

# **CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

*FOR*

**Senior Secondary School**

# 1



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**SS1**

**C.R.K**

**FIRST TERM**

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# Week 1

## TOPIC: WHO IS GOD?

We cannot talk about God without first talking about religion. And religion is the belief in, worship of and obedience to a *supernatural being* considered to be divine or to have control over human lives and destinies. To most people, this supernatural being is God. God is all-powerful and all-knowing. He is the king and judge of all. He is immortal, holy and loving. God is the one who created everything and everybody in this world and has power over everything and everybody. We cannot completely know God but as we walk with Him we will know about Him.

### DIFFERENT NAMES OF GOD

Every language in this world has the names they call God. These names are sacred and nobody is allowed to bear the name. In Nigeria we have 250 languages, each of these languages has names they call God. But we are going to look at few popular languages.

#### **1. YORUBA**

- └ Olu aye – – God on earth
- └ Olu orun (Olorun) God in heaven
- └ Aribirabata – a great God
- └ Arugbo ojo – Ancient of Days
- └ Oluwa – – Our God

#### **2. IGBO**

- └ Chi-ukwu (Chukwu)- big God
- └ Chi – – Spiritual being
- └ Eze ndi Eze – King of kings
- └ Dike n'agha – Mighty Warrior
- └ Ikuku amanoya – unquenchable God

#### **3. ESAN**

} Ofuekenede – Merciful God

} Okakaludo – Stronger than stone

} Obonosuobo – The Great Physician

The Efik call Him Abasi. The Igala call Him Obo. Hausa call Him Ubangiji.

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

1. **Wisdom:** This is the ability to use perfect means to achieve perfect ends.

God makes no mistake.

2. **Infinitude:** God cannot be measured. He has no boundary

3. **Sovereignty:** God does whatever He likes without taking permission from anybody. He does what He likes, nobody can question Him. He is all-knowing and all-powerful.

4. **Holiness:** God is completely pure without fault or sin

5. **Trinity:** God reveals Himself in three persons- the father and the son and the Holy Spirit

6. **Omniscience:** God possesses perfect knowledge therefore needs no learning.

7. **Faithfulness:** God keeps His words, whatever He says He will do it

8. He is merciful

9. **Omnipotent:** God is able to do all things

10. **Omnipresence:** God is everywhere.

## EVALUATION

1. Who is God?

2. What are the qualities of God?

3. Mention two names of God in your language.



## Week 2

### TOPIC: GOD'S CREATION

**God** Is All-Powerful and All-knowing. He created everything and everybody, and that is the reason why the Igbo people call Him “Chineke” *which means God the Creator*. The Hausa people call Him “Ubangiji” which means *the owner of all*, and the Yoruba people call Him “Oluwaeleda” which means *God the Creator*.

#### **THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF CREATION**

The Bible says that before creation, the whole earth was dark and without form. And then God created the earth in the procedure detailed below-

1. Day One God created light because without light there will be no order. He separated the light from dark. 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, oceans 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. 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.

#### **WHY DID GOD CREATE HUMAN BEING?**

Man is the last thing God created. He created man for the following reason:



1. To praise and give Him glory
2. God wants a personal and loving relationship with human beings. He loves us so much and He wants us to love Him in return.
3. God designed human kinds as a being with three parts: body, soul and spirit with which we can know Him as Lord, worship and serve Him out of faith, loyalty and gratitude.
4. God created man so that He would be with us- we shall be His people and He shall be our God
5. God made man to know Him, to serve Him and to be with him forever.

## **EVALUATION**

1. What did God create from day one to day four?
2. What did God create in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> day?
3. Why did God create man?

## **Week 3**

# **TOPIC: SUPREMACY OF MAN OVER OTHER CREATURES**

Human being is the most important thing created by God. After God had created the day and night, earth and water and everything in it, He said “Let us make humans in our own image and likeness; and let them have dominion over the fishes of the sea and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” Genesis 1:24-27. God made man in his own image on the sixth. Man is the only creature that has the image and likeness of God.

After God made man and woman He blessed them saying: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fishes of the sea, the birds of air and over everything that moves upon the earth.” This means that God has placed us in charge of the earth and everything in it. Therefore we have power over all things. God gave us that power. So, do not allow the devil to frighten you.

Man is the only creature that was blessed after creation like that. We are the image of God, that means we have powers too. Therefore, in the name of Jesus Christ- the name above all other names you can do all things.

## **PROCREATION**

God blessed man to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. That was why our parents were able to give birth to us. Every child born is blessing from God Almighty. And every child born has the power to dominate the earth and control it.

## **EVALUATION**

1. Why did God give us dominion over the earth?
2. What did God say before creating man?
3. Which day was man created?

## **Week 4**

# **TOPIC: HOW HUMAN BEINGS SHARE IN GOD'S CREATIVE ACTIVITIES**

Human beings share in the creative activities of God because man is the most important creature of God; also because God blessed man to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Therefore, man's first share in the creative activity of God is in giving birth to children. This is called procreation. In Genesis 1:28 God said to Adam and Eve: "Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth." God gave man the ability to reproduce his kind through birth.

### ***THINGS INVITED BY GOD***

The other way man share in the creative ability and activity of God is through invention- that is, ability of man to build things that make life easier and sweeter. Examples are car, computer, the Internet, phones etc. Whenever life becomes difficult man creates things to make life easier. We needed to travel to far distance man created car, aeroplane, jet, ship and motorcycle. We needed to store information and get more information and connect to people very far from us man made computer and the Internet. God loves music, man loves music, therefore man created the piano, guitar and other musical instruments to produce beautiful music. The only things man cannot create are water, air, fire, soil, stone, mineral resources and living things. God gave man the ability to create all these things.

### **EVALUATION**

1. Mention two ways man shares in the creative ability of God.
2. What is procreation?

## Week 5

### TOPIC: MARRIAGE

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.

