in Romans 11:33: “Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways!”

**Infinitude:** God knows no boundaries. He is without measure. This attribute by definition impacts all of the others. Since God is infinite, everything else about Him must also be infinite.

**Sovereignty:** This is “the attribute by which He rules His entire creation.” It is the application of His other attributes of being all-knowing and all-powerful. It makes Him absolutely free to do what He knows to be best. God is in control of everything that happens. Man still has a free will, and is responsible for his choices in life.

**Holiness:** This is the attribute that sets God apart from all created beings. It refers to His majesty and His perfect moral purity. There is absolutely no sin or evil thought in God at all. His holiness is the definition of that which is pure and righteous in all the universe. Wherever God

has appeared, such as to Moses at the burning bush, that place becomes holy just for God having been there.

**Trinity:** Though the actual word is not used in the Bible, the truth of God revealing Himself in three persons is included. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all called God, given worship as God, exist eternally, and are involved in doing things only God could do. Although, God reveals Himself in three persons, God is One and cannot be divided. All are involved completely whenever One of the Three is active.

**Omniscience:** “God possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn. God has never learned and cannot learn.” Omniscience means all-knowing. God knows everything, and His knowledge is infinite. It is impossible to hide anything from God.

**Faithfulness:** Everything that God has promised will come to pass. His faithfulness guarantees this fact. He does not lie. What He has said in the Bible about Himself is true. Jesus even said that He is the Truth. This is extremely important for the followers of Jesus because it is on His faithfulness that our hope of eternal life rests. He will honor His promise that our sins will be forgiven and that we will live forever with Him.

He is Merciful

He is the Supreme God

He is the Controller of all Human beings and everything in the universe

He is the Head and source of Life

He is the greatest one and the Lord of all

He is the Mighty man

He is Omnipotent, Omniscience and Omnipresent

## **MORAL LESSON**

Who is GOD to you? Answer this. You can not know everything about GOD except you walk with him daily. God is everywhere hence you cant give him attributes by human understanding. The existence of GOD is beyond human reasoning, it is unexplainable. Man can only teach the little he knows.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. Who is God?
2. List Three attributes of God
3. Give names of GOD in 5 other languages with meanings.

## **ANSWER**

1. God is the Supreme Being, infinitely perfect, who made all things and keeps them in existence.
2. (i) He is Merciful (ii) He is the Supreme God (iii) He is the Controller of all Human beings and everything in the universe
3. (i) ELEDUMARE – The Supreme Being or Deity (Yoruba) (ii) CHINEKE – The creator spirit (Igbo) (iii) Ubangiji – The great one Lord of all (Hausa)

## **Week 3**

### **Topic: THE CREATION**

#### **Contents:**

#### **Bible Account of Creation**

#### **Why did God create Human Beings?**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

**Bible Reference:** Genesis 1

**Prayer:** Oh Lord Reveal yourself to us so that we may know you better.

Creation: This is the act making something to exist, a way of bringing out or doing something new, Christians, Muslims and followers of Africa traditional Religion believe in the existence of a supreme being who created all human beings and things.

#### **BIBLE ACCOUNT OF THE CREATION**

The Bible tells us how God created the world (Gen 1). The story in the Bible about creation of the world is not based on history, it is a story with a deeper meaning and message.

First day: In the beginning God created Heaven and earth, the world was empty and shapeless and that the sea was covered by darkness, then God said let there be light and there was light which he separated from darkness and gave them names, He called the light day and the darkness He called night. (Verse 1-5)

Second day: Creation of the Heaven: God created the sky and separated it from the water, the sky he called Heaven and there were water above and below it. (Verse 6-8)

Third day: Creation of Land, Sea and Trees (Genesis 1:9-13) God commanded the water below the heaven together in one place when this happened, He commanded land to appear between the water and this was done, God called the dry land, Earth and the remaining water Sea. He then commanded the earth to put forth vegetables, seeds, fruits, and trees bearing fruit, each according to it's kind. (Verse 21)

Fourth day: Creation of the sun, moon, and stars (Genesis 1:14-19) God commanded light to appear from heaven to separate the day from the light and serve as a sign to distinguish days, seasons and years.

Fifth day: Creation of Sea animals (Genesis 1:10-23) God commanded birds to appear in the space above the earth, various kinds of sea animals and birds were created, He blessed them saying "be fruitful and multiply and fill the water in the sea verse 22.

Sixth Day: creation of other animals including man on the sixth day; but first he created the other animal before created man.

God created the lesser animals and all forms of living creatures were created.

Seventh day: A day of rest (Genesis 2:1-3) after God finished his work or creation God rested on the seventh day.

## LESSON 2:

### WHY DID GOD CREATE HUMAN BEINGS?

To answer that, we need to know three things:

**First**, it wasn't because he needed us: "The God who made the world and everything in it ... is not served by human hands, *as if he needed anything*" (Acts 17:24-25).

And he didn't make us because he was lonely. Long before we were here, God already had "company" with his Son and the Holy Spirit, referred to in Genesis 1:26, "Let us make man in *our* own image."

And he didn't make us because he needed his ego fed. It's not like God made us to satisfy some craving to be worshiped. God is totally secure in who he is—without us.

**Second**, despite not needing us, God chose to create us anyway, out of his great love: "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). Yes, God loved us *before he even created us*. It's impossible to get our heads around that idea, but it's true; that's what "everlasting" love means.

God *is* love (1 John 4:8), and because of that love and his wonderful creativity, he made us so we can enjoy all that he is and all that he's done.

**Third**, God created us to fulfill his eternal plan. I could write pages and pages about this, but suffice it to say that God, in his infinite wisdom, chose to make us a part of his eternal plan.

When the first chapter of the Bible says, "So God created man *in his own image*, in the *image of God* he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27), what is the point? The point of an image is to image. Images are erected to display the original. Point to the original. Glorify the original. God made humans in his image so that the world would be filled with reflectors of God. Images of God.

Human Beings were created

- For his Pleasure – Revelation 4:11
- To have dominion and control all things – Genesis 1:26

- To worship him: Being made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27), human beings have the ability to know God and therefore love Him, worship Him, serve Him, and fellowship with him

Bottom line: God may not need us, but we certainly need him. I hope you've made the choice to put your trust completely in him—and play an exciting part in his loving, eternal plan.

## **MORAL LESSON**

**God's love for us:** He loves us so much that he created us in better form. We were created in his own image; He gave us Power, Authority and Control over other creature.

**Carrying out duties in an orderly manner:** He carried out the work of creation in an orderly fashion. Therefore, In our local communities, we should carry out duties in an orderly manner doing the right thing at the right time.

**Rest after labour:** The best honour that we can give God our Creator is to pray to him and worship him on a specific day of the week. On such a day we should also have good rest of the labour of the earlier days of the week.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. How is the soul like God?
2. Does God love us?
3. What is the best honour we can give God?

## **ANSWER**

1. The soul is like God because it is a spirit having understanding and free will, and is destined to live forever.
2. God loves us so much that he created us in better form. We were created in his own image; He gave us Power, Authority and Control over other creature.
3. The best honour that we can give God our Creator is to pray to him and worship him on a specific day of the week. On such a day we should also have good rest of the labour of the earlier days of the week.

## **Week 4**

### **Topic: EVOLUTION**

**PRAYER: OH LORD RENEW ME**

#### **EVOLUTION**

The evolution of a living organism is known as organic evolution. It is broadly the sum total of adaptive changes that have taken place over a long period of time. It leads to the development of new species. **Evolution** is the change in heritable traits of biological populations over successive generations. Evolutionary processes give rise to diversity at every level of biological organization, including the level of species, individual organisms, and at the level of molecular evolution.

#### **DARWIN CHARLES THEORIES OF EVOLUTION**

**PRAYER: OH LORD RENEW ME**

In 1858, Charles Darwin proposed a new theory that replaced Lamarck's theory. This theory is based on four observations;

1. Most organisms produce large number offspring more than it can be expected to survive and reproduce.
2. The sizes of a given population remain fairly constant although there may be fluctuation.
3. Individuals within a species always show variation.
4. Same variations are more favorable to existence in a given environment than others.

From these observations, he made the following deductions;

All living organisms are constantly involved in a struggle for existence.

In a population, those that tend to survive and reproduce are the individuals whose variation gives them a competitive advantage over the rest. These are the fittest in that they are best adapted to their environment. The favorable variation they possess are passed on to their offsprings.

#### **THE BIBLE AND EVOLUTION**

Thus, evolution is a complete world-view, an explanation of origins and meanings without the necessity of a personal God who created and upholds all things. Since this philosophy is so widely and persuasively taught in our schools, Christians are often tempted to accept the compromise position of "theistic evolution", according to which evolution is viewed as God's

method of creation. However, this is basically an inconsistent and contradictory position. A few of its fallacies are as follows:

( 1) It contradicts the Bible record of creation. Ten times in the first chapter of Genesis, it is said that God created plants and animals to reproduce “after their kinds”. The Biblical “kind” may be broader than our modern “species” concept, but at least it implies definite limits to variation. The New Testament writers accepted the full historicity of the Genesis account of creation. Even Christ Himself quoted from it as historically accurate and authoritative (Matthew 19:4-6).

(2) It is inconsistent with God’s methods. The standard concept of evolution involves the development of innumerable misfits and extinctions, useless and even harmful organisms. If this is God’s “method of creation”, it is strange that He would use such cruel, haphazard, inefficient, wasteful processes. Furthermore, the idea of the “survival of the fittest”, whereby the stronger animals eliminate the weaker in the “struggle for existence” is the essence of Darwin’s theory of evolution by natural selection, and this whole scheme is flatly contradicted by the Biblical doctrine of love, of unselfish sacrifice, and of Christian charity. The God of the Bible is a God of order and of grace, not a God of confusion and cruelty.

(3) The evolutionary philosophy is the intellectual basis of all anti-theistic systems. It served Hitler as the rationale for Nazism and Marx as the supposed, scientific basis for communism. It is the basis of the various modern methods of psychology and sociology that treat man merely as a higher animal and which have led to the misnamed “new morality” and ethical relativism. It has provided the pseudo-scientific rationale for racism and military aggression. Its whole effect on the world and mankind has been harmful and degrading. Jesus said: “A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit” (Matthew 7:18). The evil fruit of the evolutionary philosophy is evidenced enough of its evil roots.

## **MORAL LESSON**

**Words of Authority:** God created the entire world in six days and rested on the seventh day. The world was created based on words of Authority, “let there be light and there was light”. As Christians, we should exercise this same authority.

**God’s Image:** Man didn’t arise from ape like evolution said, we were created in God’s image and likeness according to Gen 1:26-27. Let us behave like God and follow his will.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. What is evolution
2. What are Charles Darwin observations in 1858
3. State two fallacies of the evolution theory
4. How was Man created?



## ANSWER

1. Evolution is the change in heritable traits of biological populations over successive generations. Evolutionary processes give rise to diversity at every level of biological organization, including the level of species, individual organisms, and at the level of molecular evolution.
2. (i) Most organisms produce large number offspring more than it can be expected to survive and reproduce. (ii) The sizes of a given population remain fairly constant although there may be fluctuation. (iii) Individuals within a species always show variation. (iv) Same variations are more favorable to existence in a given environment than others.
3. (i) It is inconsistent with God's methods. The standard concept of evolution involves the development of innumerable misfits and extinctions, useless and even harmful organisms. If this is God's "method of creation", it is strange that He would use such cruel, haphazard, inefficient, wasteful processes. (ii) The evolutionary philosophy is the intellectual basis of all anti-theistic systems. It served Hitler as the rationale for Nazism and Marx as the supposed, scientific basis for communism. It is the basis of the various modern methods of psychology and sociology that treat man merely as a higher animal and which have led to the misnamed "new morality" and ethical relativism.
4. Man didn't arise from ape like evolution said, we were created in God's image and likeness according to Gen 1:26-27

## **Week 5**

### **Topic: GOD'S REVELATION OF HIMSELF**

#### **1. GOD'S REVELATION OF HIMSELF**

**PRAYER: O LORD REVEAL YOURSELF TO ME THROUGH THY WORD**

##### **THE BIBLE**

The bible is made up of 66 Old Testament Books and 27 New Testament Books. It contains the word of God and the message of the Christian religion.

The Old Testament amongst other things contains the story of the creation, Abraham and the fathers of Israel, Judges, Kings, Prophets of Israel, Book of wisdom, Proverb and Psalms.

The New Testament contains the Life and teaching of Christ, stories of the early teaching of the church, the letter of Paul, the pastoral letters and revelation.

#### **2. MEDIUM OF GOD'S REVELATION OF HIMSELF**

##### **God's Word to Abraham (Genesis 12: 1-9)**

The Bible contains stories of how God revealed himself as the creator of the universe, the sustainer of life and the one who cares and provides for his own people. In the early chapter of the book of Genesis, we read of how God revealed Himself to Abraham, how he called him out of Haran, how Abraham went into the land of Canaan, how he received promise and was blessed and started off as the father of all the nations of the earth.

##### **God appears to Moses (Exodus 3:1-6)**

God appeared to Moses on several occasions, he revealed himself to him as his God and Lord of the Hebrews. He gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Apart from Abraham and Moses, there are many people in the bible to whom GOD revealed himself.

God revealed himself to some other prophets (old testament) like Samuel, Elijah and Elisha performed miracles.

##### **God speaks to us through his son, Jesus Christ (Hebrew 1:1-12)**

In the New Testament, he speaks to us through Jesus (by him the world was created) John 1:1-8. The bible says that Jesus shows the power and glory of God and he also wiped away our sins by dying on the cross. Now he is seated at the right hand of God.

##### **God reveals himself to everyone through the bible (Timothy 3:16-17)**

The bible is inspired by GOD and it is good for teaching, correcting and training people for Christian works. The Bible is our daily guide to run the Christian race successfully and to live according to God's plan for our lives.

### **3. MORAL LESSON**

Oh Lord, teach me more about you and show yourself to me.

**Respecting the Word of God:** As Christians, we have to understand the various ways God reveals himself to us and we have to respect his word and do all that he told us to do.

**God's Word as Inspiration:** The Bible contains all forms of knowledge and wisdom. Everything happening in the world today has been mentioned in the word of God.

**Attention to God's Word:** God can speak to us anywhere and at any time in our homes, school, church, at work e.t.c. When God speaks to us, we should listen very carefully.

**Morning Devotion (Hearing God's Word):** Members of a Christian family should gather together in their sitting room to hear the word of God before they set out to carry on their daily activities.

**Learning about God through the Bible:** One way of learning about someone is to study what he says about himself. If you study God's word diligently Joshua 1:8, you will know more about him.

### **ASSESSMENT**

1. Where is the story of the creation contained in the bible?
2. How many books are in the old testaments
3. How many books are in the new testaments
4. Where is the of the life and teaching of Christ, stories of the early teaching of the church, the letter of Paul, the pastoral letters and revelation found in the Bible?

### **ANSWER**

1. The old testament
2. 66 books in the old testament.
3. 27 books in the new testament.
4. The new testament

## **Week 6**

### **TOPIC: Man's power in creation**

#### **Introduction**

How excellent is the name of our God! His glory is set in the heavens. When we consider the universe: the stars, the sun, and the moon. When we consider that they are but the work of God's fingers; that God merely said a word and they all stood fast, then we stand in awe before Him. When we compare man in his highest state to God, then we can only utter the question: "What is man that Thou art mindful of him?" We are so puny and insignificant in the sight of the all-glorious and all-powerful God who reigns over heaven and earth. There is none like Him in majesty and might. He alone is Creator, and man is but a creature of His hands. God rules over all in His majesty, and man, just as every other creature, is governed by His hand. We cannot so much as move without the will of the sovereign God of heaven and earth. O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! Psalm 8 makes this comparison of man to God and brings us to our knees in humble adoration of His great name.

But in comparing man to God, David also teaches an amazing truth about man: God made man, or created man, a little lower than the angels. This we learn in the passage we consider today in Psalm 8:5-6: "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet." God created man to have dominion over all the works of His hands. This is God's purpose in creating man: to place man above all other creatures to rule over them. Mind you: God did not create man and then give him the mandate to rule over all creatures. This was true too. God did give man this command. But the psalmist points out that God created man with the capability and the power to rule over all things. God put all things under man's feet. This is in the very character of a man. This belongs to his creatureliness. As we continue our series of broadcasts on the upright man, we need to understand this about man. He was created by God to be a head—one who rules. There is no doubt that God created man male and female. This too enters into the whole scenario of things. But the headship, as we will find, the right to rule, belongs first of all to the nature of a man. And that is what the subject of our broadcast today is: man's place in God's creation.

#### **MAN'S PLACE IN GOD'S CREATION**

##### **I. His Dominion**

The inspired psalmist makes an astounding statement about man. God has made man a little lower than the angels. Already that truth is amazing! Man is made to stand before God in a chain of authority and importance that is but a little lower than that of the angels. That chain would then be God, angels, and finally man. But what makes this statement all the more astounding is that David literally writes that God has made man a little lower than *God*. The Hebrew term translated angels in our Bibles is actually the word "Elohim," which is the Hebrew word for God. "For thou hast made him a little lower than God," is what we actually read

here. That means that the chain of authority and importance would be God, man, and then angels.

Now, it is difficult to interpret what David means by this statement: "God" or "angels." I say this because the writer to the Hebrews, in Hebrews 2:7, quotes this verse in the Greek and uses the word angels and not God. We read there, "Thou made him a little lower than the angels; thou crowned him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands." Evidently the inspired writer of Hebrews agreed with the Septuagint's translation of this Hebrew term in the Greek as that of angels. But instead of debating the issue, we ought to understand that David was making a certain point here with this phrase. The position God gave to man is a little lower or a little lesser than the celestial state of God Himself! And, since the angels are those who go in and out of God's presence, they too belong to the celestial state. God has given to man, however, the power to rule over the earth under Him. The psalmist expresses the truth of our text best in Psalms 115:16: "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men." God has endowed man with such wondrous gifts that man is capable of ruling this present creation! In that sense man is but a little lower than God and His angels. Now, you will have to agree that this is quite the statement that David makes about man. But that is the point David wishes to make.

Furthermore, this is true of man by virtue of man's creation. God, as we said, endowed man with wondrous, divine gifts that set man in this position of honor. To say that man has evolved from the animals is really a slap in the face of God, but also of man himself. It is demeaning and degrading. Man was created by God a special creature. No animal possessed or ever will possess the gifts God bestowed on man. First of all, from a natural point of view man was created with a mind and a will; with intellect and volition. No animal was created with these gifts. God, as a personal God having a mind and a will, created man to reflect Him in this way. These were divine gifts bestowed on man. He is a thinking, willing creature. From a natural point of view, man is capable of studying, discovering, and developing the laws that govern nature. For that reason, man was created with the ability to use creation in such a way that he can direct it to fulfill what he desires. No animal has, or ever will have, that ability. God gave that to man by virtue of his creation.

It is in the very nature of man, therefore, to take charge of creation: learn of it, and develop it. This was not merely a command God gave man later, after his creation. Neither was it offered to man after God had created man, and man could either take God up on the offer or leave it. God *created* man, He *made* man, a little lower than the angels and crowned man with this honor by virtue of man's creation. Or, as the psalmist states in verse 6 of our text, "Thou *made* him to have dominion over the works of thy hands." God created man to have dominion over the works of His hands. And the word "dominion" simply means "the rule." Man was created as ruler or king of this creation. This is why we read also in verse 5 that man was *crowned* with honor and glory. He was created the king or the head of this world. There is in man an innate ability, which comes with the gifts of intellect and volition, to rule.

This has shown itself to be true too, hasn't it? Look at what man has accomplished using this creation! He has probed the depths of the laws of nature that control the workings of this

creation. When I was a child, man discovered the nucleus of an atom. Now man is probing the very DNA of a man. Man's technology has made him capable of ruling the world. Man's study of the human anatomy has led him to discover medicines and perform surgeries that, when I was young, we would have thought impossible. And we can go on and on in a list of man's achievements. All this is true because God created man in such a way that he is able to rule this creation! Man was created with abilities far beyond any other creature, far beyond any animal on the face of this earth. Man is the crowning achievement of God's creation, without a doubt. God has put all things under man's feet.

That too is a striking statement added here to the end of verse 6: God has put all things under man's feet. That expression comes from the battles that were fought in the Old Testament. The conquering king would show his victory over another nation and king when, after the battle, the conquered king would lie on the ground and the victor would place his feet on his head. This was a sign of subjugation. The victorious king would show that he had subdued his foe. Well, this is true also of man in relation to God's creation. Man was created to subdue this creation, to subject it to his rule. And man has successfully done this too. There is no creature in this world that has not been subdued under man's rule and scrutiny. All things, all creatures, are under man's dominion. Man is head of all things. This is the distinct honor belonging to man. This is what makes man who he is. It is his nature, his makeup. He was created by God to exhibit headship in this world. Now, this does not exclude, of course, the life and labor of the woman. But we must remember that man was created first, and the woman was created out of the rib of man. She was created to be a help for man in his rule. She was created to assist him in the development of this creation. Man was created, however, as a head.

## **II. His Honor**

But there is more to all of this than merely an innate ability to be head, to be king or ruler. David refers to this ability as the glory and honor of a man. Man, the psalmist declares at the end of verse 5, is crowned with glory and honor. We must remember that when God created man He created him a little lower than the angels. This means man was not merely equipped with the natural gifts of intellect and will. But in paradise these gifts were coupled together with the divine attributes belonging to the image of God in man. In other words, what made these natural gifts honorable and glorious is that they were linked together in man with the ethical attributes of God, those of righteousness, holiness, and knowledge of God. And that knowledge of God was not merely that of intellect, but a true knowledge, by which Adam knew God intimately and deeply loved his Creator. He feared the God who had made him. He admired Him and used this creation therefore to serve his Creator. Man was created righteous and therefore with the ability to rule and develop this creation in a way that was in keeping with the sovereign will of his Creator. Man was created holy and therefore totally dedicated and set apart for the service of God's name. In his dominion and rule of creation man did this heartily in the service of God. Not only did God create man *capable* of developing this creation, therefore, but also with the greatest desire to develop this creation *in the service of God Himself*. For this reason, David says of man, "For thou—God—hast made man a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor." These virtues were the crown of man! They became man's

glory. They were what made him honorable. On the sixth day of the creation week, after all of creation was completed, God called forth man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. He created man a personal being with intellect and a will. But with this creation God created Adam in his glorious image, that is, ethically capable of serving God without sin and with total dedication. As man took his place in this creation, therefore, he became *God's* representative as head over all the creatures of God's hands.

But that kingship over creation man ruined. He lost the honor and glory of his place in creation. Not that he lost what was innately his by virtue of his creation, that is, his ability to rule over the creation. Man did not lose his intellect and will. These were a part of the natural creation of the man. They are what makes a man a man and sets him apart from the animals.

With that intellect and will, man retained the ability to have dominion over all the work of God's hands. But he lost the image of God, so that, as a result, his rule over creation became corrupt and rebellious. His honor and glory as head of creation now became dishonorable and shameful. His rule over creation became a disgrace to man rather than a crown of glory to him. Why? Because with the fall of man into sin man became proud in his own achievements. He refused to acknowledge God. In fact, fallen man wanted God out of the picture. Today fallen man is willing to develop a theory that in reality disgraces and insults himself all the more. In order to remove God from the picture, man is willing to say that he is nothing more than a brute beast that has developed out of the monkey. This is how foolish man has become in his unbelief and rebellion against God. In his pride he is willing to make a fool of himself. Man continues to develop this creation, since God created him in this way, but he refuses to develop this creation in the service of his Creator. Instead, man takes dominion over creation in the service of himself and his own selfish goals. Man seeks to be his own king independent of his Maker. Therefore fallen man no longer is honorable and glorious.

But this is not true of those who are in Christ, however. To them has been restored the image of God. Those divine virtues of righteousness, holiness, and knowledge have been restored to them. We can say this, of course, because the writer to the Hebrews makes this point in Hebrews 2:6-9. There he takes this passage of Psalm 8 and applies it directly to Christ.

Everything the psalmist writes here in our text the writer to the Hebrews explains as pointing to Christ. Now, we do not have time to consider this passage as it applies directly in every way to Christ. But we refer especially to verse 9 of Hebrews 2. We read in that verse, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." This makes reference to the humiliation of Christ. He was made a little lower than the angels in order to suffer death for the sins of all mankind. He subjected himself to death in order that by the grace of God He might deliver you and me from the power of sin and death over us.

By doing so, Christ restored the image of God that was lost in the fall and disobedience of Adam, the head of the human race. Those who are in Christ, therefore, develop this creation once again in the service of their Maker. By means of His death, Christ conquered the dominion of sin over us and set us free from its bondage, so that we might be able to serve God in our labors in creation. The glory and honor of our headship, of our kingship over creation, has

therefore been restored. And this too has a direct bearing on how the man of God, the believer, will conduct himself as a head in this creation. The believer will serve his Head, that is, God and His Son Jesus Christ. Our intellect and will are not given over to sin and unbelief. Believers are essentially different from the unbelieving men of this world. Wicked man in every sphere of life reveals a hatred of God and His commandments. He is dedicated to serving self. He is selfish and self-seeking. The believer, on the other hand, uses his headship in the service of God, to please his Maker.

### **III. His Headship**

Now, the psalmist speaks of man's rule over all the creatures of God's hand, but what does this headship include? Over what is man head? The answer is all inclusive. Man is head over the brute creation to develop it in the service of God. Man is head in society, in his family over his wife and over his children, and in the church. No sphere is exempt from this rule of man. For example, when man fell into sin, God did not lay this charge to Eve's account. Adam was the head of the human race, and he was to blame for the fall of man into sin. "For as in Adam all died" (I Cor. 15). The man Jesus Christ is head of the church and covenant, and He suffered to deliver His people from sin. The chain of authority in the home, we learn in I Corinthians 11, is this: God, Christ, husband, wife. God created man to have dominion. God holds man responsible for what goes on in his home and family, in the church, and in society at large. We do not say this to be chauvinistic, as the wicked will claim. We say this in order to impress upon believing men what is their responsibility before God! God holds you responsible, men! And you will give answer to God in the Day of Judgment. Did you exercise your rule over creation, in society, and especially in the home and church, in the service of God's name? Were you selfish? Were you self-seeking? Were you abusive? Were you lazy and lackadaisical?

The Word of God here in Psalm 8 must incite us as upright men to take seriously our calling to exercise dominion in the service of our God. This will have everything to do with the role and work of the man in the various spheres of his life.

### **Assessment**

1. What is man?
2. Is this likeness to God in the body or in the soul?
3. How is the soul like God?

### **Answer**

1. Man is a creature composed of body and soul and made to the image and likeness of God. The soul and the body are not loosely connected parts of man, they are united in a substantial union to form one complete human nature. The soul is not located in any particular member of the body but is whole and entire in each part.



2. His likeness to God is chiefly in the soul. All creatures bear some resemblance to God inasmuch as they exist. Plants and animals resemble Him insofar as they have life, but none of these creatures is made to the image and likeness of God. Plants and animals do not have a rational soul, such as man has, by which they might know and love God.
3. The soul is like God because it is a spirit having an understanding and free will, and is destined to live forever.

## **Week 7**

### **TOPIC: The destiny of man in GOD's creation**

The Bible portrays man as a carefully designed creation (not a chance product of an evolution). He is distinct from the rest of creation, the pinnacle of God's creation with a unique destiny above other creatures. Much of this original purpose has been marred by sin, but God's plan remains intact.

Man is primarily a spiritual being, slowly unfolding from sense consciousness to spiritual awareness to a higher expression of manifestation. "In the beginning" man was created by God, in His "Image and Likeness," and from a state of innocent unawareness of any thought outside of God's Perfection, it would seem that he was, one might say, cruelly, placed in a position where he might be tempted from this innocent expression. There is scarcely anyone who has not looked back wistfully on days of happiness in the Garden of Eden and regretted Eve's surrender to the wiles of the "serpent," with its disastrous results, so far as her progeny is concerned.

We are told that God warned our "first parents" of the danger of undue curiosity along the lines of thought and that it would be dangerous for them to experiment in individual thinking, short of the Love and Perfection which comprise the Nature of the First Cause, or Father. This warning they did not heed, and the moment the first act of will was performed outside of the Will of the Father, the fall of man took place and human nature was born, making man's first sin the one of disobedience.

Man was created, in the first place, for a glorious Destiny. He was placed on a planet which took eons of time to prepare; placed there for his comfort and happiness. He was endowed with the Creative Powers of the Father and was given free will, all for the purpose that he may, as part and parcel of God's Life and Spirit, expand the Kingdom of Heaven, which was the Vision of the Father, without pain or suffering or death to himself, but in glorious cooperation with the great First Cause, the only existing Mind in the whole universe. It must also be remembered, in line with the gift of free will that no soul ever incarnated upon the Earth unless he first volunteered for this opportunity to evolve his Creative Powers.

Through the fall, these sons of God created a realm for themselves outside the Kingdom of Heaven and, in time, became wholly human, having developed a nature entirely alien to the Divine Nature of the Father God. Not every incarnated spirit took part in this willful disobedience of independent thinking. There were thousands upon thousands who remained true to the Will of the Father, fulfilled their individual, Divine Destiny and returned Home to the Heart of God, with their Creative Powers developed in Love, Wisdom, and Discrimination. Many of these Faithful and Obedient Ones volunteered to return to the planet they had just left, to try to turn their erring, and now suffering, brethren from the downward path of separate and individual desire.

They were fortunately successful in awakening some, who were wise enough to heed Their promptings. These Grateful Ones, also, on returning to the Kingdom, joined what is known as the Great White Brotherhood, an organization comprised of every Liberated Spirit who ever trod

the Earth, as well as all the members of the Heavenly Host directly concerned with the evolution of this planet and beneficent members from other planets who were interested in our welfare.

### **Assessment**

1. Who made man?
2. Why did God make man?
3. Man is primarily a spiritual being. True or False?

### **Answer**

1. God created man to manifest His glory in a special way. He gave man an intellect and a will that he might know, praise, and love his Creator. In the service of God man finds his true, though imperfect, happiness in this life. Perfect happiness has been promised in the next life as a reward for the merits man acquires here on earth. Thus the happiness of man is also a purpose of creation.
2. God made us to show forth His goodness and to share with us His everlasting happiness in heaven.
3. True

## **Week 8**

# **Topic: THE DIGNITY OF MAN IN GOD'S CREATION**

### **LESSON 1**

#### **THE SUPREMACY OF MAN OVER OTHER CREATIONS**

**PRAYER:** Oh Lord make me a useful instrument in the house of the Lord.

**Bible Reference:** (Genesis 1:26-31, 12:18 – 24) “Be Fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the birds of the air and every living thing that moves upon the earth” Genesis (1:28b)

Man was greatly favored in God's creative activities. God created him in a better form and gave him authority, power, and control over the entire animals and birds.

God gave man the ability to procreate or bring new life into being. In order for this to be possible, God created man and woman, blessed them and gave the man the ability and power to multiply and flourish.

#### **MORAL LESSON**

1. **The Union of a Man and a Woman:** God demonstrated his love for us by giving us the opportunity to share in his creative activities. Having created a man, he also created a woman to help him and this is the origin of the pattern of the family life. A man and a woman come together in marriage and therefore bring other human beings into the world
2. **The Wife as Helper:** It is intended that the woman God created for the man should be a help-meet. She should make her husband happy by giving him divine guidance on important matters and necessary support when they are in difficult times. A Woman should receive good care and affection from her husband.
3. **The Husband as a Head, Protector, and Lover:** It is intended that the husband should be that head of the family he should protect the wife and children and provide them with shelter and food in return for the faithfulness and loyalty of his wife, the husband should give her his love, affection and care.

### **LESSON 2**

#### **THE DIGNITY OF MAN IN GOD'S CREATION**

**Bible Reference** Genesis 1:26 – 27

The Dignity of a man was illustrated by his close relationship with God. He was still very close to God at the time of creation, which is why God created him in a form that was better than that of any animal. God created man his own image.

The dignity of man is shown In the power, authority, and control which GOD gave him over everything on earth.