The Bible says that a man shall leave his parents and cleave to his wife and that they shall become one flesh. Therefore, marriage is the legal union of one man with one woman for life, to the exclusion of all others.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS/QUALITIES OF MARRIAGE**

1. Two people [a man and a woman] shall leave their parents and start their own home
2. The man and the woman cannot be separated; instead, they must cleave to each other till eternity. What God has joined together no one should separate.
3. The husband and wife shall see each other as one. This therefore means that they must live together, plan together and *do things together*.
4. Husband and wife should not hide anything from each other. They should not be ashamed of each other and should trust and respect one another.
5. Marriage is between man and woman
6. Marriage is between one man and one woman. One man and many wives or one woman and many husbands is not permitted by God.

#### **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 a healthy and prevents them from contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

#### **EVALUATION**

1. *What is marriage?*
2. *How do we share in the creative activities of God?*
3. *Mention three functions of marriage.*
4. *List five features of marriage.*

## Week 6

# TOPIC: EVOLUTION

Evolution has been defined as the changes that occur overtime in the inheritable traits of living organisms, including man and other primates. According to science, these supposed changes lead to the formation of new organisms even as “*evolutionary* processes give rise to biodiversity at every level of biological organisation, including the levels of species, individual organisms, and molecules.”

### **CHARLES DARWIN' THEORY OF EVOLUTION**

Charles Darwin's theory argued that human beings were not created by God. Instead of the creationist view of humans' existence on earth, he theorised that we originated from apes due to an evolutionary process that occurred over millions of years.

### **THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION VERSUS THE BIBLE**

As we learnt in our previous lesson, God created human beings and everything on earth. But Charles Darwin believed this was a lie. He made a number of arguments and theories to prove his point and interestingly, he succeeded in convincing millions of people. However one thing he failed to understand is that the Bible cannot lie; God's words are true because he is not a man that lies. Charles Darwin clearly failed to understand that because he was an atheist. Atheists (by the way) are people who do not believe in the existence of God.

Anyway, Charles Darwin failed to answer one important question which is- if humans originated from apes, why do we still have monkeys today?

### **EVALUATION**

1. *What is evolution?*
2. *Who is Charles Darwin?*
3. *Identify the error in Darwin's theory.*

## Week 7

### TOPIC: THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament contains **39 books**. It is also known as the *Jewish Tanakh*. The stories in the Old Testament are before the coming of Jesus Christ. In most parts, the Old Testament basically contains the prophecies about the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

It is also in the Old Testament that the creation story is contained. It also contains the history of some leaders, the exodus of Israelites from Egypt, the formation of Israel as a nation and her many declines and rise through the years.

#### **IMPORTANT FACTS TO NOTE ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT (SECTIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT)**

- *There are several books of prophecy and wisdom contained in the Old Testament including Hosea and Proverbs.*
- *The first book in the Old Testament is **Genesis** and the last book is **Malachi**.*
- *The first five books of the Bible (all in the Old Testament) are called **Pentateuch**.*
- *The ones following the Pentateuch are the history books. The history books contain the history of Israel.*
- *The third section contains the poetic and wisdom books dealing with questions of good and evil in the world.*
- *The fourth section comprises of the books of the prophets which talk about consequences of turning away from God.*

#### **EVALUATION**

1. Highlight the sections of the Old Testament.

## Week 8

# THE NEW TESTAMENT: SEVENTH WEEK TOPIC

The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. It starts with *Matthew* and ends with *Revelation*. The New Testament is also called *the NEW PROMISE*. There are twenty seven books in the New Testament and the word “Testament” means *covenant*. Therefore, the New Testament is also called the New Covenant.

## IMPORTANT FACTS TO NOTE ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT

Saint Paul authored a total of 14 books in the New Testament. That number is over half the entire New Testament! This therefore makes Saint Paul the man with the most books in the Bible, followed only by Moses who wrote the first five books of the Old Testament which is also called *Pentateuch*. The oldest book of the New Testament is the book of **James** which was written as early as 45 years after the death of Christ. The newest book of the New Testament is the book of **Revelation**, written about 95 years after the death of Christ.

The New Testament is the fulfillment of the God’s promise in the Old Testament about the coming of the Messiah. The New Testament centres on Jesus Christ, his teachings, legacies, teachings from his disciples and the revelations of things to happen.

**NOTE:** John Wycliffe is the first person to translate the Bible to English in the year **1382 AD**.

## EVALUATION

1. What is the New Testament all about?
2. How many books are there in the New Testament?



## Week 9

### **TOPIC: DISOBEDIENCE**

Disobedience simply means the act of disregarding instruction or breaking rules, albeit intentionally. It also means doing things you ought not to do and not doing the things you ought to do. A disobedient child is a child that does not do what he/she is asked to do. And a disobedient Christian is one who is sinful. In other words, disobedience is sin and it makes God angry. Therefore, anyone who wishes to qualify to be called the son and daughter of God must obey the *ten commandments* of God, obey his or her parents, and obey their teachers. Please note that disobedience to any forms of constituted authority is sinful.

#### **BIBLE ACCOUNT OF PEOPLE THAT DISOBEYED GOD AND THEIR PUNISHMENT**

1. The first account of disobedience was Adam and Eve who ate the fruit God asked them not to eat. As a result of that they were cast out of the Garden of Eden and God cursed them. It is because of their disobedience that men have to work very hard to feed the family and women have to go through pain to give birth.
2. The second person to disobey God was Cain. God asked Cain and his brother Abel to offer Him sacrifice. Abel gave God quality sacrifice while Cain gave God inferior sacrifice. God accepted Abel's own and rejected Cain's sacrifice. Out of jealousy and envy Cain killed Abel.
3. Jonah was sent to preach to the people of Nineveh but he refused. God made a big fish to swallow him and took him to Nineveh.
4. The sons of Eli, God's priest were also disobedient. They frequently disobeyed God's rules. God killed them.
5. King Saul disobeyed God, and God departed from him. He later died in war. These are the few examples of disobedience recorded in the Bible. There are many of them. One thing to note is that there is punishment for disobedience.