### **MORAL LESSON**

1. **Despise None:** As creations of God, we should not despise other human beings who are less handsome or less beautiful, disabled, less intelligent, or less fortunate than us because they too were created by God.
2. **Showing Love to All:** God is good and beautiful. He is a God of love and truth. By creating us in this own image, he has shown his love for us and he expects us to be like him and do the same to other people.
3. **Appreciating the Beauty and Goodness of God:** We should also learn to appreciate the goodness and beauty of God which is manifested in all things he created.

### **ASSESSMENT**

1. Who named the living creatures?
  - a. The man and the woman
  - b. The woman
  - c. God
  - d. The man
2. Why did God create the woman?
  - a. So she could serve the man
  - b. So she could keep the man company
  - c. So she could oversee the man
  - d. So she could help the man
3. What did God create the woman out of?
  - a. Dew
  - b. A piece of the man's body
  - c. Dust
  - d. Stone
4. God's choice of material for creating the woman symbolizes what?
  - a. A married man and woman should live together as one united entity
  - b. God wants man and woman to be as steadfast and immovable as a mountain in His Gospel
  - c. God wants women to be as clean as the purest of waters
  - d. Man and woman are lesser than the dust of the earth

### **ANSWER**

1. D

2. D

3. B

4. A

## Week 9

### Topic: THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The bible is made up of 66 Old Testament Books and 27 New Testament Books. It contains the word of God and the message of the Christian religion.

The Old Testament amongst other things contains the story of the creation, Abraham and the fathers of Israel, Judges, Kings, Prophets of Israel, Book of wisdom, Proverb and Psalms.

The New Testament contains the Life and teaching of Christ, stories of the early teaching of the church, the letter of Paul, the pastoral letters and revelation.

#### **NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS**

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- Acts
- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- 11 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 11 Thessalonians
- 1 Timothy
- 11 Timothy
- Titus

- Philemon
- Hebrews
- James
- 1 Peter
- 11 Peter
- 1 John
- 11 John
- 111 John
- Jude
- Revelation

In the New Testament portion of the Bible, the power and love of God are shown through the life and teaching of Jesus Christ and through the message of the apostles after the death of Christ. The first three books of the new testament are Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the synoptic gospel because they contain parallel stories of life and teaching of Christ as recorded by his very close disciples.

The gospel of John contains similar accounts of the life and teaching of Christ but these are not arranged in the kind of historical order that we have in the synoptic gospel books. The miracles of Jesus are presented as signs of his powers and each of this is used as an aspect of Jesus life and work.

The Acts of apostles which is the fifth book of the New Testament contains the history of the early church which is the most significant aspect of the Christian message. Here we can see the importance of the Holy Spirit in guiding the early Christians in their teaching of the gospel Romans 1 – 11. From Thessalonians and Hebrews, 1 Timothy to 11 peter and Jude we have the Pastoral Epistles. These are intended to keep alive the faith and belief of individual Christian and the last book of the Bible Revelation contain a final account of God's revelation of himself and more particularly about what the end of the world will be like.

## **OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS**

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Number
- Deuteronomy



- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 11 Samuel
- 1 King
- 11 King
- 1 Chronicles
- 11 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther
- Job
- Psalm
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentation
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah

- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

**The Pentateuch** is the term commonly applied to the first five books of the Bible; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The Pentateuch was the first collection of literature acknowledged as Scripture by the Hebrew community. The writing of these books has been ascribed to Moses. It holds supreme rank in the Old Testament canon in respect and holiness.

**The Historical books** include Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. These books share a prophetic view of history describing how the obedience or disobedience of God's people is directly tied to the blessings and curses of the covenant.

**The Poetic and Wisdom writings** include Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. Unlike classical and modern poetry, ancient Hebrew poetry has no distinctive scheme of accentuation, meter, or rhythm to differentiate it from prose. To the Hebrews, wisdom included skill in living and the powers of observation. It also included the capacity of human intellect and the application of knowledge and experience to daily life. All of this came from a viewpoint that was firmly rooted in "the fear of the Lord," which is the beginning of wisdom.

**The Major Prophets** include Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel. These books were declared "major" because of the amount of text, and not because they were considered more important than the "minor" prophetic books. The Old Testament prophet tended to be revealed during times of crisis. God used the prophets to provide direction and wisdom during times of crisis. They were also used by God to remind the people of their covenantal promises.

**The Minor Prophets** include Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The books of the major and minor prophets were considered to be part of the "classical prophecy" era of the Old Testament

## **MORAL LESSON**

1. **Know the Books of the Bible:** As Christians, we have to know the teachings of the books of the Bible (old and new testament) and order of arrangement.

2. **Knowing the contents of each Book:** We should also have an idea of what each book or group of books contain. If we read the bible every day and we go to the church regularly, we will gradually know the names of these books as well as summaries of their contents without necessarily memorizing them.
3. **The Bible as the word of God:** We should all recognize the Bible as the medium all through which God has revealed himself to us

**PRAYER:**

O Lord give me the grace to meditate on your words, Amen

**ASSESSMENT**

1. How many books are there in the Old Testament?
  - a. 66
  - b. 77
  - c. 29
  - d. 39
  - e. none of the above
2. How many books are there in the New Testament?
  - a. 19
  - b. 27
  - c. 31
  - d. 33
  - e. none of the above
3. What book follows 2 Samuel?
  - a. 3 Samuel
  - b. 1 Chronicles
  - c. 1 Kings
  - d. Judges
  - e. none of the above
4. Which Old Testament book is considered the Book of Wisdom?

- a. Ecclesiastes
- b. Proverbs
- c. Isaiah
- d. Job
- e. none of the above

5. Which of these is not a book of the Bible?

- a. Jude
- b. Esther
- c. Hezekiah
- d. Nehemiah
- e. none of the above

**ANSWER**

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. B
- 5. C

## Week 10

### Topic: MARRIAGE

Bible Reference: Genesis 2:18-24

Then the Lord God said it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him "Verse 2:18"

Marriage is the coming together of a man and a woman into matrimony. It only way God permits human beings to give birth to children. It was God that created marriage because in Genesis 2:18 and 21-25 God said "it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and from his side he took out one rib from Adam's body with which he created the woman called Eve. When Adam woke up he saw Eve and was happy. He exclaimed- "This at last is the bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man". So as we can see from the foregoing, the first marriage on earth was between Adam and Eve. Marriage can be defined as the lawful or legal joining of a man and a woman to become husband and wife.

Marriage can also be explained as an agreement by which a man and woman become husband and wife. This is a union of a man and a woman as husband and wife.

#### **TYPES OF MARRIAGE**

There are three types of Marriage

**Traditional or Customary Marriage:** There are various forms of traditional marriage in the country; payment of bride price by the bridegroom to the relative of the bride is a common feature of all form of marriage.

**Religious Marriage:** Under religious marriage

These are Christian marriage and Muslim Marriage

**Christian Marriage:** This takes place in the church where some ceremonies are performed by a clergyman or priest. The man and the woman exchange rings and take some vows called Marriage Vows as wedded husband and wife to live together till death parts them.

**Muslim Marriage:** It allows a man to marry up to four wives. Muslims keep their wives in a special section of the house reserved solely, for married women.

**Civil or Ordinance Marriage:-** It is the type of marriage that takes place at the marriage registry under the supervision of a court registrar. The relatives of both couples sign some papers which makes the marriage legal and the marriage complete.

State the purpose of marriage according to the commandment of God.

God said man shall not live alone he then brought the rib of Adam and make him be asleep then he put the rib inside Eve's rib and said this is the bone of your bone and rib your rib God commanded that what he has put together no men shall put asunder.

## **FORMS OF MARRIAGES**

BIBLE REFERENCE: Genesis (2:18 – 24)

There are various forms of marriages. They are;

**Monogamy:** It means marrying of one person a particular time. A man is expected to marry only one wife.

**Polygamy:** Is an act or custom where a man marries more than one wife. This is common among Muslims and also common in traditional practices. A Muslim is expected to marry more than one wife. Polyandry and Polygyny are two kinds of polygamous marriages.

**Polygyny:** It involves the man marrying more women at the same time.

**Polyandry:** This kind of marriage is a custom where one woman is married to two or more men.

**Levirate:** This form of marriage practice allows a man to marry his late brother's wife. At times, under this form of marriage, a son marries his late father's wife. This is a type of marriage in which the brother of a deceased man is obliged to marry his brother's widow, and the widow is obliged to marry her deceased husband's brother.

## **FUNCTIONS OF MARRIAGE**

1. **Procreation:** This means to conceive, birth and train children in the way God wants.
2. **Companionship:** In Genesis 2:18 God said: "it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper".
3. **Responsibility:** Marriage demands responsible behaviour and faithfulness
4. **Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases:** Because marriage forces couples to have responsible behaviour this helps them to live healthily and prevents them from contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. What is marriage?
2. List and explain types of marriage?
3. List the forms of marriage
4. What are the functions of marriage?

## ANSWER

1. Marriage can be explained as an agreement by which a man and woman become husband and wife. This is a union of a man and a woman as husband and wife.
2. **(i) Traditional or Customary Marriage:** There are various forms of traditional marriage in the country; payment of bride price by the bridegroom to the relative of the bride is a common feature of all form of marriage.

**(ii) Religious Marriage:** Under religious marriage

These are Christian marriage and Muslim Marriage

**Christian Marriage:** This takes place in the church where some ceremonies are performed by a clergyman or priest. The man and the woman exchange rings and take some vows called Marriage Vows as wedded husband and wife to live together till death parts them.

**Muslim Marriage:** It allows a man to marry up to four wives. Muslims keep their wives in a special section of the house reserved solely, for married women.

**(iii) Civil or Ordinance Marriage:-** It is the type of marriage that takes place at the marriage registry under the supervision of a court registrar. The relatives of both couples sign some papers which makes the marriage legal and the marriage complete.

3. **(i) Monogamy:** It means marrying of one person a particular time. A man is expected to marry only one wife.

**(ii) Polygamy:** Is an act or custom where a man marries more than one wife. This is common among Muslims and also common in traditional practices. A Muslim is expected to marry more than one wife. Polyandry and Polygyny are two kinds of polygamous marriages.

**(iii) Polygyny:** It involves the man marrying more women at the same time.

**(iv) Polyandry:** This kind of marriage is a custom where one woman is married to two or more men.

**(v) Levirate:** This form of marriage practice allows a man to marry his late brother's wife. At times, under this form of marriage, a son marries his late father's wife. This is a type of marriage in which the brother of a deceased man is obliged to marry his brother's widow, and the widow is obliged to marry her deceased husband's brother.

4. (i) Procreation: This means to conceive, birth and train children in the way God wants.  
(ii) Companionship: In Genesis 2:18 God said: "it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper". (iii) Responsibility: Marriage demands responsible behaviour and faithfulness (iv) Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Because marriage forces couples to have responsible behaviour this helps them to live healthy and prevents them from contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

## Week 11

### Topic: Problems in Marriage e.g. Divorce

**Divorce**, also known as **dissolution of marriage**, is the termination of a marriage or marital union, the canceling or reorganizing of the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage, thus dissolving the bonds of matrimony between a married couple under the rule of law of the particular country or state. Divorce laws vary considerably around the world, but in most countries divorce requires the sanction of a court or other authority in a legal process, which may involve issues of alimony (spousal support), child custody, child visitation / access, parenting time, child support, distribution of property, and division of debt. In most countries, monogamy is required by law, so divorce allows each former partner to marry another person; where polygyny is legal but polyandry is not, divorce allows the woman to marry another person.

Divorce should not be confused with annulment, which declares the marriage null and void; with legal separation or *de jure* separation (a legal process by which a married couple may formalize a *de facto* separation while remaining legally married) or with *de facto separation* (a process where the spouses informally stop cohabiting). Reasons for divorce vary, from sexual incompatibility or lack of independence for one or both spouses to a personality clash.

The only countries that do not allow divorce are the Philippines, the Vatican City and the British Crown Dependency of Sark. The Vatican City is an ecclesiastical state, which has no procedure for divorce.

#### Causes of Divorce

An annual study in the UK by management consultants Grant Thornton, estimates the main proximal causes of divorce based on surveys of matrimonial lawyers.

The main causes in 2004 were:

- Adultery; Extramarital sex; Infidelity – 27%
- Domestic violence – 17%
- Midlife crisis – 13%
- Addictions, e.g. alcoholism and gambling – 6%
- Workaholism – 6%

According to this survey, husbands engaged in extramarital affairs in 75% of cases; wives in 25%. In cases of family strain, wives' families were the primary source of strain in 78%, compared to 22% of husbands' families. Emotional and physical abuse were more evenly split,



with wives affected in 60% and husbands in 40% of cases. In 70% of workaholic-related divorces it was husbands who were the cause, and in 30%, wives. The 2004 survey found that 93% of divorce cases were petitioned by wives, very few of which were contested. 53% of divorces were of marriages that had lasted 10 to 15 years, with 40% ending after 5 to 10 years. The first 5 years are relatively divorce-free, and if a marriage survives more than 20 years it is unlikely to end in divorce.

Social scientists study the causes of divorce in terms of underlying factors that may possibly motivate divorce. One of these factors is the age at which a person gets married; delaying marriage may provide more opportunity or experience in choosing a compatible partner. Wage, income, and sex ratios are other such underlying factors that have been included in analyses by sociologists and economists.

The elevation of divorce rates among couples who cohabited prior to marriage is called the “cohabitation effect.” Evidence suggests that although this correlation is partly due to two forms of selection (*a*) that persons whose moral or religious codes permit cohabitation are also more likely to consider divorce permitted by morality or religion and (*b*) that marriage based on low levels of commitment is more common among couples who cohabit than among couples who do not, such that the mean and median levels of commitment at the start of marriage are lower among cohabiting than among non-cohabiting couples), the cohabitation experience itself exerts at least some independent effect on the subsequent marital union.

In 2010, a study by Jay Teachman published in *Journal of Marriage and Family* found that women who have cohabited or had premarital sex with men other than their husbands have an increased risk of divorce and that this effect is strongest for women who have cohabited with multiple men prior to marriage.

## Remedies to Divorce

There's data to support the fact that divorce can lead to all sorts of psychological and behavioral problems in children; it can also cause them to have relational issues with their parents, siblings, and others due to their fear of abandonment. Also, divorce can cause the health of the separated spouses to decrease. Not only that but divorce affects society as a whole. For these reasons and so many others, it's best to not look at divorce as an answer to a hurting marriage; to instead seek out other solutions to divorce. Here are five of them:

### 1. Understand what are the biggest issues in your marriage

Name that specific problem(s) that is causing your marriage to crumble down. What is it about your spouse that is driving you nuts? Is it a specific habit in them or are there issues that you acknowledge you need to work on? Whatever it is, be specific in stating the marital problem before you can find a solution to it.

Like for example, if financial issues are straining your marriage, then take a step back and dwell on what you must do. Come up with a team approach to sort out your financial concerns. All couples must develop a game-plan together on three primary things:

- Creating a monthly budget and sticking to it
- Creating a strategy to get out of debt.
- A roadmap on how to save and invest for the future.

Make a list of all such issues that lead to disagreements, including the ones you refrain from talking about thinking it will only cause more conflicts and tension with your spouse.

## 2. Start over from scratch

Sometimes, this is the best way to move forward. Forget about the fights, the negativity, the constant problems. Start from all over again. Remember why you both fell in love and build your marriage all over again from there. Do you remember the last time you talked for hours with your spouse, the long drives or anything special you did together? Get silly about one another and infuse your relationship with love, once again.

## 3. Change the negative patterns

Do you always fight over the silliest things? Do either of you lose your temper at the drop of a hat? Do you nag each other even when you can make your point in a loving manner? Break these negative patterns and embrace healthier habits in your marriage. Be respectful towards each other, kiss in the mornings and greet your spouse in the evenings. Remember, it is these small habits that can actually make or break a marriage. Be mindful about these always.

## 4. Leave no stone unturned

Make every effort to improve your marriage. Understand that this will take time and effort from both partners. Prioritize your marriage and spouse and express gratitude to one another. Accept each other's differences and make decisions together as a team. If you both struggle to achieve this, then do not hesitate to seek help. Read books together on how to build great marriages, attend seminars on how to effectively overcome problems. Do everything you can to make your marriage work.