## **DISOBEDIENCE AND CONSEQUENCES**

<b>Disobedience</b>	<b>Consequence</b>
<i>Cheating in examination</i>	<i>Paper cancelled, minus of mark or guilty conscience</i>
<i>Rudeness to leaders and seniors</i>	<i>Bad name and record, punishment</i>
<i>Fighting</i>	<i>Loose a tooth, injured, killed.</i>
<i>Disobedience of school rules and regulations</i>	<i>Punishments such as flogging, frog jump etc; bad name in the school; expulsion.</i>
<i>Disobeying national and state laws</i>	<i>Arrest, prosecution and imprisonment.</i>

## **DISOBEDIENCE TO NATIONAL LAWS AND THE CONSEQUENCES**

In schools, there are rules and regulations for the staff that are meant to guide them on their duties. There also rules and regulations meant to show the students how to appear and behave. If these rules are not there the school will be lawless. These rules are there to maintain order. Make sure you obey. In your family as well obey your parents. The Bible says “honour your mother and your father so that your days will be long”.

There are laws made by the government to guide and checkmate our behaviors. Obey the laws of the state and the nation. For example, the national and state law says we should not kill anybody, and that we should not help somebody to commit crime etc. These laws are meant to make our lives easier, peaceful and enjoyable. When these laws are not kept we deny ourselves peace.

Obey road signs, they are set by government agencies to help save our lives and property while traveling. Accidents happen because people disobey road signs and road safety rules.

## **EVALUATION**

1. What is disobedience?
2. Why is it important to obey?

## Week 10

### TOPIC: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

In every society on earth there must be rules, regulations and laws that guide the behaviours of the people. Without such rules and laws, human society would be a chaotic place. But all thanks to God, who among other things gave humanity a set of laws which all must obey in order to have a harmonious relationship with him [God] and make Heaven at last. These rules God gave us are called the *Ten Commandments*. They are-

1. *You shall not have any other God except me*
2. *You shall not make idols, you shall not bow to them or serve them for I the Lord is a jealous God.*
3. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy*
5. *Honour your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God is giving you*
6. *You shall not kill*
7. *You shall not commit adultery*
8. *You shall not steal*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbour's wife or your neighbour's servant/property.*

The Ten Commandment was given to Moses on Mount Sinai. These commandments were given by God to show us how to lead sinless lives and please him forever.

### **THE GOLDEN RULE**

The **golden rule** is contained in the book of Matthew 7:12. Also called *The Ethic of Reciprocity*, it simply says we should treat other people as we would wish them to treat us. We are to apply this rule to all human beings irrespective of religion, language, denomination or any other forms of differences. Anything you don't want people do to you don't do to others. If we follow this rule nobody will be hurt.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Lord's Prayer is also called the "Pater Noster" or "Our Father". It is contained in the book of Matthew 6:9-13 and it is undoubtedly the most popular Christian prayer as members of almost all Christian denomination recite it often. Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray and Jesus said to them "this, then is how to pray:

*"Our Father who art in heaven*

*Hallowed be your name,*

*Your kingdom come,*

*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*

*Give us this day our daily bread*

*And forgive us our sins,*

*As we forgive those who sinned against us*

*And lead us not into temptation,*

*But deliver us from all evil.*

*For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

From the prayer above you can see that it starts with thanksgiving. Also note that the prayer has taught us that if we don't forgive those that offend us God will not forgive us.

## **EVALUATION**

1. Recite the Ten Commandments
2. What does the golden rule state?

## Week 11

### TOPIC: RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation means the restoration and recovery of friendly relationship between two or more people after a fight or quarrel. In this light, reconciliation can therefore be seen as the process or act of ending a misunderstanding or dispute with others. This ensures that peace reigns while bringing about unity, happiness, progress and overall wellness.

#### **CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR RECONCILIATION**

1. Apologies
2. Admittance of fault
3. Asking for forgiveness
4. Paying back; restitution.
5. Avoidance of factors that result in dispute.

#### **CHRISTIAN WAYS OF RECONCILING WITH GOD**

1. Repentance from sins; have a change of heart
2. The determination to desist from doing what is wrong.
3. Forgiving others freely and easily. Christians must remember the Lord's Prayer which asks of God to "*forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sinned against us*"
4. Recognising and admitting one's fault
5. Being truly sorry for one's sins
6. Restoring and reviving broken relationships with God and humans

#### **WAYS OF RECONCILING WITH OTHERS**

1. Shaking of hands
2. Hugging
3. Saying "I am sorry"

4. Forgiving freely and easily
5. Giving gifts
6. Kneeling or prostrating to beg for forgiveness
7. Writing letters of apology

## **EVALUATION**

1. What is reconciliation?
2. Why is forgiveness important?
3. What are the key points in the Lord's Prayer?

**SS1**

**C.R.K**

**SECOND TERM**

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# Week 1

## TOPIC: FAMILY

A family is a group of people who are related by blood or by adoption. People become automatic members of their various families either by virtue of birth, marriage, adoption or guardianship. This therefore means that everybody belongs to a particular family or the other. Families are ordained by God and it serves as the basic agent of socialization.

### Type of Family

1. Nuclear Family: This is the type of family whereby the parents and their children live in the same house or share the closest bond. This type of family is made up of only the parents and the children. It is also known as conjugal family.
2. Extended Family: This type of family includes all relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. This is also known as joint family or multi-generational family.
3. Adopted Family: This is a type of family comprised of people who are not necessarily related by blood but by law as a result of adoption.
4. Foster Family: This include one or two adults who serve as temporary guardians for one or more children.

### Family Members and their Roles

1. Father: The father is the head of the family. He is the bread winner and makes the major family decisions together with mother. He does other works too like bringing the children to school etc.
2. Mother: She is the manager and treasurer of the family. She takes care of the all the children, coordinates the household tasks, plans and prepares family meal. Nowadays, mothers also help the family financially.
3. Female siblings: They assist the mum in doing household chores like dusting and sweeping, preparing the meal, setting and clearing table and other house chores.
4. Male siblings: They are usually assigned the heavy works in the house like scrubbing the floor, fetching water, watering flower etc. However, roles of family members depend on the family. When all members of the family perform their role the family experiences peace and harmony.