## 5. Take the word 'divorce' off

Simply put, remove divorce as an option from your marriage. If you feel you can get out of that tough situation by divorcing your spouse, then clearly you need a mind makeover. Negative thinking in this manner points out to the fact that you are not 100% committed to resolving the conflict. Make a pact with your spouse and forbid divorce from ever creeping into your vocabulary. Many successful couples sticks together out of sheer determination and love.

Know that you married your spouse for a reason. Remember those reasons and it will be easier to try again. Divorce will soon be out of the window, and your marriage.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. What is a Divorce?

2. Highlight three remedies for divorce
3. Name three causes of divorce

**ANSWER**

1. Divorce, also known as dissolution of marriage, is the termination of a marriage or marital union, the canceling or reorganizing of the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage, thus dissolving the bonds of matrimony between a married couple under the rule of law of the particular country or state.
2. (i) Leave no stone unturned (ii) Change the negative patterns (iii) Change the negative patterns
3. (i) Adultery (ii) Domestic violence (iii) Addictions

## **Week 12**

### **Topic: Disobedience: FIRST DISOBEDIENCE**

**Prayer: O Lord forgive all my sins and cleanse me with your blood**

**BIBLE REFERENCE:** Genesis 3: 1-19, James 1: 13 – 14

“If we are tempted by such trials, we must not say, “This temptation comes from God.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. But we are tempted when we are drawn away and trapped by our own evil desires”. James 1:13 – 14(Good news translation).

Before Adam and Eve submitted to the temptation of sin, they had lived happily together in the Garden of Eden. God instructed them never to touch or eat any of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. If they did, they would die.

But the serpent tempted and encouraged Eve to do so. It told her that she would not die but that her eyes would be open and she would be like God and know the difference between good and evil.

The tree itself looked good and tempting, so Eve ate some of its fruit and gave some to it to Adam, her husband who also ate and immediately the eyes of both of them were opened and they discovered that they were naked.

Adam and Eve felt the presence of God in the garden, they hid among the trees of the garden. When God called Adam and asked him where he was, he replied, I heard the sound of your voice and hid in the garden. I was afraid because I am naked so I hid. God then asked Adam who told you are naked. Have you eaten of the tree I commanded you not to? Adam replied to the woman whom you created gave me to eat. Eve on her part said it was the serpent that made her eat it, God condemned Adam and Eve and sent them away from the garden.

#### **MORAL LESSON**

**Avoid Sinful acts:** Sin breaks our relationship with God while God protects and guides those who do his will, he punishes or condemns those who refuse to obey him. We must avoid all sinful acts and do the will of God always.

**Obey God:** If Adam and Eve had not disobeyed God the way they did, they would have continued to live in the Garden of Eden. They would not have recognized their nakedness and they wouldn't have been condemned or driven out of the garden.

**Overcoming Temptation:** Adam and Eve were unable to overcome the temptation of the serpent, the devil. We must expect temptations at all times but we must try not to be defeated or conquered by it.

## LESSON 2

### CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

**PRAYER: O LORD FORGIVE ME ALL SINS AND CLEANSE ME WITH YOUR BLOOD**

**BIBLE REFERENCE: GENESIS 39:10, JAMES 1:13 – 14**

The consequences of sin are as follows:

1. **Separation From GOD:** *“But your iniquities (sin) has caused a separation between you and your God.”* (Isaiah 59:2a) This is by far the biggest consequence of sin. Every sin is an offense to God, and God cannot be in the presence of sin. That is why if you choose to keep committing the same sins without repentance, you will stop feeling His presence in your life.
2. **Eternal Death Sentence:** *“For the wages of sin is death.”* (Romans 6:23) It is my prayer that this verse really speaks to you. A true believer will repent of their sins, but those who are rebellious are in serious trouble! Eternal death (separation from God forever) awaits all who choose not to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior.
  - **The consequence of sin is death Roman 6:23:** Death is the epitome of sin penalty that was the warning given when God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the fruit of the forbidden tree; it was the direct expression of God curse upon man when he disobeyed. Penalty of death extended to separation, from God because of sin death is invested will fear a terror to man.
  - **The Death of Abel (Genesis 4:1 – 9):** Cain was the first born of Adam and because he had inherited the sin of his parents he started to do evil, he killed his brother Abel. Cain made sacrifices to God with poor farm products being a farmer but his brother Abel used the best of his animals to sacrifice to God, he was a cattleman, God accepted the sacrifice of Abel and rejected that of Cain. Cain became angry and decided to kill his brother.
3. **Man’s attitude to God:** After Adam and Eve had committed sin by disobeying God, They saw themselves as naked and they felt unclean to come to the presence of God. Sin brought a sense of guilt to their minds and destroyed the intimacy they once had with God. They became ashamed and couldn’t come boldly to God’s presence.
  - **Consequences of Sin to the Human race:** The fall of man had a terrible effect not only on Adam and Eve but on all who descended from them. The children of Adam became sinful and continued in the sins of their parents.
  - **The consequence of sin is death Roman 6:23:** Death is the epitome of sin penalty that was the warning given when God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the fruit of the forbidden tree; it was the direct expression of God curse upon man when he disobeyed.

Penalty of death extended to separation, from God because of sin death is invested will fear a terror to man.

## **MORAL LESSON**

Sin is the enemy of mankind, It always put Man to shame and disgrace. Christians are to run away from sin, it is very dangerous to our Christian life.

Sin is like a trap when it catches you, it is not easy to escape. It changes man from his original being. It destroys the spirit state.

Unborn generations can still suffer the punishment of sin committed now. The punishment of the sins of Adam extends to this present generation and still will to the last generation on earth.

Sin attracts punishment bigger than the punishment of Adam. Christians must know that the gravity of the shuttering of ignorance of sin is equivalent to that of deliberate sin. The only way out is prayerfulness and carefulness.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. Which two trees grew in the midst of the garden?
  - a. The tree of life and the tree of death
  - b. The tree of death and the tree of joy and despair
  - c. The tree of knowledge of good and evil and the tree of joy and despair
  - d. The tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil
2. What animal deceived Eve?
  - a. A wolf
  - b. A fox
  - c. A serpent
  - d. A crow
3. What did the deceptive animal convince Eve to do?
  - a. Leave Adam
  - b. Kill an animal
  - c. Blaspheme against the Lord
  - d. Partake of the forbidden fruit
4. Why did Adam hide from the Lord?
  - a. He wanted the Lord to prove to him that He can see all
  - b. He was ashamed of his wife's transgression
  - c. He was embarrassed because he realized he was naked
  - d. He wanted to see if he could outwit the Lord
5. What did the Lord NOT do as a result of the disobedience of Adam and Eve?
  - a. Give them the ability to feel emotion
  - b. Kill them instantly

- c. Cause them to work the ground for food
- d. Cast them out of Eden and His presence

**ANSWER**

- 1. D
- 2. C
- 3. D
- 4. C
- 5. B

## Week 13

### Topic: Consequences of disobedience – King Saul

- Moses: Leads the people of God out of Egypt and Slavery
- Joshua: Military general who leads them into the Promised Land
- Judges: Gideon (**Judges 2:11-12** – Read) “The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. They abandoned the Lord....instead they went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them.” \*\*They preferred to follow the ways of the world around them rather than be Obedient to God. \*\*This disobedience set up a sad spiral which ended: **Judges 21:25** – “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

So – When you turn from Judges to Samuel (the last Judge), you could say Israel was looking for a leader. The leader they chose, was Saul.

The greatest challenge in leadership is *Self-Leadership*. The hardest person to lead is the person you stare at in the mirror every morning. We all have preferences, impulses, and desires. They strongly influence our leadership. (We want ice cream!) But Christian Leadership requires obedience to God's preferences, impulses, and desires above your own! The failure of obedience can have heavy consequences, much more than being taken to your room.

#### 1. Fatal Beginning: 1 Samuel 8:4-7 (Read)

The Elders (the Leaders) uncoupled themselves from God's leadership. They decided instead to obey their own desires – their voice/their desires will be King. (This is a repeat of Genesis 3 when desires become King)

#### Samuel's Warning (1 Samuel 8:10-18)

God warns his people through the prophet Samuel that the leader they elect will bring trials upon them. The phrase “**He will take**” is repeated in verses 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.

#### **He will take:**

- Your sons
- Your daughters
- The best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards
- A tenth of your grain
- Your male and female servants, and your donkeys
- A tenth of your flocks...*and you shall be his slaves.*

This is important: Whenever you uncouple your life from God and listen to another voice, that voice *takes*. He will take.



John 10:10 – “I have come that they may have life, and to have it to the full...the thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy...(i.e. to take).

Samuel 8:18 – Just hold on to that, there will be a day when you cry out and the LORD will not answer!

### People's Response (1 Samuel 8:19-20)

Even after God's warning, the people respond – “No, we don't want God as our King, *we want what we want*, we want to be like everyone else. Just like the kid in the movie, “We want ice cream!”

### The LORD's Response (1 Samuel 8:22)

Verse 22 is such a scary and sobering voice. The Lord said to Samuel: “Obey their voice.” Let them lead. “Make them a king.” *Give them a king in their own image*. One who is emotionally immature, a king who will easily uncouple himself from God's instruction.

## 2. Saul's Downward Spiral of Leadership

It is worth noticing in 1 Samuel 9:1-2 that Saul is wealthy, handsome, and tall. These are all of the external qualities *the world* is looking for in a leader. Yet, it is not those qualities which make great leaders.

## Saul's 1st Leadership Test – Chapter 13

Samuel (representing God's voice) tells Saul to go to Gilgal and prepare to fight against the Philistines. Saul is instructed to wait 7 days for Samuel to arrive. When Samuel arrives, he is supposed to give an offering (seeking the Lord's favor in battle) and give instruction to Saul.

So here is the real leadership test. It is not the fight against the enemy (Philistines), the real fight is against himself. Will Saul obey the voice of the Lord or will he “eat the ice cream?”

Question: As a leader, are you willing to be led by God's Word, even when you have to *wait*? Even when it looks like things are falling apart and people are abandoning you? Even when everyone else is doing business another way? When those things happen, who's voice do you obey? This is a constant challenge!

**Read 1 Samuel 13:8-11** – This is oh so painful. So familiar to times in my own life! In verse 10, if he had just waited a little. In verse 11, he is skilled in blame shifting. He says “I saw,” meaning that he follows what he sees, not God's instructions. He blames the people, then Samuel, and then the Philistines. Everyone gets thrown under the bus, except Saul! In verse 12, he says “So I forced myself”. In other words: it was difficult to go against God's word, but I forced myself. Saul *uncouples himself from God's Word*.

Back to the key point, your biggest enemy is yourself!

## A Second Similar Test – Chapter 15

Who's word will Saul obey? Samuel gives Saul specific instructions to destroy the wicked Amalekites. "Saul, go to war and don't bring anything back."

Saul's response is in 1 Samuel 15:9. Saul keeps the king (Agag) and the best of the livestock alive. Verse 12 tells us that after the battle, Saul sets up a monument to *himself*. His voice, his desires are king. 1 Samuel 15:19-21 display so many poor leadership traits: Blame shifting, the fear of man, and a disconnect between his leadership and those he leads.

Here's an illustration: Long ago, when my son Zachary was little, I saw there was a broken pot in our house. I asked my wife if she broke the pot. She said no. At this point, I knew it was Zachary so I asked him, "Did you break the pot?" "No," he said. A few seconds went by, and then he said, "...but my foot did." We blame shift so easily, but good leaders take responsibility for themselves and their people.

1 Samuel 15:23b is the LORD's response. "Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you from being king."

## Chapter 18

Following David's defeat of Goliath (Read vs. 6-9), Saul's emotionally immaturity intensifies. Saul's childish response is so incredibly unattractive. He drifts further from God. Saul is uncoupled from God's word and is slowly being destroyed.

## Chapter 28

Saul is nearing the end of his reign. He is now completely uncoupled from God's voice and under great pressure from the Philistines.

Read 1 Samuel 28:5-6. Saul doesn't cry out to repent, he doesn't cry out for a restored relationship with God. No, he cries out for rescue. He is only concerned about himself. Recall 1 Samuel 8:18. God did not answer him in that day.

Read 1 Samuel 28:7. Saul, who once *forced himself* to go against God's Word now easily consults a Medium, a Necromancer.

Leaders, please listen. Sin, when left unchecked, grows. When you uncouple yourself from God's word, it may seem like a small thing in the beginning. But when left unchecked, it is catastrophic.

## Chapter 31

Saul commits suicide. John 10:10. The enemy wins. Saul's total destruction. The failure of obedience can have some heavy consequences. Saul loses himself, his sons, and a nation.

## Assessment

1. Whom did Saul try to kill due to jealousy? a) Rehoboam b) Eglon c) David d) Shamgar
2. Where did Saul die? a) Mount Tabor b) Shechem c) Hazor d) Mount Gilboa
3. Where was Saul chosen king of Israel by public acclamation? a) Jebus b) Gilgal c) Yarmuth d) Nablus

4. Where was Saul's capital? a) Jerusalem b) Gibeah c) Beirut d) Tyre

**Answer**

1. c) David
2. d) Mount Gilboa
3. b) Gilga
4. b) Gibeah

## **Week 14**

# **Topic: RECONCILIATION AND THE LAWS OF CHRIST**

### **LESSON 1**

#### **RECONCILIATION**

Reconciliation is defined as the act of finding a satisfactory way of dealing with or settling an argument or disagreement. The ultimate aim of reconciliation is to make people become friends again after an argument, disagreement or quarrel.

#### **Conditions Necessary for Reconciliation**

Before reconciliation can take place successfully, people must observe the following.

**Sincerity:** Those people involved in an argument must be very sincere with each other. They should be ready to accept their wrongs

**Humility:** The people involved should be humble, the offender should humbly tender his apology while the offended should be ready to forgive and forget.

There should be three parties on the reconciliation table; The offender, The offended and The settling party.

**Impartiality:** There should be total avoidance of partiality. The people involved in settling the dispute or disagreement must play fair. They should be men or women of integrity, honesty and must possess strong moral principles.

### **LESSON 2**

#### **THE PRODIGAL SON'S RECONCILIATION**

**Bible Reference: Luke 15 vs. 11 – 32**

**Prayer: Lord give me the grace to forgive others**

A nobleman had two sons. The younger one called his father and demanded his inheritance, the father didn't argue but he quietly gave him his own portion. A few days later the younger son took all his possessions and traveled out. He wasted all that he had with friends and worthless people. He finished all he had in a grand prodigal style of living. He had nothing and he became a servant and fed on food belonging to animals. One day he came to his senses and said to himself that he would rather go home and reconcile with his father. I will arise and go to my father and I will say to him, father I have sinned against heaven and before you and I am no

longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servant (Luke 15 vs. 18 – 19)

He arose and went home to meet his father when his father saw him afar off, he rushed to welcome him. His father embraced and kissed him. His father forgave him. Oh!!! what a wonderful reconciliation

## **MORAL LESSONS**

Strong Desire for power and Greed can cause people to kill, destroy, cheat, oppress and act unfaithfully. As a Christian student, we must not allow greediness to overtake us.

Christians are expected to take steps of reconciliation and restoration after committing sin. Always seek for forgiveness.

As Christian's student, God expects us to reconcile with everyone who has wronged with us.

We are not expected to be proud so that reconciliation can be done easily.

Reconciliation can be done when an individual recognizes the root cause of his problems. It may require restitution or apologies, as in the case of the prodigal son.

## **LESSON 3**

### **LIVING IN A COMMUNITY UNDER GOD'S LAW**

Law is a set of rules, regulations established to govern people. It is true that the people want freedom but it is always good to guide freedom so that it will not be misused or abused. The behavior and conduct of the members of the society have to be guided in such a way that it will bring peace, coexistence, good relationship with others. Without law, members of a society will have conflicts, confusions, irregularities, cheating and misbehaviour amongst people will be greatly increased.

### **IMPORTANCE OF LAWS**

1. Laws help to maintain order in the society.
2. Laws help the society to set a pattern to the people's way of life
3. Laws help to preserve justice and fair play. When society is living without conflict, there will be no partiality and everything will be done according to the rules and regulations. Everyone in the society will caution his Or herself.
4. Laws bring happiness. When there are no conflicts, the society will be at peace, live happily and members will have a good relationship with each other.

### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

- You shall have no other God beside me

- You shall not make for yourself a golden image
- You shall not take the names of the Lord your God in vain
- Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy and honor it by doing no work
- Honor your father and mother that your days may be long on earth
- You shall not murder or kill
- You shall not commit adultery
- You shall not steal
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
- You shall not covet your neighbor's house, wife, servant, and property. (Exodus 29:17. Matthew 5:1 – 3, John 15: 9 – 17)

## **LESSON 3**

### **THE LAWS OF CHRIST**

**Bible Reference: John 15:9 – 17**

#### **The New Testament Contains the Law of Christ**

The New Testament is the fulfillment of the covenant and the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel: Heb 12 vs. 24. The New Covenant is the law of love, it is the law that generates happiness, endurance, patience because the law was written while Jesus moved with his disciples. Jesus told his disciples to abide in his love. He told them to love one another as he loved them. Jesus on the mount spoke to the multitude about the law of love. The quality of mind that produces genuine love must be regenerated by the blood of Jesus.

#### **THE BEATITUDES.**

It simply means blessedness, success, happiness, joy, fullness, and prosperity in all area.

Blessed are the poor in spirit for there is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5: 3).

Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the Meek for they shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5: 5).

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy (Matthew 5: 7).

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God (Matthew 5: 8).

Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called sons of God (Matthew 5: 9).

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5: 10).

## **MORAL LESSONS**

No society can exist peacefully and happily without laws. When the law is put in place, it is the responsibility of us all to see that they are fully complied with. We are to show good examples for others to follow.

Ten Commandments was written by God so that we can obey it and have a good relationship with him and with other members of society. The Beatitudes were written out of love while Ten commandments as a law to the Israelites.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. What is the law?
2. What is the importance of the law?
3. What is Reconciliation
4. State three beatitudes
5. State the first 5 commandments.

## **ANSWER**

1. Law is a set of rules, regulations established to govern people.
2. (i) Laws help to maintain order in the society. (ii) Laws help the society to set a pattern to the people's way of life (iii) Laws help to preserve justice and fair play. When society is living without conflict, there will be no partiality and everything will be done according to the rules and regulations. Everyone in the society will caution his Or herself. (iv) Laws bring happiness. When there are no conflicts, the society will be at peace, live happily and members will have a good relationship with each other.
3. Reconciliation is defined as the act of finding a satisfactory way of dealing with or settling an argument or disagreement.
4. (i) Blessed are the poor in spirit for there is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5: 3). (ii) Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. (iii) Blessed are the weak for they shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5: 5).
5. (i) You shall have no other God beside me (ii) You shall not make for yourself a golden image (iii) You shall not take the names of the Lord your God in vain (iv) Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy and honor it by doing no work (v) Honor your father and mother that your days may be long on earth

**JSS 1**

**CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**SECOND TERM**



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# **Week 1**

## **Topic: Call To Service**

### **I. THE CALL.**

(1) It is a direct appeal. Religion is practical, and preaching must be practical. We must not be satisfied with the exposition of truth. We must aim at persuasion such as shall affect the conduct of men. For this purpose there is room for direct exhortation. Men are ready to admit the truth of propositions which lie outside the sphere of their own experience. The difficult matter is to translate these into principles of conduct and to apply them to individual lives. The Bible is sent for this ultimate purpose. As a message from God the Word of God is not merely a revelation of truth; it is supremely a call from the Father to His children. God is now calling directly to us by the undying voice of Scripture, by providence, by His Spirit in our consciences (Revelation 22:17).

(2) The call is based on a review of past experience. After this review Joshua says, "Now, therefore, fear the Lord," etc. God's goodness to us in the past is a great motive to incline us to serve Him

(a) because it lays us under a great obligation to Him (1 Corinthians 6:20), and

(b) because it reveals His character as that of a Master worthy of devotion and delightful to serve.

(3) The call is urged with the last words of dying man. Joshua is old and about to die. At such a time an address would naturally be characterised by supreme earnestness. What is then urged would be felt by the speaker to be of first importance. Mere conventionalism, objects of passing political expediency, trifles and crotchets sink out of view. The dying message of the old leader must concern the highest welfare of the people. With all the force of these circumstances Joshua selects the need to fear and serve God for His one urgent exhortation. Surely this fact should lead us all to put it before ourselves as a question of first importance, taking precedence of all considerations of worldly pleasure and interest.

### **II. THE OBJECT OF THE CALL.**

(1) The end to be aimed at is to "fear and serve the Lord." The fear characterises the spirit of internal devotion, the service covers the obedience of active work. The fear precedes the service; because we cannot rightly serve God with our hands till we are devoted to Him in our hearts. The fear of God here required is not the abject terror which the slave feels for the tyrant, but reverence, awe, worship, the dread of displeasing, and the humble submission of our souls. This must be found in all true devotion. Yet it is most prominent in the stern Hebrew faith (Psalm 2:11). For the Christian, love is the leading motive, though this love must be an awed and reverent affection. After the fear, then, must follow the service; for God will not be satisfied with passive veneration, He requires active obedience.

(2) The essential characteristic of the fear and service here noted is sincerity. There is always danger of worship becoming unconsciously formal even when it is not knowingly hypocritical; because pure worship involves the highest effort of spirituality, great abstraction from sense, and a purity of thought which is very foreign to the habits of sinful beings (2 Timothy 3:5). Yet God abhors unreal devotion (Isaiah 29:13), and can only be worshipped at all when He is served spiritually (John 4:24).

(3) The necessary condition of this fear and service is a departure from all things inconsistent with it. The people must give up all lingering habits of idolatry. We must repent and forsake our old sins. We cannot retain devotion to the world and to sin whilst we devote ourselves to God. No man can serve two masters.

## **ASSESSMENT**

What do you understand by "The Call?"

## **Week 2**

### **Topic: Joseph responded to call to serve**

Recall that God accompanied his call to Abraham with core promises (Gen. 12:2-3). First, God would multiply his descendants into a great nation. Second, God would bless him. Third, God would make Abraham's name great, meaning that Abraham would be worthy of his renown. Fourth, Abraham would be a blessing. This last item pertains to the future generations of Abraham's family and beyond them, to all the families of the earth. God would bless those who blessed Abraham and curse those who cursed him. The book of Genesis traces the partial fulfillment of these promises through the chosen lines of Abraham's descendants, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's sons. Among them all, it is in Joseph that God most directly fulfills his promise to bless the nations through the people of Abraham. Indeed, people from "all the world" were sustained by the food system that Joseph managed (Gen. 41:57). Joseph understood this mission and articulated the purpose of his life in line with God's intention: "the saving of many lives" (Gen. 50:20, New International Version).

#### JOSEPH REJECTED AND SOLD INTO SLAVERY BY HIS BROTHERS (GENESIS 37:2-36)

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From a young age, Joseph believed God had destined him for greatness. In dreams, God assured Joseph that he would rise to a position of leadership over his parents and brothers (Gen. 37:5-11). From Joseph's point of view, these dreams were evidence of divine blessing, rather than his own ambition. From his brothers' point of view, however, the dreams were further manifestations of the unfair privilege that Joseph enjoyed as the favorite son of their father, Jacob (Gen. 37:3-4). Being sure that we are in the right does not absolve us from empathizing with others who may not share that same view. Good leaders strive to foster cooperation rather than envy. Joseph's failure to recognize this put him at severe odds with his brothers. After initially plotting murder against him, his brothers settled for selling him to a caravan of traders bearing goods through Canaan to Egypt. The merchants, in turn, sold Joseph to Potiphar, "the captain of the guard" who was "an officer of Pharaoh" in Egypt (Gen. 37:36; 39:1).

#### THE SCHEMES OF POTIPHAR'S WIFE AND JOSEPH'S IMPRISONMENT (GENESIS 39:1-20)

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Joseph's stint in Potiphar's employ gave him a wide range of fiduciary responsibilities. At first, Joseph was merely "in" his master's house. We don't know in what capacity he served, but when Potiphar recognized Joseph's general competence, he promoted him to be his personal steward and "put him in charge of all that he had" (Gen. 39:4).

After a time, Potiphar's wife took a sexual interest in Joseph (Gen. 39:7). Joseph's refusal of the wife's advances was articulate and reasonable. He reminded her of the broad trust that Potiphar had placed in him and described the relationship she sought in the moral/religious terms "wickedness" and "sin" (Gen. 39:9). He was sensitive to both the social and theological dimensions. Furthermore, he offered his verbal resistance repeatedly, and he even avoided being in her presence. When physically assaulted, Joseph made the choice to flee half-naked rather than to submit.

The sexual harassment by this woman took place in a power relationship that disadvantaged Joseph. Although she believed that she had the right and power to use Joseph in this way, her words and contact were clearly unwelcome to him. Joseph's work required him to be at home where she was, yet he could not call the matter to Potiphar's attention without interfering in their marital relationship. Even after his escape and arrest on false charges, Joseph seems to have had no legal recourse.

The facets of this episode touch closely on the issues of sexual harassment in the workplace today. People have different standards of what counts for inappropriate speech and physical contact, but the whims of those in power are what often count in practice. Workers are often expected to report incidences of potential harassment to their superiors, but often are reluctant to do so because they know the risk of obfuscation and retaliation. To compound this, even when harassment can be documented, workers may suffer for having come forward. Joseph's godliness did not rescue him from false accusation and imprisonment. If we find ourselves in a parallel situation, our godliness is no guarantee that we will escape unscathed. But Joseph did leave an instructive testimony to Potiphar's wife and possibly others in the household. Knowing that we belong to the Lord and that he defends the weak will certainly help us to face difficult situations without giving up. This story is a realistic recognition that standing up to sexual harassment in the workplace may have devastating consequences. Yet it is also a story of hope that by God's grace, good may eventually prevail in the situation. Joseph also provides a model for us, that even when we are falsely accused and wrongly treated, we carry on with the work God has given us, allowing God to make it right in the end.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Joseph rejected and sold into slavery by his brothers. Discuss with Scriptures

## Week 3

### Topic: The call of Moses

Although Moses was a Hebrew, he was raised in Egypt's royal family as the grandson of Pharaoh. His revulsion to injustice erupted into a lethal attack on an Egyptian man he found beating a Hebrew worker. This act came to Pharaoh's attention, so Moses fled for safety and became a shepherd in Midian, a region several hundred miles east of Egypt on the other side of the Sinai Peninsula. We do not know exactly how long he lived there, but during that time he married and had a son. In addition, two important things happened. The king in Egypt died, and the Lord heard the cry of his oppressed people and remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exod. 2:23-25). This act of remembering did not mean that God had forgotten about his people. It signaled that he was about to act on their behalf.[1] For that, he would call Moses.

God's call to Moses came while Moses was at work. The account of how this happened comprises six elements that form a pattern evident in the lives of other leaders and prophets in the Bible. It is therefore instructive for us to examine this call narrative and to consider its implications for us today, especially in the context of our work.

First, God *confronted* Moses and arrested his attention at the scene of the burning bush (Exod. 3:2-5). A brush fire in the semi-desert is nothing exceptional, but Moses was intrigued by the nature of this particular one. Moses heard his name called and responded, "Here I am" (Exod. 3:4). This is a statement of availability, not location. Second, the Lord *introduced* himself as the God of the patriarchs and communicated his intent to rescue his people from Egypt and to bring them into the land he had promised to Abraham (Exod. 3:6-9). Third, God *commissioned* Moses to go to Pharaoh to bring God's people out of Egypt (Exod. 3:10). Fourth, Moses *objected* (Exod. 3:11). Although he had just heard a powerful revelation of who was speaking to him in this moment, his immediate concern was, "Who am I?" In response to this, God *reassured* Moses with a promise of God's own presence (Exod. 3:12a). Finally, God spoke of a *confirming sign* (Exod. 3:12b).

These same elements are present in a number of other call narratives in Scripture—for example in the callings of Gideon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and some of Jesus' disciples. This is not a rigid formula, for many other call narratives in Scripture follow a different pattern. But it does suggest that God's call often comes via an extended series of encounters that guide a person in God's way over time.

Notice that these callings are *not* primarily to priestly or religious work in a congregation. Gideon was a military leader; Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel social critics; and Jesus a king (although not in the traditional sense). In many churches today, the term "call" is limited to religious occupations, but this is not so in Scripture, and certainly not in Exodus. Moses himself was not a priest or religious leader (those were Aaron's and Miriam's roles), but a shepherd, statesman,

and governor. The Lord's question to Moses, "What is that in your hand?" (Exod. 4:2) repurposes Moses' ordinary tool of sheep-keeping for uses he would never have imagined possible (Exod. 4:3-5).

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. With reference to scriptures, explain the call of Moses

## Week 4

### Topic: The call of Joshua to service

#### **The Call to Courage (1:6-9)**

6 “Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

While the first five verses deal with Joshua’s commission to take over after the death of Moses, the major thrust of verses 6-9 concerns something that was vital to Joshua’s ability to do that. And what was true for Joshua is equally true for us.

There is a word or theme repeated at least three times in these verses that we need to pick up on and relate to. Three times God tells Joshua, “**be strong and courageous**” (1:6, 7, 9). Then later, as it pertains to their obedience to God, Joshua will relate the same charge to the people (1:18; 10:25) who will likewise face the challenges and fulfillment of God’s purposes for the nation—dwelling in the land as a priesthood nation as God’s representative to the nations.

So the issue before Joshua was a call to be strong and courageous in view of the mantle of leadership that was being passed on to him. God was calling him to a very special and difficult ministry, one with tremendous challenges and obstacles far beyond his own skill or abilities. But life for all of us is filled with such challenges so let us not pass over this without seeing the personal application this can have for each of us. Verses 6-9 are fundamental for obtaining the strength and courage anyone needs for the challenges of any ministry or responsibility.

This passage is not just for a special class of leaders like pastors or missionaries. God has called each of us to ministry. No believer is exempt. We are all gifted, we are all priests of God, and leaders in some sense with personal responsibilities to others whether elders, deacons, moms or dads, etc.

People often run from ministry or difficult situations because of fear or because of the obstacles. As the former generation of Israelites had failed to enter into the land and possess their possessions because of unbelief and fear of the giants, so we too can fail to enter into God’s calling on our lives.

**Application:** Without God’s strength and personal courage, we will fail to tackle the challenges or take on the responsibilities that God calls us to. Others, being overconfident in themselves



may seek to strike out in their own steam, an equally wrong way to try to serve the Lord as we will see illustrated in chapter 7 with the defeat at Ai.

Biblically speaking, where does moral strength and courage come from and does it mean the absence of fear? Moral strength and courage come from (1) faith in the sovereignty and provision of God and (2) in the fact that we are convinced what we are doing is right and best and essential to life. But there is much more as this passage will show us. Courage is that quality of mind that enables men to encounter danger and difficulty with firmness and resolve in spite of inner fears (cf. 1 Cor. 2:3; 2 Cor. 7:5). In other words, courage is not the absence of fear. While not courting danger nor presuming on the Lord, Paul never evaded something if he knew it was God's will or that it was right. In his excellent book on spiritual leadership, J. Oswald Sanders wrote:

Courage of the highest order is demanded of a spiritual leader—always moral courage and frequently physical courage as well ...

Martin Luther possessed this important quality in unusual measure. It has been asserted that he was perhaps as fearless a man as ever lived. When he set out on his momentous journey to Worms, he said, "You can expect from me everything save fear or recantation. I shall not flee, much less recant." His friends, warning him of the grave dangers he faced, sought to dissuade him. But Luther would not be dissuaded. "Not go to Worms?" he said. "I shall go to Worms though there were as many devils as tiles on the roofs." ...

But not all men are courageous by nature as Luther was, and that fact is both explicit and implicit in Scripture. The highest degree of courage is seen in the person who is most fearful but refuses to capitulate to it. However fearful they might have been, God's leaders in succeeding generations have been commanded to be of good courage. Had they been without fear, the command would have been pointless.<sup>3</sup>

So where do strength and courage come from? These concepts teach us several important ingredients:

- (1) Strength and courage come through *Recognizing* and *Relating* to God's pleasure (His will) and having a sense of God's calling and destiny (1:1-2).
- (2) Strength and courage come through *Resting* in God's promises (1:2b-6).
- (3) Strength and courage come through daily *Renewal* in God's Principles (1:7-8).
- (4) Strength and courage come through *Reckoning* on God's Person and presence (1:9).