### Concept of Good Family

A good family is one that pleases the Lord; they pray together, perform their tasks accordingly, live in peace with neighbours, respect and love each other, assist one another. Whatever any member of the family it affects the respect other people have over the family. A good family name makes one socially and culturally respected and favoured. To have and maintain a good family name don't commit crime, don't be a disgrace to your family. Obey God's commandments, societal rules, school rules and national laws.

## **EVALUATION**

1. What is family?
2. Describe the concept of good family.
3. Mention the types of family

## Week 2

### TOPIC: RELATIONSHIP IN SCHOOL

Most secondary school students spend at least 7 hours in school per day from Monday to Friday. This means that large part of the day is spent in school; with classmates and teachers. In the light of this, it is imperative for students to associate with good friends because the friends they associate with in school will determine a lot about their behaviours even as behaviours ultimately determine destinies. Therefore, choose your friends carefully.

#### **How to Choose Good Friends**

The Bible says *show me your friend and I will tell you who you are*. To choose good friends these are what to do:

1. Befriend fellow students who constantly say good things about other people. If somebody is always saying bad things behind people don't be a friend to that person because that is how he/she will say bad things about you in your back.
2. Only choose those that are serious with their studies as friends. Evil company corrupts good manner.
3. Some one that always advises you to disobey the rules and regulation of the school is not a good friend, stop being a friend to such a person, if not he/she will lead you to hell fire.
4. Let your friends be those that are serious with God and their studies
5. If spending time with your friend will bring you down instead of lifting you up please stop being a friend to such a person.

#### **David and Jonathan: Lessons About Friendship**

1. Good friends keep promise even in absence. David kept his words even after Jonathan death. David helped Jonathan's son when he died.
2. A true friend will protect you as Jonathan protected David from soul, his father evil plans.
3. A true friend will bring you closer to God
4. Jonathan didn't support his father's evil plan against David because David did nothing wrong. So also, do not join any of your family members in planning evil against your friend or anybody.

5. A true friend will help you to stay out of trouble
6. A true friend will help you achieve your destiny
7. A true friend is ready to sacrifice his/her comfort to make you happy and safe.

### **Bad Friends**

Run away from bad friends. They will make you to be a bad student in the school, bad child at home, poor person and illiterate in the future and make you go to hell at last. If you put a good orange in a basket full of bad oranges it won't be long the good orange will spoil like the others. That is how friendship is. If you follow bad friends you will be bad too. Bad friends are like pencil and crayon in the hand of the devil.

### **EVALUATION**

1. How can choose good friends?
2. What are the qualities of good friendship?
3. What is the consequence of following bad friends?

## **Week 3**

# **TOPIC: RELATIONSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY AND CHURCH**

A relationship is any form of deep, strong or close association between two or more people that could either be for long or short term. The relationship may be based on business interaction, love or solidarity. Meanwhile, under the context that we are talking about relationship, we are looking at ways people relate with each other in their communities and churches. Please note that no community can live together except they agree even as no one can every live in isolation.

### **Ways of Maintaining Relationship in the Community**

1. Identification of community leaders: know the names and addresses of community leaders. If there are problems in the community you will know where to go and whom to contact.
2. Respect for elders: The word of God advises us to give honour and respect to whom it is due; pay taxes to whom it is due.
3. Obeying the laws of the land: For peace to reign we need to keep the laws of the land.
4. Participating in community development programmes: We are advised to participate in all activities that will develop the community. We should participate, for example, in environmental sanitation in our neighbourhood.
5. Caring for the needy
6. Religious tolerance: Respect everyone, whether the person is a Christian or not.

### **Good Relationship in the Church**

The greatest commandment is love of God and neighbour. As a Christian student you must demonstrate genuine love for Christians and non-Christians alike. Always be eager to help other people. Let your life be so good that other people would want copy it. Christians must maintain peace in the church and outside the church. We should also endeavour to maintain peace and harmony with the constituted authorities in the church and outside the church. It is bad for any Christian student to intentionally go against the rules and regulations of the school and church. If you disobey the church leaders you have disobeyed God.

-Do not make noise in the church; do not operate phones or toys in the church.

-Obey the rules, regulations and guidance of the church and its leaders.

-Participate in church activities. Join at least one organ of the church like choir, ushers/stewards, altar boys, charismatic, block rosary, Sunday school teaching, etc.

## **EVALUATION**

1. What are the ways of maintaining relationship in the community and the church?

## Week 4

# TOPIC: PRAYER AS MEANS OF COMMUNICATING TO GOD

We worship an invisible and omnipotent God who hears every word of prayer we say with our mouth or our mind. Prayer is the act of talking to God either to thank Him or to request for something. We can pray anywhere- at home, in the school, class, toilet, while walking etc. At all times we are free to talk to God, He is ever ready to listen to us. Prayer is what links us to God, without it our relationship with God suffers. While praying you might kneel, sit or lay on the bed; you can pray aloud or silently in your heart. God wants us to always talk to Him that's why the Bible advises us to pray without ceasing and season.

### **How to Pray**

There may not be a one way street to prayer, yet there are certainly some components of a good prayer should have. These are-

1. Thank and praise God. Acknowledge his works
2. Ask for forgiveness of your sins because the prayer of a sinner is an abomination before God.
3. Make your request
4. Ask for His grace to do His will.

When you pray don't doubt, believe and trust in Him. When you pray and doubt God will not answer you. Pray and have faith. Also, don't pray with malice in your heart. If you are keeping malice with anybody God will not answer your prayer.

### **Ways God Talk to Us**

*God also talk to us, but in different ways.*

1. Through His words in the Bible: The book of Timothy 3:16 says that all scriptures are "God-breathed". His words give us encouragement, warning, assurance or lesson for life. This means that God sometimes screams through His words in the Bible giving us instructions, advice and warnings.
2. Through other believers: God also talk to us through our teachers, parents, pastors and other preachers.

3. Through dream

4. Through music: Through good music God talks to His people because some gospel singers are inspired by God.

5. Through circumstances: Sometimes God use circumstances to get our attention or force us to do something or take decision. For example, in the parable of the prodigal son, the prodigal son faced hunger and starvation, this made him to rethink and return to His father. The hard circumstance forced him back.