## **ASSESSMENT**

Explain with scriptures, the call of Joshua to service

## **Week 5**

# **Topic: Call To Obedience – Abraham's Obedience to GOD's Call**

### **THE CALL AND OBEDIENCE OF ABRAHAM**

One of the most formidable characters in the Word of God is Father Abram (Abraham). He indeed is referred to as 'a friend of God'.

#### **II Chronicles 20:7**

'Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever'.

From the outset in Genesis 12: 1-4a, he, Abram, is called to show forth his obedience and allegiance to the Almighty God as we read in the following Scriptures.

#### **Genesis 12:1-4a**

'Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him';

A Scriptural definition of 'faith' is found in the book of Hebrews, chapter eleven and verse one,

#### **Hebrews 11: 1,**

'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen'.

### **THE ONE INGREDIENT**

As Abraham heard the word of the Lord, one ingredient that was necessary for Abraham to follow was 'faith' (emunah) as we read in the book of Hebrews, in the Brit Ha Dashah (The New Testament) found in chapter 11: 8-13.

## **Hebrews 11: 8-13**

'By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth'.

### **BY FAITH ABRAHAM**

'By faith Abraham', surely describes the action of faith in progress in his life as he sets out to obey the Lord.

There are three things that stand out in the above text and they are as follows:

- 1) A Place
- 2) A Promise
- 3) A Persuasion

You and I scripturally know that this 'place' is indeed the Land of Canaan, better known today as the Land of Israel that the Lord gave as an inheritance to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and his descendants. The showing forth of faith began with Abram as he traveled approximately 1,500 miles, and we are told that at that time he 'obeyed' yet 'not knowing whither he went'.

It is one thing to start on a trip knowing right well where you are going and the distance that you must travel, it is yet another thing to start your journey not knowing the ultimate destination and still by faith you keep keeping on, why? Because the Lord commanded you.

### **THIS REMINDS US**

This reminds us when the Lord Himself called us while we were yet ministering in Minneapolis, Mn., en route to go to Savannah, Ga. When we measured the mileage, the figure we came up with was a 1,500 mile trip to a place that was on the map and yet we knew no one, except that Savannah had one of the oldest Jewish communities in the United States (circa 1733 a.d.).

By faith, the Lord God and His mercy was with us as we, with much trepidation journeyed south. We did make the trip in good manner with no problems. Thank you Lord. We must tell you living

and ministering in Savannah for over 17 years has been a blessed challenge. Truly we can say the Lord has been with us every minute of the day and night. Oh yes, we have gone through some 'tsuris' (heart and death threatening sorrows) nevertheless, we praise His Name (Ha Shem) for the joy of the LORD has been our strength and besides when we compare what God has done during these many years for His kingdom through Shalom Scripture Studies, Inc., of seeing not only several children of Abraham (in the flesh) open their hearts to Y'shua our Lord, but countless Gentiles also, we rejoice in the Lord and say 'it has been worth it all', Amen.

So we see that Abraham, 'By faith' went out from the Ur of Chaldees and traveled with his wife, Sarai (Sarah), and together they formed a perfect union in obedience to our blessed Lord.

## **NOW BY FAITH**

Now, 'By Faith' as they sojourned to 'The Land of Promise' (the land of Israel), it was to them 'a strange country', 'dwelling in tabernacles' with their heirs, Isaac and Jacob.

And in so doing, they 'looked for a city' whose builder and maker is God.

So it is, when we travel this life's road we too 'By Faith' look for that 'heavenly city' where God dwells. As we trust in the Lord first and fully in our life, we have one destiny that is promised to us that Y'shua spoke about in John 14: 1-4 that is ours eternally.

John 14:1-3

'Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also'.

## **THIS PLACE**

This place that Y'shua so eloquently speaks about and is reserved for His children is indeed the same place that Abraham looked for, called in Hebrew Ha-Shamayin (The Third Heaven where God's abode is).

Now, let us not forget a very integral part of all of this and that is Abraham's wife, Sarah.

Also, through faith Sarah herself received strength from God, not only for the 1,500 mile journey, but, for the conception and birth of her son Isaac. Remember, she was 90 years of age, when this amazing miracle took place. (Nes Gadol Hayah Sham ' a Great Miracle Happened There). Thank you Lord.

Just think a greater story is foretold over and over in the life of Jesus' mother, Miriam (Mary). At a very young age, and without knowing a man, this Jewish young woman through the Holy Spirit conceived and brought forth the Holy Child Y'shua (Jesus), Halleluyah in the highest. The birth

of Isaac was a miracle and so was the birth of Jesus a greater miracle. The two are inseparable and interconnected in history.

In time by the mighty Grace of God you and I have had the privilege to receive the greatest gift of all, 'Eternal Life' through the death, burial and resurrection of Y'shua according to the Holy Scriptures.

### **THESE ALL DIED**

These all died 'in faith' not having received the fullness of the promises, but were indeed 'persuaded' as they embraced those promises, even as strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

You and I are on a similar journey through this life and as we daily implement 'faith' and 'works', we too will be blessed in the here and now and afterwards having the promise of a home in glory with our God and Saviour, Y'shua Ha Maschiach Adonai (The Lord Jesus Christ).

### **NOW HERE ARE SOME**

Now, here are some encouraging words for your consideration,

Jude 1:24-25

'Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen'.

Another Scripture of comfort and joy.

Titus 2:13-14

'Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works'.

May the Lord Himself, through His Spirit guide your faith walk as you sojourn here on earth with Him directing every step of the way! Amen!

### **ASSESSMENT**

With scriptural references, explain the call and obedience of Abraham

## **Week 6**

### **Topic: Relationship in the family**

'Family' is a single word, with many different meanings. People have many ways of defining a family and what being a part of a family means to them. Families differ in terms of economic, cultural, social, and many other facets, but what every family has in common is that the people who call it a family are making clear that those people are important in some way to the person calling them his family.

#### **Definition of Family**

The dictionary defines family in several ways. One definition is "a fundamental social group in society typically consisting of one or two parents and their children." While this definition is a good starting point, there are several modern family structures that are excluded by this definition, such as childless couples or other variations on the family unit. Another definition is "Two or more people who share goals and values, have long-term commitments to one another and reside usually in the same dwelling." This definition encompasses the vast majority of modern family units; for the purposes of this article, the second definition will be used.

#### **Who Makes a Family?**

The traditional family consists of a father, mother and children. This is the family shown on television as the standard family. However, the 21st century showcases a variety of family units, some very different from the standard of the 1950s. Today, children are also often raised in single parent homes, by grandparents or by homosexual parents. Some families opt to have no children, or cannot have children due to some medical or emotional barrier. The idea that parents and children make a family is a basic definition; however, in order to accurately acknowledge other family structures, a broader definition is necessary. In addition to a more universal family definition, there are also plenty of people who consider a group of friends to be family, and adults who consider pets — from goldfish to horses — as defining members of the family unit.

#### **Friends as Family**

Many people consider friends to be as close or even closer than extended (or immediate) family. People who have lost close family members may create a family unit of friends with similar interests and goals to become replacements or enhancements to a lacking family structure. This type of family unit, while untraditional, can be just as close, if not closer, than a traditional structure. Friends are chosen by an individual; at times, these people may be more special or important than the family a person was born with. In addition, some people who have supportive families also have an extensive network of friends who they consider to be a second family or as additions to their blood or legal relatives.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. Define family
2. Who makes a family

## Week 7

### Topic: Relationship in the school community

When used by educators, the term **school community** typically refers to the various individuals, groups, businesses, and institutions that are invested in the welfare and vitality of a public school and its community—i.e., the neighborhoods and municipalities served by the school.

In many contexts, the term encompasses the school administrators, teachers, and staff members who work in a school; the students who attend the school and their parents and families; and local residents and organizations that have a stake in the school's success, such as school-board members, city officials, and elected representatives; businesses, organizations, and cultural institutions; and related organizations and groups such as parent-teacher associations, "booster clubs," charitable foundations, and volunteer school-improvement committees (to name just a few). In other settings, however, educators may use the term when referring, more specifically, to the sense of "community" experienced by those working, teaching, and learning in a school—i.e., the administrators, faculty, staff, and students. In this case, educators may also be actively working to improve the culture of a school, strengthen relationships between teachers and students, and foster feelings of inclusion, caring, shared purpose, and collective investment.

The term *school community* also implicitly recognizes the social and emotional attachments that community members may have to a school, whether those attachments are *familial* (the parents and relatives of students, for example), *experiential* (alumni and alumnae), professional (those who work in and derive an income from the school), *civic* (those who are elected to oversee a school or who volunteer time and services), or *socioeconomic* (interested taxpayers and the local businesses who may employ graduates and therefore desire more educated, skilled, and qualified workers). Depending on the specific context in which the term is used, *school community* may have more or less inclusive—or more or less precise—connotations.

School community may also be used interchangeably stakeholders, since a school community necessarily comprises a wide variety of "stakeholders."

#### Factors that aid in choosing friends

Everyone has friends of some kind. Some have many friends while others have few. Some have good friends while others have bad friends. All people, especially Christians, need to stop and consider the importance of friends and the impact those friends have on one's life.

#### The Need for Close Friends

Since man was created a social being (Gen. 2:18), he needs the close association of others. As humans, we cannot live happy or meaningful lives to ourselves. We need to be with other people. Romans 14:7 states, "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself."



We need the love our friends have for us. Life is more pleasant when we have those who care about us and our welfare. We need to know there are those who love us no matter what may come our way or theirs. “A friend loves at all times” (Prov. 17:17).

Friends satisfy many needs — the need for someone to share our joy and happiness (Rom. 12:15); the need for someone to cheer us in times of sadness (Prov. 27:9); and the need to help us relax and recreate from the routine and pressures of life. Actually, there are an infinite number of reasons why we need friends.

### What Is a Friend?

The dictionary defines a friend as “a person who has a real liking for and confidence in another person.” W.E. Vine, in his *Expository Dictionary of NT Words*, says it is one who is “loved, dear.”

The term “friendship” is found only once in the New Testament (Jas. 4:4). It comes from the Greek word *philia* which is akin to *philos* which is translated “love.” Vine suggests it includes the idea of “loving as well as being loved.”

The Bible contains examples of friendship which illustrate this idea. Its most classic example is that of the friendship of David and Jonathan. “Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (1 Sam. 18:1). Their love for and confidence in one another is a lesson all who would be and have friends should learn. The apostle Paul and Timothy developed a liking for and a confidence in one another. “I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also” (2 Tim. 1:3-5).

Friendship means the same today. Our close friends are those whom we love and are dear to us. They are those in whom we have confidence that they hold us dear.

Sadly, some whom we think are our friends are not good friends. For one to be a good friend he must not only be good to us but also good for us. We need to be careful in choosing only those friends that are good for us. We must not choose a friend like Jonadab who led his friend Amnon, David’s son, astray (2 Sam. 13:1-14).

### Some Guidelines in Choosing Friends

In order to choose friends wisely, there are certain principles we must employ. We must begin by applying the principle stated by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:33 — “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’”

We must then realize it is better to have a few friends, even just one, who will be the right kind of friends than a multitude of the kind who could cause us to lose our souls (Matt. 16:26).

We must choose friends who will be good examples to us and others. In that light, choose friends who:

- Have good morals (1 Cor. 15:33)
- Are modest (1 Tim. 2:9)
- Abstain from drinking alcohol (1 Pet. 4:3)
- Can bridle their tongues (Jas. 1:26)
- Are honest (Luke 8:15)
- Are law-abiding (Rom. 13:1-7)

We must select as friends those who respect God and things spiritual — those who regard spiritual things as more important than material things. We must not be deceived into thinking that we can choose otherwise and not be affected.

### Conclusion

Friends are priceless. “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). No amount of money could be enough to replace true friends. We can rejoice in their faithfulness and delight in being around them. We should thank God daily for the friends that we have and pray that the day will never come when we do not have friends.

When it comes to choosing friends, let us all be friends of Jesus (John 15:14).

### **ASSESSMENT**

Highlight Four factors that help in choosing friends

## **Week 8**

### **Topic: Relationship in the church**

#### 5 Principles for Good Relationships With Your Church

A good relationship is characterized by thoughtfulness, sensitivity, loyalty, confidentiality, and kindness (Eph. 4:32). A pastor can have deep convictions and preach firmly without being brutal. Jesus' example demonstrates that pastors earn their right to lead by being a servant.

Here are five things a pastor can do to show that he cares about his people.

#### **1. Visit**

Many pastors serve in churches where they could visit every member in his or her home every year.

I had all the streets on which church members lived listed with church members' names and addresses-each street on a different piece of paper and clipped together with rings. If I knew I would be on Scott Street, for example, I checked the sheet and saw that I had 12 members on Scott Street that I could visit. When I went to see one family, I would visit all 12. I could make those 12 visits quicker than I could make 12 visits zigzagging back and forth. I kept a record of when I visited. If no one was at home, I left a card to let people know I had visited.

My goal was to let them know they were important to me. A pastor needs to find excuses to let people know he notices them. Everyone likes to have attention, to feel that someone is interested in them.

#### **2. Write letters or cards**

Forty years ago I started writing all my members and their children birthday letters. I was amazed at how many people said they had never before received any sort of personal correspondence from their pastor about anything. Doing that took a little bit of my time, but the returns were tremendous.

Later I started writing people who gave testimonies or sang or did something in the worship service. If the same person sang 10 times a year, he or she would get 10 notes from me. Such actions help to build good relationships.

#### **3. Call**

I called everybody who had a death in their family. If they were across the country, I would track them down and call them.

#### **4. Recognize Accomplishments**

A pastor should brag about his people. He needs to give them a lot of credit, push them out on the stage, and applaud them.

I used to read the newspapers to see which of the young people excelled in some way. If I found their names, I would write a letter and congratulate them, telling them I had read about them in the newspaper and was proud of them. That built good relationships with teenagers and their families.

## **5. Guide them**

When members moved to another city, I'd always try to find them a church to visit and write the pastor to let him know that they were moving to his area.

The goal is to think of ways to express your sincere love and concern for your people. Little thoughtful things are a big deal to most people. Such care and concern tend to diminish the risk and effect of inevitable conflict in the church.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Highlight the principles of good relationships in the church

**JSS 1**

**CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**THIRD TERM**

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## **Week 1**

### **Topic: Revision of Last Term's Work**

Teachers are expected to do a revision of the previous term's work with the students.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

Summary of last term's work

## **Week 2**

### **Topic: Call To Freedom**

**Bible Reference: Exodus 3:1-22, 2:32-35**

#### **FREEDOM**

Freedom can be defined as the state of not being a prisoner or slave. When someone has the right to do or say what he wants without any one stopping or hindering a man, such a man is said to have freedom when he cannot be affected, punished or restricted without justification reasons. Freedom is the ability to act the way one likes or chooses without being subjected to any unnecessary restrain, threat, fear or interference. In exercising freedom you act freely, albeit within the law in such a way that your right does not infringe on the rights of others. In other words, freedom does not give you right to sin or break the law. In exercising your freedom you still have to be sure that others are not hurt. Moreover, as a nation or individual freedom is highly valued. God gave us freedom so we could serve Him freely without being under pressure. God gave us the freedom to serve Him or not.

#### **Types of Freedom**

1. Economic Freedom: this is the freedom to use the natural resources of the nation as well as own a business.
2. Personal Freedom: this is the freedom for one to live life whichever way he/she wants. This freedom include freedom of speech, freedom to study whatever you want to study in the university, freedom to join any legal organisation you like.
3. Political Freedom: this is the freedom from foreign rule. They also include the right to vote and be voted for; the right to join any political party of your choice etc.
4. Social Freedom: this is the freedom from fear- fear of oppression, insecurity etc.
5. Religious Freedom: this is the right of an individual to follow any religion he/she wants.
6. Christian Freedom: this includes freedom from the rule of Satan. Christians should try to maintain this freedom. This is gotten through faith in Jesus Christ and in baptism. It is also gotten by obeying the commandments of God.