6. Vision

Ways of Maintaining Good Relationship with God

*a. Studying the Bible often*

*b. Obeying God's commandments*

*c. Praying always*

*d. Maintaining good relationship with your neighbours*

*e. Obey the school rules and regulations*

*f. Obey the laws of the state and the nation*

*g. Help your neighbours.*

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. What is prayer?
2. Mention five components that a prayer must have
3. In what three ways does God talk to us?
4. List the ways we can get close to God



## Week 5

### TOPIC: CALL TO OBEDIENCE

Obedience is the complete compliance with an order, request or law. It also entails total submission to another person's authority. Obedience is required where rules, laws, commandment or authority lies. And there are blessings associated obedience.

#### **Abraham Obeys God's Call**

Abraham was formerly called Abram before God changed his name to Abraham which means father of many nations. He was born in the pagan city of Ur to his father Terah. God commanded him to leave his home and go forth a new and unknown land. Abraham did not disobey, he took his wife Sarah, his nephew Lot and other properties and left to the unknown. He obeyed God's directive without asking any question. He was 75 years when he left Haran.

Blessing from Obeying God's Call

God told Abraham:

- 1. I will make you into a great nation*
- 2. I will bless you*
- 3. I will make your name great*
- 4. You will be a blessing to others.*
- 5. I will bless those who bless you.*
- 6. I will put a curse on anyone who calls down a curse on you.*
- 7. All nations on earth will be blessed because of you*

God led Abraham to Canaan without Abraham knowing where he was going. He obeyed God and was largely blessed for that. If you obey God you will prosper. If you obey God no evil shall befall you, God shall guide your side, back, up and down and front. If you obey God you shall be called sons and daughters of God. You don't use human wisdom to follow God's directives. Normally, Abraham would have questioned God since he knew not where God wanted to take him to, but he didn't. He followed God without doubt. Follow God without doubt today and He will not fail to bless you.

#### **EVALUATION**

a. How did God bless Abraham for obeying?

b. Where was Abraham born?

c. What is the name of Abraham father?

## Week 6

### TOPIC: SHEDRACH, MESHACK AND ABADNEGO

These three friends of Daniel were originally known as Hananiah which means “the grace of the Lord”; Mishael which means “He that is the strong God”; and Azariah which means “the Lord is help”. When Nebuchadnezzar captured them he changed their Hebrew names to Shadrach means “the moon god Aku”, Meshack means “who’s like Aku” and Abadnego means “the servant of the god Nebo/Nabu or Nergal.

King Nebuchadnezzar then built an image and commanded everybody in his kingdom to bow down and worship the image, that failure to do that the person would be thrown in a big fire. Shadrach, Meshack and Abadnego refused to worship the idol built by the king.

Nebuchadnezzar was furious that these three youths disobeyed his orders. He commanded they should be thrown into the big burning fire so that they would burn to ashes. They were thrown into the fire. The heat of the fire killed the soldiers that threw them inside the fire. The king was surprised when he saw a fourth person in the fire. He said to his officials that he was seeing four people in the fire instead of three, who was the fourth person? The fourth man in the fire was God. God came down to save Shadrach, Meshack and Abadnego from burning. The fire became as cold as air-conditioned room for them. The king was so shocked and surprised that he confessed and acknowledged truly that God Almighty, the God of Shadrach, Meshack and Abadnego is the true and only God.

In God’s commandments we were told not worship any other god except God in Heaven, that we should not bow down to any idol. Shadrach, Meshack and Abadnego preferred to die instead of disobeying God. They said that even if God refused to save them they would prefer to die than to worship the image made by king Nebuchadnezzar. However, God saved them by coming down in the fire, dancing with them. If you obey God He will never leave alone. Be ready to face difficulty for obeying God, but there is great reward for those who obey God.

#### **EVALUATION**

- a. What were the Hebrew names of Shadrach, Meshack and Abadnego?
- b. What is the meaning of the names Shadrach, Meshack and Abadnego?
- c. Why was Nebuchadnezzar angry with them?

#### **17. CALL TO FREEDOM**

## **Week 7**

### **TOPIC: CALL TO FREEDOM**

Freedom is the ability to act the way one likes or chooses without being subjected to any unnecessary restraint, 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.

### **EVALUATION**

- a. What is freedom?
- b. Mention four types of freedom

## Week 8

### TOPIC: THE BIRTH AND CALL OF MOSES

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt, suffering immense injustice in the hands of the Egyptians. God wanted them to be free so they would choose freely whom to serve. And so Moses was born, just as the Israelites' suffering was at its peak. Meanwhile, during this same period, Pharaoh had asked all the midwives in Egypt to kill all the male babies born of Israeli blood. The mother of Moses nursed him secretly for three months, when she couldn't conceal him any longer she placed him in a water-proof basket and laid him by the bank of River Nile. Pharaoh's daughter who often bathed there saw him; she had pity and love for the baby. She picked the baby and looked for someone to nurse the baby on her behalf.

By God's arrangement she chose Moses mother who nursed him until he was old enough. Pharaoh's daughter adopted him. Moses grew up in the palace and was given the best education and treatment like the son of Pharaoh. But he soon discovered that he was a Hebrew and the people in slavery were his own people.

One day, Moses visited his fellow Israelite and he saw an Egyptian maltreating an Israelite. He killed the Egyptian. He buried him immediately. He did this because he loved his people. The following day Moses visited his people again and found two Israelites fighting, out of love and concern he separated them; but the guilty one told: "Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?" This made Moses afraid and thought Pharaoh might hear it have him killed. He fled to Midian where he stayed for 40 years. He was 40 years when he fled. One day as Moses was watching his father-in-law's sheep on Mount Horeb God called him through the burning bush; asked him to remove his shoe because he was standing on a holy ground. God appeared to Moses because He had decided to rescue the Israelite by using Moses as the point man. Moses some excuses about why he wasn't the best person for the task but God ignored his excuses. God told him that if they asked him who sent him he should tell that "I Am that I Am" had sent me. God promised to lead Israel out of bondage and leading them to their own land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Through Moses God gave Israelites freedom, freedom to worship Him, freedom to have their destiny in their hands and not in the hands of the Egyptians. In our lives today that's how God frees us from every bondage we are in so that we would worship Him in truth and in spirit.

### **EVALUATION**

- I. Why did Moses mother put him in the water after birth?
- II. In your own understanding why do you think God chose Moses?

## Week 9

### TOPIC: DEBORAH AND BARAK LED THEIR PEOPLE TO FREEDOM

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.

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

### **EVALUATION**

- 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 10

# TOPIC: EMINENT NIGERIANS WHO OBTAINED FREEDOM FOR NIGERIA

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

## **EVALUATION**

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

## Week 11

# TOPIC: RESPONDING FAITHFULLY TO THE NEEDS OF OTHER CHRISTIANS

We are all blessed with different gifts. Every man has at least a gift or blessing that will be of help to another person. It might be money, material thing or nonmaterial thing. As Christians we should help each other with our various gifts and blessings. Let's study some examples from the holy Bible.

### The Widow of Zarephat

There was a time Israel that there was no rain for long, there was not enough food and water in Israel. God directed Elijah to go to Zarephat, at the region of Sidon and stay there. There he met a widow gathering firewood, he asked her to give him water and piece of bread. She told Elijah that she had no bread except the little flour and a jar of oil; she said she wanted to bake bread with it, eat with her child and die because there was nothing left to eat again. Elijah told her to bake the bread but she should give him first before doing for herself and her son, she obeyed. All the days Elijah was there the jar of oil did not run dry- there was enough food for Elijah, the woman and her son. God filled the jar. She didn't question God's words that came through Elijah because she believed, this made God to blessed her abundantly. You might not have enough but when you see those that have none share that your little with them.

### Feeding of Five Thousand Men

After following Jesus all those, and it was approaching evening time the disciples knew that the crowd would need food and that there was nowhere for them to buy food since they were in the wilderness. The disciples told Jesus to send the crowd away. Jesus told His disciples to give them something to eat but Philip and Andrew objected. Philip exclaimed that it would take more than half a year's wages to buy food that would enough to feed the crowd. They forgot that Jesus is a miracle working God. With five loaves of bread and two fishes Jesus fed the five thousand men (excluding women and children).

### Moral Lessons

*I. Jesus had pity on the hungry so He didn't send them away empty.*

*II. No one comes to God and go back empty handed*

*III. There are benefits in following God*



*IV. What is impossible before man is possible to God.*

## GENEROUS BARNABAS

Barnabas was the cousin of Mark, writer of the gospel of Mark. At a time the early church was experiencing difficulty Barnabas sold his land and donated all the money to the church. God blessed him tremendously. Few years later God appointed him as an apostle with Paul to the Gentiles (non-Jews). He spent many years preaching the gospel in lands far away from both Jerusalem and Cyprus. He used all his money to work for God. Barnabas means Son of encouragement. God blessed Barnabas with money, and when the church needed money he used his money to help the church. Not just that, also when the church needed more hands in spreading the gospel he made himself. So in anyway you can help people don't hesitate to help.

## EVALUATION

I. According to the account, why is Barnabas considered a good man?

2. CONVERSATION

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## **Week 1**

### **TOPIC: CONVERSATION OF SAUL**

Paul, who was originally known as Saul was (before his conversion), a bad man. Although well educated man as a lawyer, he was a devout Pharisee who saw Christians as wayward people. As a matter of fact, he hated Christians. He made it his mission to kill Christians and even pursued them to foreign lands if he had to. Consequently, he was feared by the Christians whom he persecuted. He led and supervised the group that stoned Apostle Stephen to death. He really thought he was doing the right thing until one day.

So one day he took permission from the Jewish authorities to arrest and kill Christians in Damascus. On his way Jesus appeared to him, striking a light brighter than the sun in his way. Jesus said "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And Paul replied "who are you Lord?" Saul became blind and was directed to go and meet Ananias in Damascus who would tell him what to do next. For three days Saul fasted and prayed. He was then baptized even as he regained his sight. The experienced transformed him, changing him from the man who once persecuted Christians to a man who became a fervent preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was no longer an enemy to Christianity but a leading light in the kingdom of God. Paul later wrote thirteen books in the New Testament. Indeed, God used him greatly to spread Christianity all over the world.

His conversion shows that God can use anybody for His purpose. This story also teaches us that forgiveness is very important. When he was supervising the killing of Stephen, Stephen prayed for their forgiveness at the point of his death. That same Paul that killed him and many Christians later became an apostle of Jesus Christ and spread the Gospel to many nations.

#### **EVALUATION**

- I. What is the other name of Paul?
- II. Where was he converted?
- III. What was he going to do when God arrested him?
- IV. What happened to him after Jesus appeared to him?

## Week 2

### TOPIC: MOSES AT THE BURNING BUSH

God used the burning bush to get Moses' attention, a miraculous thing by the way especially considering how the fire was burning without actually burning the bush. Moses was attending to his father-in-law Jethro's sheep in the land of Midian when this supernatural event occurred; precisely on Mount Horeb. As he went closer to see for himself why the bush was on fire but not burnt, God called him.

God told Moses that he wanted to use him to rescue the Israelites from captivity in Egypt. But Moses was quick to remind God how incapable he was of such task, using his speech impairment as a major excuse. But God promised to always be with him every step of the way. Moses then asked God to tell him *his* name so he would tell the Israelites the name of the God that sent him. God then told Moses that his name is **"I am that I am", "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob"**. God promised he would perform miracles to let the Israelites go.

Moses left Jethro his father-in-law and met Aaron his brother in the desert. Together they went back to Goshen in Egypt where the Israelites were slaves. Aaron explained to the elders how God was going to free his people. He also showed them signs. The elders bowed down and worshiped God.

Note that God had prepared Moses for long by making him get the best education- same with the children of Pharaoh. You can see that education is very important if you want to make any impact in this world. Also note that in spite of Moses weakness (stammering) God still used him. This is a lesson for us today, no matter our weaknesses we can still work for God. Nobody is perfect, so let's not allow our little weaknesses discourage or stop us from responding faithfully to God's call.