God used Moses to deliver the people of Israel in the land of Egypt for four hundred and thirty years.

Freedom is good and desirable but is not always given or allowed in the societies. It makes human beings to progress and it liberates. People always deny their subjects freedom because progress, improvement, upliftment, comfort are friends of freedom.



The new king in Egypt that didn't know Joseph said the people of Israel would continue to multiply if their freedom wasn't denied. God decided to enforce the freedom of Israel.

Moses and Aaron went to King Pharaoh to demand that the Israelites be liberated to go to the wilderness to worship their God. All efforts to release Israel did not yield any result until God enforced it. Ex 5:1 – 12

***The only people on this earth who have power of choice are Christians.*** They may choose to sin or not to sin. They have this freedom because they are no longer slaves to sin. So, they may reject it at any time. In the broader sense, Christians may choose or reject everything they think or do in life, whereas the unsaved cannot. Even Christians do not understand what this means.

An unsaved person may behave morally and even live a life with many of the attributes of a true Christian, however this is not what could be called a godly choice (i.e. a God given response). There is always a human motive for the moral choices of the unsaved person, even if it is simply for the benefit of a peaceful life and to be considered upright in the community. I am not knocking their moral behavior, but simply pointing out the source is not of God and therefore has no value in God's eye.

'Free will' is not the topic of this Article, but it obviously enters into it. Do Christians have 'free will'? Let scripture itself supply the answer. What follows is an examination, in brief, of what the Bible says about Christian freedom. Such a short Article cannot hope to cover everything involved, so the reader is reminded of this fact.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:32

Certain Jews did not understand the words of Jesus, even though they wanted to follow Him. They said that they were sons of Abraham and had never been slaves to any man – so how could they become 'free' from something if they had never been slaves in the first place? As usual, they were thinking along nationalistic lines and so they completely missed the spiritual point made by Christ. Jesus gave His answer in verses 34 – 36:

"...whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: (but) the Son abideth forever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Before making this statement, Jesus said that if they continued in His word, they were His true disciples. Thus the last part of His answer can be translated (broadly) as follows:

"As such (i.e. as disciples) you shall come to understand what is true concerning God and Man's duties toward Him, and that knowledge will set you at liberty from the dominion of sin and your slavery to it."

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. Define Freedom?
2. List THREE types of freedom?
3. The only people on this earth who have power of choice are Christians, explain?

## **Week 3**

### **Topic: Political Freedom For The Israelites**

**Text: Exodus 3:1-15**

#### **Moses and the Burning Bush**

<sup>3</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

<sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

<sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup> And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'"

“This is my name forever,  
the name you shall call me  
from generation to generation.

1. God grabbed Moses’ attention in dramatic way. The burning bush is an example of a theophany. Theophany simply means the appearance of God, or to put it another way, divine disclosure to a human being. Moses’ experience on Mount Horeb was a theophany. Why do you think God chose to reveal Himself to Moses in this way and for what purpose?

2. How did Moses respond and why?

3. Have you or anyone in your group experienced God making Himself known to you? How did you respond? Were you surprised as Moses clearly was – he was looking for food for the sheep in his care (v1). Is the reference to sheep symbolic?

4. This God who speaks from the burning bush goes on to further reveal himself to Moses. He says “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” (v6). At this point, the true nature of the divine encounter becomes clear to Moses, evidenced in the way in which he responds to this information. On learning that this was no less than the God of the great Patriarchs, Moses hides his face in fear (v6b). Before he simply gazed at the bush in awe (v2-3). And then something tremendously important happens in this encounter, something that will have a deep and lasting impact on Israel and on all those who have followed the God of the Bible since. God refers to himself as ‘the God’ (v6). Not ‘a God’ but ‘the God’. The God who met with Abraham and promised that from him would come a nation of people so numerous as the grains of sand on the shore. Moses was used to a pantheon of Gods, local and household deities, regional and tribal gods, but this revelation of the divine presence is nothing less than ‘the God’, the one who met with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is now meeting with Moses. God has history, and it is into this history that Moses now steps. q) Why do you think this is so important?

5. From the self-revelation of God to Moses flows the call of Moses. To use the classical puritan formulation, ‘the initiative belongs to God’. Thinking about calling, there is a tendency to think of calling in highly individual terms. For example, ‘God has called me to follow him.’ ‘God has called me to go to...’ ‘God has called me to do...’ Whilst this is on one level true, calling understood simply as individual is a long way from the picture of calling in the Bible. This tendency to see call as being first and foremost about the person who is called is ultimately damaging. Moses is called, personally, yes, but not in isolation. Moses’ call is not first and foremost about him or designed to ensure that he feels valued and important in God’s plan. Moses’ call, like the call to all disciples’ is a call to serve, and a call to and for others. Do you start to see some connections now? Moses’ call is to play a part in the work that God himself will accomplish. Yahweh will come down to rescue the Hebrews. The full force of this is lost in the English translations of the Bible. A literal translation of the verse in Hebrew is that God will ‘snatch’ his people from the Egyptians implying a certain level of force – and Moses’ call is to play a role in this divine action. In this sense, Moses’ call is a blue-print for the call of all Christians. This is simply to respond obediently and reverently to God and to be involved in the work that God is doing. To play a part in the action that God is taking. Behind this is the

assumption that God is always active, always working towards his final goal, the redemption of creation and the establishing of the kingdom reign of Christ. q) Do you think of God as always active and always working towards His eventual goal? Do you understand your calling in light of this ongoing work of God? Exploring Exodus: Housegroup Notes Page | 8 q) Here's a second challenging question – do you understand your call as being primarily about you, or is it a call to and for God and others?

6. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has made clear to Moses that He's seen the plight of his people (v7). God is going to act, as He has promised long ago and He's called Moses to be the one to lead His people into a 'land flowing with milk and honey' and a 'good and spacious land'. It is now Moses' turn to respond. At this point in the narrative Moses doesn't cover himself in glory. We might expect that personally confronted with such a dramatic revelation of God's presence that Moses would be full of faith and boldness, eager to embrace the divine call that he has received. But he's not. What follows is a fascinating and immensely important exchange between God and Moses, which is built around a play on the words 'I Am' – the revelation of the name of God as Yahweh. Moses says "who am I...that I..." God says "I will...it is I..." The point is simple – who Moses is, is not the issue. What matters is who is with Moses! Moses, his first question answered, then asks a second question (v13). It is one thing for God to be with Moses, but Moses wants to know who God is. This is not unreasonable in the circumstances. And so Moses responds "...what if they ask me, 'What is his name?'" What Moses asks here, is not so much what God ought to be known as, but whether God can accomplish the things He is promising. And so God reveals His 'name' – but it's not so much a name as an assertion of authority and an essential reality. "I am that I am" says God (v14). Meaning – continuing unfinished action – 'I am being that I am being' – not a conceptual or abstract being, but an active being – that God can only properly be referred to as 'is' or "The One Who Always Is".

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. "The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering" explain who God was telling this to and why?

## Week 4

# Topic: Deborah and Barak Lead Their People to Freedom

**Text: Judges 4**

### **Deborah**

4 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. <sup>2</sup> So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. <sup>3</sup> Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help.

<sup>4</sup> Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. <sup>5</sup> She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. <sup>6</sup> She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. <sup>7</sup> I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'"

<sup>8</sup> Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

<sup>9</sup> "Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. <sup>10</sup> There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.

<sup>11</sup> Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh.

<sup>12</sup> When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, <sup>13</sup> Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men and his nine hundred chariots fitted with iron.

<sup>14</sup> Then Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?" So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. <sup>15</sup> At Barak's advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot.

<sup>16</sup> Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left. <sup>17</sup> Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite.

<sup>18</sup> Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come, my lord, come right in. Don't be afraid." So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

<sup>19</sup> “I’m thirsty,” he said. “Please give me some water.” She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up.

<sup>20</sup> “Stand in the doorway of the tent,” he told her. “If someone comes by and asks you, ‘Is anyone in there?’ say ‘No.’”

<sup>21</sup> But Jael, Heber’s wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

<sup>22</sup> Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. “Come,” she said, “I will show you the man you’re looking for.” So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead.

<sup>23</sup> On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites.<sup>24</sup> And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.

There was a period in Israel’s history called *the era of the Judges*. This was a time when the judges were military leaders. During this period, the Israelites found themselves ensnared in spiritual bondage right in their own country because they sinned against God. Meanwhile, God also handed them over to the Canaanites to be punished. During this period also, Ehud the Judge had just died and Deborah had been made the judge in Israel in his stead. So the people cried out to God and God listened to their cries and empowered Deborah to rescue the Israelites. But being a woman, she could not lead a war. So she invited Barak who was the son of Abinoam to help. Barak and Deborah led the war against the king of Canaan, Jabin, his army commander Sisera and the entire Canaan army. With ten thousand soldiers God helped the Israelites to defeat the Canaanites. Sisera, the Canaan army commander ran away on foot to the tent of Jael who after giving him milk stabbed him with a peg on his head. This brought peace to Israel.

The account of Deborah and Barak is found in Judges 4 and 5 in the Old Testament. The Israelites had been under the control of the Canaanite king Jabin and the commander of his army, Sisera. The Canaanites had 900 chariots of iron and ruled over Israel for 20 years (Judges 4:2–3).

Deborah was a prophetess, poet and a judge. He led Israel to war and helped free them from the bondage of Canaanites. The Israelites became free again after this war, giving credence to the fact that God really wants his people to be free. He can use anybody to accomplish this; man or woman. Will you make yourself available for God’s works because. Deborah judged or made rulings for the people of Israel under a palm tree during that time. One of Deborah’s judgments was to instruct Barak to summon 10,000 men and attack Jabin’s army. Likely fearful to comply with such a command, Barak told Deborah, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go” (Judges 4:8). She replied, “Certainly I will go with you. . . . But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman” (verse 9).

Deborah and Barak then gathered 10,000 troops and attack Sisera and his army. Barak’s troops won: “All Sisera’s troops fell by the sword; not a man was left” (Judges 4:16). Sisera himself fled to the tent of a Hebrew woman named Jael. She gave him milk to drink and covered him with a blanket in the tent. Then, “Jael . . . picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died” (verse 21)

Lessons for today from the lives of Deborah and Barak include the following:

- 1) God often calls people to step out in faith to attempt the unexpected
- 2) God often uses unlikely people and sources to accomplish His plans
- 3) God sometimes requires great risk and effort on our behalf as part of His divine plan. In the case of Deborah and Barak, they risked their lives in war, while Jael took in a runaway fugitive and risked her life to end his and help free Israel from oppression.

Ultimately, this account reveals that God is in control of the nations and changes their leaders according to His desires.

## **ASSESSMENT**

- I. Who is Deborah and who did she hire to help her fight the Canaan?
- II. What is the name of the Canaan king that Deborah fought



## **Week 5 & 6**

### **Topic: Eminent Nigerians Obtain Freedom for Their People**

#### **Introduction**

Nigeria got her independence in October 1st 1960. And before then, the country was ruled by foreigners (Britain). Some individuals fought (with their brains and pens) to make sure we get political freedom from Britain with the most prominent among them being Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Alhaji Abubarka Tafarwa Balewa, Mrs Margret Ekpo, Pa Michael Imoudu, Herbert Macaulay, Alvan Ikoku etc. They were able help Nigeria get freedom because they were well educated, fearless and patriotic. It therefore goes to show that for anyone to become a true freedom fighter, he or she must be educated, passionate and fearless; ready to risk their lives.

The political and territorial freedom we are enjoying today in Nigeria is the combined efforts of many of our past heroes. Each time we celebrate independence every 1st of October, we are acknowledging and celebrating the efforts of these heroes of our independence. Their lives should inspire you to become a patriotic citizen of this country, determined to give your best towards making Nigeria better than it already is. You owe a duty to Nigeria, to be a law-abiding and be good citizens. If in the future you contest and occupy an elective position, do not embezzle money.

#### **Herbert Macaulay**

Born in 1864, Herbert Macaulay was the grandson of Bishop Ajayi Crowther and he was trained as an engineer. He is considered the founder of Nigerian nationalism as the movement was under his influence in the 1920s. He started the nationalist movement because of the belief that the people of different backgrounds living in the British colony of Nigeria needed to come together as one. He returned to Nigeria in 1893 after completing his studies in London as the first Nigerian to be sponsored by the colonial government for a professional course abroad. He joined the colonial civil service and this exposed him to the ills and irregularities of the colonial government which led him to get involved with politics to fight for the rights of Nigerians. He founded the Lagos Daily News to promote the nationalist movement. He was the first Nigerian to establish a political party in 1922, the Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP). He became the first national president of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC), party he co-founded with Nnamdi Azikiwe in 1944. Macaulay's political activities were limited to Lagos affairs until the very end of his life and he was on a nationwide campaign in 1946 when he took ill and died on May 7, 1946 in Kano.

#### **Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe**

Born on the 16th of November, 1904 in Niger state, Benjamin Nnamdi Azikwe was at the fore-front in the fight for Nigeria's Independence. He was fondly referred to as "Zik" and became the first president of Nigeria after Nigeria got her independence from the United Kingdom. While working as the editor for the African Morning Post, a daily newspaper in Ghana, Nnamdi Azikiwe promoted pro-African

nationalist agenda. Upon his return to Nigeria in 1937, he founded the West African Pilot which was a tool used to promote the cause of Nigerian nationalism. Alongside Herbert Macaulay, he founded the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC) in 1944 and he was made the secretary-general of the National Council in 1946. He was later elected to Legislative Council of Nigeria the following year. He was the first Nigerian to be named to the Privy Council of the United Kingdom and he also became the Governor General on the same day. With Nigeria becoming a republic in 1962, he became her first president.

### **Obafemi Awolowo**

Chief Obafemi Awolowo was born on March 6, 1909 in Ogun state. He was also one of the pioneer leaders that fought for Nigeria's independence and he introduced free education in the western region in 1955. After completing his education abroad, he returned to Nigeria in 1947 and took up practice as a barrister. However while he had been in London, he wrote his first book "Path to Nigerian Freedom" in which he criticized the British administration and advocated for self governance. He also helped to found the Egbe Omo Oduduwa (Society of the Descendants of Oduduwa, the mythical ancestor of the Yoruba-speaking peoples), an organization devoted to the study and preservation of Yoruba culture. He was also the founder of the political party Action Group in 1950, a party that called for the termination of British rule in Nigeria. In 1954, he became the first premier of the Western Region. During his lifetime he wrote several books such as "Thoughts on the Nigerian Constitution", "The People's Republic," "The Strategy and Tactics of the People's Republic of Nigeria." He resigned his position as commissioner of finance and vice chairman of the Federal Executive Council in 1971 to protest the government's continuation of military rule. He died on May 9, 1987 and was buried on June 6, 1987.

### **Sir Ahmadu Bello**

Born on June 12, 1910, Sir Ahmadu Bello was the 1st President of the Northern Peoples Party (NPP) in 1951 and he was also the former premier of Northern region. He alongside Abubakar Tafawa Balewa took active roles in the struggle for an independent Nigeria. Upon his return from England, he got a nomination to represent Sokoto in the regional House of Assembly. He used his position there to promote the development of the northern emirates such as Kano, Bornu and Sokoto. He became the first Premier of Northern Nigeria in 1954 and in 1959 independence elections, his party NPC won a plurality of the parliamentary seats. His party later formed an alliance with Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe's NCNC to form Nigeria's first indigenous federal government which led to independence from the British colonial masters. He was also responsible for the modernization and unification of the diverse people of the North. He was assassinated in a coup on January 15, 1966 while still serving as premier of Northern Nigeria.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. Mention three names of Nigerians who helped to secure our freedom.
2. What are the qualities needed to be a freedom fighter?

## Week 7

### Topic: A Call to Repentance

#### Contents:

**King David's Repentance – 2Sam 12:7-13**

**Nineveh's Repentance – Jonah 1:1-14**

#### CALL TO REPENTANCE

We are all sinners, yet God has given us the opportunity to turn to Him and forget our evil ways. Repentance occurs when a sinner willingly decides to stop sinning and turn to God worshiping Him in truth and in spirit. Repentance occurs when we reconcile ourselves with God.