## EVALUATION

- I. What is the name of Moses brother?
- II. Who is the owner of the sheep Moses was rearing before he was called by God?
- III. Mention the two excuses Moses gave when God chose him for the task.

## Week 3

### TOPIC: 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.

#### John the Baptist Calls for Repentance

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.

Before the time of John, God had used different ways to persuade people to repent and resist sin. In the paragraphs below, we shall be looking at some examples in the Bible of people who repented from their sins; specifically King David.

#### **King David's Repentance**

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.

### **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.*

### **EVALUATION**

- I. Explain the proverb by Nathan to David

## Week 4

# TOPIC: THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH REPENTED OF THEIR SINS

The sins and wickedness of the people of Nineveh had become unbearable and God needed somebody to go and preach to them and tell them about the calamity that would befall them if they fail to repent. So he sent Jonah initially refused to go. He set forth to run away from God, thinking God is like a man whom he could hide from. Anyway, he went to Joppa from where he boarded a ship going to Tarshish ( which is in present day Spain). On the sea, God sent a violent storm that made the sailors to fear for their lives. As the ship was about to sink, the sailors threw away all their loads into the sea as a way of making the ship lighter. Also, everybody onboard the ship prayed to their different gods; except Jonah who was sleeping in the deck. When the people found him sleeping, they all cast a lot to find out the person who was responsible for the storm. The lot fell on Jonah.

Meanwhile, Jonah told the people that he running away from God. They then asked him “what should we do to you to make this ship calm down for us?” Jonah replied “Pick me up and throw me into the sea, and it will become calm, I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon us”. The men were reluctant at first to throw him down the sea because they didn’t want to shed innocent blood. But as the storm persisted even more violently, they took Jonah, prayed to God not to hold them responsible for his death then threw him into the sea. Immediately afterwards, the storm stopped. The sailors were marveled and offered sacrifice to God and promised to serve him forever.

A big fish swallowed Jonah once he was dropped into the water and he was in the belly of the fish for three days. Jonah prayed to God while in the belly of the fish and God commanded the fish to spit him out on the beach. And God spoke to Jonah again to go to Nineveh and preach and warn the people there to repent from their wickedness. He obeyed and went to Nineveh preaching round the city and telling them the punishment God was about to bring upon them if they failed to repent. It took Jonah three days to go round the city.

The people of Nineveh believed the message and repented, fasted and prayed and wore sackcloth to show they had repented. God saw their repentance and had mercy on them and changed His mind from punishing them. However, Jonah was expecting God to punish Nineveh.



## **EVALUATION**

I. Why was Jonah running away?

II. Where was he running to?

III. What was his punishment for disobeying?

## Week 5

# TOPIC: CONSEQUENCES OF LACK OF REPENTANCE

God wants us to live a holy life. Yet, he is aware of our weaknesses and that is why he is always ready to forgive and welcome us back to his fold. However, when we constantly derail and live in sin, God becomes unhappy. But even at that, he is still slow to anger, sending his words of salvation to us [instead] through his vessels (the pastors), through the Bible, our parents and even teachers. These words of salvation are meant to urge us to repent and come back to him. For those who repeatedly fail to repent, there are punishments for waiting. Some of them will be outlined below-

- a. Favour of God will not be with you again*
- b. Devil will use you as his pencil and crayon*
- c. The Holy Spirit will depart from you*
- d. Death*
- e. Unanswered prayers*
- f. Lack of prosperity*
- g. Failure in examinations*
- h. Living an unhappy and stress-filled life*
- i. You'll lack peace*

### EVALUATION

- I. What is consequence?
- II. What are the possible consequences of lack of repentance?

## Week 6

# TOPIC: JOSEPH OVERCAME THE TEMPTATION OF PORTIPHER'S WIFE

When Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery, he ended in the house an Egyptian official called Portipher. Portipher immediately knew that the Lord was with Joseph. This made him put the lad in charge of all things in the house. And with Joseph in charge of everything happening within the household of Portipher, the man prospered.

As the years passed, Joseph grew to become a handsome well-built man. And then Portipher's wife started admiring and lusting after him. One day she approached him and begged him to have sex with her but he refused. She tried many times yet Joseph refused. And one day Joseph was alone carrying out his house chores when Portipher's wife approached Joseph again for sex, he refused and she grabbed his cloth, he ran away leaving pieces of his cloth with her. She called all the servants and lied that Joseph attempted raping her and that when she screamed for help he ran away leaving his cloak. She told this to her husband who became very angry and threw Joseph to prison. Even in the prison God was still with Joseph.

## **MORAL LESSONS**

- a. Joseph didn't stay to fight the temptation, he ran away. Don't remain in the place you are being tempted.*
- b. Every temptation we overcome has blessing attached to it*
- c. It is better to suffer for doing good than to enjoy for doing bad.*
- d. For God to uplift and make you prosper He must make you pass through trials and temptation*
- e. It was Joseph triumph over the temptation that led to his imprisonment; it was his imprisonment that led to his enthronement.*

## **EVALUATION**

I. What are the lessons to learnt in the story of Joseph overcoming the temptation of Portipher's wife?

## Week 7

### TOPIC: SIMON PETER OVERCAME JEWISH SORCERER TEMPTATION

In Samaria, there lived a sorcerer called Simon who made many magical signs to the people. The people- both rich and poor, educated and illiterate believed and gave him attention. He amazed the entire city. The people believed him and said- "This man is rightly called the great power of God." But when Philip preached the good news in the city many people believed and got baptized. Simon the sorcerer himself believed and was baptised. He followed Philip everywhere and was astonished great signs God was performing through Philip.

The apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived they laid hands on the new believers and prayed for them they would receive the Holy Spirit. Immediately the Holy Spirit descended upon them. Simon the sorcerer, seeing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as Peter and John laid hands, tried to bribe Peter: "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom i lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit". Peter refused and said: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money." Peter rebuked and advised him to pray for forgiveness for what he just did. He replied that Peter should rather pray for him that the curse he rained on him should not happen.