#### King David's Repentance

##### Nathan Rebukes David

*12 The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.<sup>2</sup> The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,<sup>3</sup> but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.*

*<sup>4</sup> "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."*

*<sup>5</sup> David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die!<sup>6</sup> He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."*

*<sup>7</sup> Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup> I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. <sup>9</sup> Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'*

<sup>11</sup> *"This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup> You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"*

<sup>13</sup> *Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."*

King David took Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah (one of his soldiers) and slept with her. And in a desperate move to cover his sin after impregnating Bathsheba, David masterminded the murder of Uriah in the battle field. Because of this, God became very displeased with David. He [God] sent Prophet Nathan to David, and Nathan used proverb to deliver the message of God's displeasure. He told David that there were two men in his kingdom—one rich and the other poor. The rich man had so many sheep, goats, cows and other livestock while the poor man had only one animal which he treasured like his daughter. So one day the rich man had a guest, instead of him killing one of his many animals he went straight and snatched the only animal the poor man had and used it to prepare pepper soup for the guest. David became angry and swore to deal with such rich man. He was ready to throw orders to chop off the head of such a man. And then Prophet Nathan told him he was the rich man. Immediately David remembered and realised his errors, he became remorseful. He prayed for forgiveness. Psalm 51 is his song for forgiveness. God forgave him his sins.

In the parable by Nathan the rich man was David, the poor man was Uriah. The many animals owned by the rich man represent the many wives and concubines David had, while the only animal of the poor man was Bathsheba.

## **Nineveh's Repentance – Jonah 1:1-12**

### **Jonah Flees From the Lord**

<sup>1</sup> *The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup> "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."*

<sup>3</sup> *But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.*

<sup>4</sup> *Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup> All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.*

*But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup> The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."*

<sup>7</sup> Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup> So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

<sup>9</sup> He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

<sup>10</sup> This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

<sup>11</sup> The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

<sup>12</sup> "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

— This shows the amazing love of God to His wayward people. Though Jonah did everything he could to resist the first call of God, after Jonah repented God called him again – though God was under no obligation to do it. He did it out of mercy and grace.

God was determined to do the work through Jonah, so He did not give up on the reluctant prophet. God is often just this committed to doing His work through a man. "Suppose that the problem had been given to us to solve – how shall this city be moved to repentance? How shall its vice be forsaken and the God of Israel worshipped by all its inhabitants from the highest to the lowest? If we had not been paralyzed with despair, which is the most probable, we should, nevertheless, have sat down carefully to consider our plans. We should have parcelled it out into missionary districts; we should have needed at least several hundreds, it not thousands, of able ministers; at once, expenses would have to be incurred, and we should have considered ourselves bound to contemplate the erection of innumerable structures in which the Word of God might be preached.

So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. –

a. **Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord:** Having learned the lesson that resisting the will of God is both futile and counter-productive, Jonah now obeys the call and goes to Nineveh.

b. **Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent:** The idea behind this statement probably refers to how long it would take to walk around the city of "Greater Nineveh" – the metropolitan area around the city.

c. **Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!** Jonah emphasized to the people of Nineveh what would happen if they did not repent – the city would be **overthrown** in judgment. Undoubtedly, this was not Jonah's *whole* message to the people of Nineveh; but clearly it was his emphasis.

**Moral Lessons**

- a. God is always ready to welcome a sinner to His fold*
- b. God hates those who always give excuses for sinning. God hates excuses.*
- c. When we fall we should rise again. David fell and he rose again.*

**ASSESSMENT**

- I. Explain the proverb by Nathan to David

## Week 8

### Topic: A Call to Repentance (II)

#### John the Baptist Calls for Repentance – Matthew 3:1-12

##### John the Baptist Prepares the Way

*3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”<sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:*

*“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”*

*<sup>4</sup> John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.<sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.*

*<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.*

*<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with<sup>Ⓢ</sup> water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with<sup>Ⓢ</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

After Malachi there was no prophet in Israel until John the Baptist came along. He was the forerunner for Christ. He preached **repentance**, because as he cried day and night to the people, “the kingdom of God is at hand”. The people heard him and those who repented confessed their sins to him and were baptised. Please note that baptism signifies wholesome cleansing and repentance.

The first truth we recognize about John’s arrival is his announcement. “He came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” His announcement, his message, was a simple one: “Repent.” Repentance means literally “to change one’s mind.” Biblical repentance is a changing of the mind that acknowledges God is right and I am wrong. Faith (believing what God says) and repentance (changing my mind to accept that truth) are inextricably linked. Faith in God’s Word produces repentance. And the repentance that John called the nation of Israel to was to receive their Messiah, their Savior. Therefore their repentance included two aspects. They were to acknowledge they were sinners, that is, they had broken God’s law, and they were transgressors of it. Secondly, they were to acknowledge that they needed a Savior. Their repentance was a call to

embrace specific truth. "The kingdom of heaven is at hand," which is to say, God's appointed Messiah is coming and you must change your mind about your sin and be ready to receive Him, to have ears to hear Him. John was preparing the nation for the coming of the Messiah. If they didn't repent now they wouldn't be ready and they would not understand the message of the Messiah.

The second truth we recognize from his arrival is his authority. Why was John preaching? What gave him the authority to proclaim this message of repentance? It was authority of heaven, the spoken word of God. Luke 3:2 says "the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness." God spoke to him and sent him to prophesy the coming kingdom of heaven. For over four hundred years the nation had not received a prophet. There was silence in the kingdom of Israel. Now the Holy Spirit appointed John to proclaim a message of hope to the nation. Their long-awaited Messiah was coming, and John was His herald. But there was another authority for His message: the written Word of God. In verse 3 Matthew writes, "For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."'" John was the fulfillment of the prophecy Isaiah made some 700 years earlier. The Word of God made him a prophet and not a kook. Had he gone out into the wilderness of his own volition and begun preaching this message he would have been deemed a lunatic. But the Word of God confirmed the fact that he was a prophet and not a fool.

Jon's preaching was that of Repentance and warnings about judgment, the coming wrath, and the danger of presuming upon the ancestry of Abraham.

## STEPS TO REPENTANCE

1. Recognize or **ACKNOWLEDGE** the fact that you are a **SINNER**
2. **CONFESS** your **SINS** to **GOD**
3. **ASK** for **FORGIVENESS**
4. Make **RESTITUTION**
5. **HIDE** in **GOD** – Trust him more and allow him to take over you

Flee all appearances of the Devil and resist temptations always.

## Moral Lessons

- a. God wants us to repent from all our sins*
- b. After death or when Christ comes, there will be judgement.*
- c. Heaven is real so let us all live a righteous live so we can make heaven.*

## ASSESSMENT

- I. Explain Repentance?
- II. Why should I repent of my sins?
- III. As a sinner, will I make heaven?



## **Week 9**

### **Topic: Living in a Community Under God's Law**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Law is a set of rules, regulations established to govern people. It is true that the people want freedom but it is always good to guide freedom so that it will not be misused or abused. The behavior and conduct of the members of the society have to be guided in such a way that it will bring peace, coexistence, good relationship with others. Without law, members of a society will have conflicts, confusions, irregularities, cheating and misbehaviour amongst people will be greatly increased.

All human beings are God's creatures. They live together with one another and also with creatures in various communities. As God's creatures, they show respect for God by respecting one another. To God, each man is important. Each community makes laws to help each member to live well within the society, without disturbing others in any way. They are expected to help one another develop well into full-grown and responsible citizens.

Again we have command, which is another means of regulating human conduct. Command usually comes from the supreme authority and is an order which must be obeyed

#### **IMPORTANCE OF LAWS**

1. Laws help to maintain order in the society.
2. Laws help the society to set a pattern to the people's way of life
3. Laws help to preserve justice and fair play. When the society is living without conflict, there will be no partiality and everything will be done according to the rules and regulations. Everyone in the society will caution his Or herself.
4. Laws bring happiness. When there are no conflicts, the society will be at peace, live happily and members will have good relationship with each other.
5. It brings about good government
6. It makes for stability of government
7. It protects both the rule and the rulers
8. It dictates the do's and don'ts of the society
9. It prevents anarchy

## **MORAL LESSONS**

1. We must obey the law of our society so that it will protect us.
2. We must obey the ten commandments so that our days shall be long
3. The law of Christ is written in our hearts
4. Jesus came to fulfill the old law and not to condemn or destroy it.
5. We must learn to be merciful
6. We must have humility in us and be pure in heart.

## **ASSESSMENT**

List FIVE importance of the law?

## **Week 10**

### **Topic: God's Law in the Old Testament**

**Text: Exodus 20:1-17**

#### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

- You shall have no other God beside me – Its about our Loyalty to GOD
- You shall not make for yourself a golden image – Its about Worship
- You shall not take the names of the lord your God in vain
- Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy and honor it by doing no work
- Honor your father and mother that your days may be long on earth
- You shall not murder or kill
- You shall not commit adultery
- You shall not steal
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
- You shall not covert your neighbor's house, wife, servant and property. (Exodus 29:17. Matthew 5:1 – 3, john 15: 9 – 17)

The law of God being the Ten Commandments or Decalogue was given to Moses at Mount Sinai Horeb (the mountain of God). And it was given to guide the behavior of the Israelites towards God and their neighbours. Moses received the Ten Commandments when the Israelites were out of bondage from Egypt. The Ten Commandments is divided into two parts namely:

The first four commandments are concerned with how God wants His relationship with the Israelites to be. The first of the four is that they should not have any other god aside Him. The second is that they should not make for themselves any idol or bow down to anything made by man. Thirdly, they should not call God's name anyhow or show disrespect to God in anyway. Fourthly, they should keep the Sabbath day holy as God Himself had kept it holy by resting on that day.

The fifth one is about the relationship between the Israelites and their parents then the last five commandments are primarily man's duty towards another man and the society in general.

The purpose of the Ten Commandments is to point out sin as Paul informs us in Romans 7:7 and note Paul is expressing this long after the cross. Below you will find more on the meaning of each commandment in brief with the option of reading much more detail if required.

1. The First Commandment is about **Loyalty**.

The Creator of the universe declares He is our God and our deliverer and asks us to demonstrate our love for Him by having no other God's. The First Commandment is the first of a series of four that define our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Establishing, developing and maintaining that personal relationship with the true and living God is the most important commitment we can ever make. He alone is God

2. The Second Commandments is about **Worship**.

The one and only true God loves us so much that He is jealous of our love and does not want to share our love by us bowing down to meaningless idols. The Second Commandment goes to the heart of our relationship with our Creator. It deals with several crucial questions. How do we perceive God? How do we explain Him to ourselves and to others? Above all, what is the proper way to worship the only true God?

3. The Third Commandment is about **Reverence**.

God asks us to respect His Holy name and not to use it in vain. The Third Commandment focuses on showing respect. It addresses the way we communicate our feelings about God to others and to Him. It encompasses our attitudes, speech and behaviour. Respect is the cornerstone of good relationships. The quality of our relationship with God depends on the love and regard we have for Him.

4. The Fourth Commandment is about **Sanctification** and **Relationship**.

God starts off the fourth Commandment with the word "Remember". This is because He knew we would forget it. God asks that we keep it set apart for Holy purposes so we can draw nearer to Him. The Fourth Commandment to remember the Sabbath concludes the section of the Ten Commandments that specifically helps define a proper relationship with God, how we are to love, worship and relate to Him. It explains why and when we need to take special time to draw closer to our Creator.

5. The Fifth Commandment is about **Respect for Parental authority**.

God instructs us to show love for our parents by honouring them. The Fifth Commandment introduces us to a series of Commandments that define proper relationships with other people. The fifth through to the 10th serve as the standards of conduct in areas of human behaviour that generate the most far reaching consequences on individuals, families, groups and society. Families are the building blocks of societies that build strong nations. That is why the apostle Paul wrote, "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first Commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth*" Ephesians 6:2-3.

6. The Sixth Commandment is about **Respect for Human life**.

God asks us to demonstrate love and not hate towards others by not murdering. We must learn

to control our tempers. Taking another person's life is not our right to decide. That judgment is reserved for God alone.

7. The Seventh Commandment is about Purity in **Relationships**.

God asks us to express and demonstrate our love for our partner by not committing adultery. Adultery is the violation of the marriage covenant by wilful participation in sexual activity with someone other than one's spouse. Since God's law sanctions sexual relationships only within a legitimate marriage, the command not to commit adultery covers in principle, all varieties of sexual immorality. No sexual relationship of any sort should occur outside of marriage.

8. The Eighth Commandment is about **Honesty**.

God instructs us to show our love and respect for others by not stealing what belongs to them. The Eighth Commandment safeguards everyone's right to legitimately acquire and own property. God wants that right honoured and protected. His approach to material wealth is balanced.

9. The Ninth Commandment is about **Truthfulness**.

God says if we love others we should not deceive or lie to them. How important is truth? The Bible says that Jesus is "*the way and the Truth*" John 14:6. To fully appreciate the Ninth Commandment with its prohibition of lying, we must realize how important truth is to God.

10. The Tenth Commandment is about **Contentment**.

God instructs us not to covet because He knows it can entrap us into even greater sin. To *covet* means to crave or desire, especially in excessive or improper ways. The Tenth Commandment does not tell us that all of our desires are immoral. It tells us that some desires are wrong.

## **MORAL LESSONS**

1. We must obey the law of our society so that it will protect us.
2. We must obey the ten commandments so that our days shall be long
3. The law of Christ is written in our hearts
4. Jesus came to fulfill the old law and not to condemn or destroy it.
5. We must learn to be merciful
6. We must have humility in us and be pure in heart.

## **ASSESSMENT**

List the Ten Commandments with reference to scripture?

## **Week 11**

### **Topic: God's Law in the New Testament**

**Text: Matthew 5:17-18**

#### **THE LAW OF CHRIST IN THE NEW TESTAMENTS**

The New Testament is the fulfillment of the covenant and the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel: Heb 12 vs. 24. The New covenant is the law of love, it is the law that generates happiness, endurance, patience because the law was written while Jesus moved with his disciples. Jesus told his disciples to abide in his love. He told them to love one another as he loved them. Jesus on the mount spoke to the multitude about the law of love. The quality of mind that produces genuine love must be regenerated by the blood of Jesus. The laws of Christ are simply referred to as the Eight beatitudes or the Eight blessings. It is contained in the book of Mathew 5:1-12. Jesus said that he did not come to destroy the already existing laws of Old Testament but to fulfill them. The Eight Beatitudes are:

1. Blessed are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
2. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted
3. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God
7. Blessed are the peace-makers for they shall be called sons of God.
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for there is the kingdom of heaven.
9. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you falsely for my sake.

#### **THE LAW OF LOVE**

Christ's law is concerned with love. We should love God with all our hearts. We should also learn to love our neighbours as ourselves. When this happen, we are exposed to persecution and all sort of dangers and when we overcome them the kingdom of God is ours. Remember that Moses' law was received at Mount Sinai while that of Jesus was in the Sermon on the Mount. Again, Moses is ten in number while Jesus' is nine. Moreover, the former teaches direct communication with God while the later teaches love of God and love of one another. Further more, Moses' law is written on the tablet of stone while Jesus' law is written in the heart of men.

## **MORAL LESSONS**

No society can exist peacefully and happily without laws. When the law is put in place, it is the responsibility of us all to see that they are fully complied with. We are to show good examples for others to follow.

Ten Commandments was written by God so that we can obey it and have a good relationship with him and with other members of the society. The Beatitudes were written out of love while Ten commandments as a law to the Israelites.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Christ's law is concerned with love, explain?

## **Week 12**

### **Topic: Revision and Examination**

Teachers are expected to do a revision of all topics with the Students in preparation for the Promotional Examination to the Next Class.

WEEK 2 –	CALL TO FREEDOM
WEEK 3 –	POLITICAL FREEDOM FOR THE ISREALITES
WEEK 4 –	DEBORAH AND BARAK LEAD THEIR PEOPLE TO FREEDOM
WEEK 5 & 6 –	EMINENT NIGERIANS OBTAIN FREEDOM FOR THEIR PEOPLE
WEEK 7 & 8 –	CALL TO REPENTANCE
WEEK 9 –	LIVING IN A COMMUNITY UNDER GOD'S LAW
WEEK 10 –	GOD'S LAW IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
WEEK 11 –	GOD'S LAW IN THE NEW TESTAMENT