#### **MORAL LESSONS**

*I. Peter did not give in to the temptation of collecting money for the gift of God. Many pastors now deceive the people by collecting money pretending to be sharing God's blessings. This is bad.*

*II. Your money means nothing in the sight of God. God's gifts are for the worthy ones not just someone because he/she is rich.*

*III. The gifts of God can't be equated with money.*

#### **EVALUATION**

- I. In your own understanding why do you think the sorcerer wants to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit?

## **Week 8**

### **TOPIC: PETER DENIED JESUS**

During the Last Supper which Jesus had with his disciples, he said to Peter “This very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” Peter replied “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you”. The other disciples said the same thing too. Later that same day Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest court yard. Other disciples ran away except Peter who followed them at a distance. Outside the courtyard some people made fire and sat around it to warm themselves. Then Peter joined them in the fire place and a little servant girl identified him saying: “This man was with Him.” But Peter denied saying “little girl I don’t know Him.”

While still hanging around the courtyard the little girl saw Peter again and told some few people, “this fellow is one of them” but Peter denied again. This is the second denial. After a while those standing by met Peter and said “surely, you are one of them for your accent is Galilean” Peter denied again and started raining curses on himself, insisting that he did not know Jesus. And then, the cock crowed immediately. Just then, Peter remembered the words Jesus spoke that he would deny Him three times before the cock crowed.

Please note how Peter consistently denied Jesus on three separate occasions. Once he started, he could not stop until he finally repented. That is how sin progresses, from small to big, to bigger, then to biggest. The devil is very tricky; he won’t lead us into the big sins first because it won’t work for him, he will start leading us into the small sins- those sins we think matter less, then from there he leads us to the bigger and biggest sins. That’s why armed robbers started their stealing at home with meat in the pot, parents’ money; classmates’ pen, books, money; neighbours’ money and properties; then it graduates to fulltime robbery from there. Same process for prostitutes, they started from one boy giving them money to have sex with them. All prostitutes were once virgins, so they started little by little until they become harlots.

Peter’s weeping after the cock crowed was a sign of regret and repentance. He realised he had sinned and repented immediately. When we sin we should not remain in that sin, we should admit our fault, repent and promise God not to do it again.

### **EVALUATION**

- I. Narrate the progression of the denial from small to big.
- II. What was the sign of regret for Peter after denying Jesus?

III. In your own understanding why did Peter deny Jesus?

## Week 9

### TOPIC: THE LAWS AND THEIR USES BY JESUS

Jesus told us that the greatest law of all is love; the love of God and love of your neighbour. He loved us even before we love him. But for us to remain in his love, we have to keep his commandments. And it is important for us to remain in God's love because when we do, our joy will be complete even as his joy will be in us.

Jesus said- "Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than to lay down His life for his friends. You are my friend if you do what I command. This is my command: love one another." He further said that if we don't have love we will not make heaven. That means we cannot keep the Ten Commandments if we have no love in us. The love of God and love of man will keep us away from hurting anyone. With the above statements, Jesus summarised the entire Ten Commandments. If you love God you will obey him and do what he says. If you love your neighbour you won't hurt him/her.

The Bible also said that even if you are a pastor, Reverend Father, Bishop or any other church worker, if you do not have love you will go to hell. This is because it is impossible to serve God and make heaven without having love in you- the love of God and love of man.

### **EVALUATION**

I. What is love?

II. How can love help in keeping the Ten Commandments?



## **Week 10**

### **TOPIC: THE BEATITUDES**

All of Jesus' teachings are centered around the kingdom of God. The beatitudes contain nine key demands of the kingdom of God as well as the blessings attached to each of them. Take a look below-

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
2. Blessed are those who mourn for righteousness sake 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 peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
9. Blessed are you when men revile you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven

The beatitude shows that in Christianity we have different roles, challenges and qualities. This is because God has given us different qualities, and every quality or talent comes with their own challenge to surmount.

### **EVALUATION**

- I. What is the significance of the beatitudes?
- II. Narrate the beatitudes.

## **Week 11**

# **TOPIC: ACCEPTANCE OF SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES**

Every Christian is blessed with a gift and special talent. God expects us to use the gifts He gave us to work for the betterment of mankind and as a tool in the hand of God. Some have the gift of singing, preaching, winning soul, prophecy etc. At every point in time use those gifts and talents to help people and work in the church- don't just be an ordinary Sunday church goer. We are going to study the life of Samuel who lived his entire life serving God.

## **The Roles of Samuel as a Priest**

The mother of Samuel, Hannah was barren for many years and begged God for a child. She promised to dedicate the child totally to God- that is, to do God's work all his life. God answered her prayer and she gave birth to Samuel and dedicated him to God's work. At age four Samuel started staying with Eli, the judge and priest who trained him to be a priest. So, started doing the work of God at age four. You see? Nobody is too small to work for God.

As a young boy God used him to tell Eli the bad news that his sons Hophni and Phinehas were sinful, that He would destroy them. God was angry with Eli family because he failed to caution his erring sons. God use Samuel to tell Eli the oncoming destruction for his family because of his sinful sons. It was Samuel's first message from God.

Samuel instructed the Israelites to get rid of their idols and turn to God. As the children of Israel obeyed, God helped them to defeat Philistines who had been tormenting them for years. The defeat of the Philistines brought peace in Israel. That means the sins of the Israelites had been preventing peace to come in their land. That is to say there is no joy and peace in sinful life.

After the death of Eli, the priest Samuel took over as the judge and priest and prophet in Israel. Samuel anointed the first king of Israel, Saul and the second king, David. When King Saul disobeyed God Samuel told him that obedience is better than sacrifice. Through God's direction Samuel replaced Saul with the youngest son of Jesse, David.

Samuel was one of the greatest intercessors of Israel with Aaron and Moses. Samuel lived his entire life pleasing God by using his gifts of prophecy and his role as a priest to serve Him.

## **EVALUATION**

I. Who did Samuel replace as a priest?

II. What is the name of the two wayward sons of Eli?

III. How did Samuel please God?