

# God's Redemption Message

## Teacher's Study Guide

*-Rev. 0.6-*

The purpose of this study guide is to help interested adults and children learn how to be reconciled to God and gain eternal life through Jesus Christ.

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### **Stones Cry Out Ministries**

22433 Oxford St.

Dearborn, MI 48124

[www.StonesCryOut.INFO](http://www.StonesCryOut.INFO)

Note: Encourage students to fill in the answers one lesson at a time before you get together with them to review the answers. But some students may not feel comfortable doing this on their own. If that is the case, you can do the lesson together, discussing each verse and answer.

## Lesson 1: Who is God and What is He Like?

Instructions: All Bible verses are *italicized*. First read the verse(s), then answer the question(s).

### Verses about God's eternal power:

*Isaiah 44:6 This is what the LORD says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; **apart from me there is no God.***

Are there any other Gods? **no**

*Acts 17:24 The God who **made the world and everything in it** is the Lord of heaven and earth*

What did God create? **everything**

*Acts 17:25 he is not served by human hands, **as if** he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.*

Does God have any needs? **no**

What does He do for all men? **Gives them life and breath and everything else**

*Psalm 93:1-2 **The LORD reigns** (rules), he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Your throne was established long ago; you are **from all eternity.***

Who rules the world? **God**

For how long has He ruled over it? **Ever since he created it all**

*Isaiah 43:7 Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth-- everyone who is called by my name, whom **I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made.*

Why did God create all things? **For his own glory (It is not about us, it is all about Him.)**

*Revelation 4:11 You are worthy, O LORD, to receive glory and honor and power: For You have created all things, and **for Your pleasure they are and were created.***

For whose pleasure or benefit were all things created? **God's pleasure**

Since God created all things, then how did angels come into existence? **God created them**

**Verses about God's holiness and justice**

*Isaiah 6:2-3 I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

What must the angels do when in God's presence? **Cover their faces and feet**

What word did the angels use to describe God? **holy**

Try writing down what you think this word means in the space below:

**Different than anything He created, pure, righteous, perfect, awesome**

*Leviticus 9:23- 10:3 Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown. Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: " `Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.' " Aaron remained silent.*

What response from us does God's holiness require? **Absolute respect and submission**

When God is insulted (dishonored), does He get angry? **yes**

If God asks you to do something and you ignore His request are you honoring Him or are you insulting Him?

**Insulting Him**

*Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was **hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.***

What happened to Satan and his angels when they insulted God? **cast out of God's presence**

*Isaiah 48:11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be **defamed?** I will not yield my glory to another.*

What will God not allow? **He will not allow Himself to be defamed (dishonored)**

If God will not allow Himself to be defamed (dishonored), what should those who dishonor Him expect?

**punishment**

## Verses the speak about God's anger

Note: Keep in mind that God is not like sinful human beings. When human beings get angry, they are usually full of sinful hatred. Everyone knows that this type of anger is very ugly because it is full of sinful passions. God is pure and holy and never has ugly sinful passions. When God gets angry, He is not filled with selfish sinful passions. His anger is holy and righteous, but never mixed with sinful passions.

*Nahum 1:2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. **The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies.***

What does God do to those who wrong Him (dishonor Him)? **He takes vengeance on them**

How does God feel toward those who dishonor Him? **Angry**

When people get angry, they normally want to take revenge and inflict harm on the one who offends them. According to Nahum 1:2, God takes vengeance on His enemies. Since God is not like a sinful human being, do you think that He looks forward to the day of judgment? (In other words, will He derive some type of enjoyment from inflicting punishment on judgment day?) \_\_\_\_\_

*Nahum 1:6 Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.*

Can anyone stand up against His fierce wrath? **no**

*Nahum 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; **the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.** His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.*

What will happen to all He considers guilty after they die? **punishment**

*II Chronicles 19:7 Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Judge carefully, for **with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.***

Can God be bribed so that a guilty person is allowed to escape punishment? **no**  
(In other words, will He accept a plea bargain or payment so that punishment is not meted out?)

*Ezekiel 33:11 As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, **I take no pleasure** in the death of the wicked.*

Unlike sinful human beings, does God get pleasure from inflicting judgment on His enemies? \_\_\_\_\_

(Also, see Genesis 6:6 and Jonah chapter 4 to see how God **feels** about inflicting punishment.)

## Lesson 2: What is man like and how can he relate to God?

*Hebrews 2:6-7 What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor.*

Which has the higher position, man or angels? **angels**

*Genesis 1:27 God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

In whose image was man created? **In God's image**

Name one way man is different from animals. **Man has responsibility to discern and choose between right and wrong.**

*Genesis 2:16-17 the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'*

Did God place any restrictions on man when He first created him? **yes**

Was God expecting too much from the man? **no**

*Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

Did the first man keep the single command God gave him? **no**

By disobeying God, did the first man dishonor God? **Yes, he dishonored God**

*Genesis 3:17-19 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and **to dust you will return.***

What curse did God pronounce against Adam that He warned him about earlier?

**He would struggle through life and eventually die**

*Romans 5:12 just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came **to all men**, because all sinned*

How many people did this curse affect? **All people**

*Genesis 4:8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let's go out to the field.' And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.*

*Romans 3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood*

What did men start to do to each other within a very short time after Adam sinned? **Murder each other**

*Genesis 9:4-6 But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, **by man** shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."*

*Romans 13:1-5 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. **The authorities that exist have been established by God.** Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.*

What did God bring about in order to keep men from killing themselves off? **governments**

*Revelation 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to **the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.***

*Acts 2:23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

When the first man sinned for the first time, do you think God was surprised or do you think God expected that he would do it? **God expected it.**

*Romans 1:21 although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish **hearts were darkened.***

What happened to the heart of man as a result of sin? **His heart became darkened**

*Isaiah 59:2 your iniquities have **separated you from your God**; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

What happened to the relationship between God and man as a result of sin? **Man was separated from God**

*Romans 3:10 There is no one righteous, not even one.*

After the first man sinned, has anyone ever possessed or produced righteousness (through their own power) that God considers truly righteous? **Nobody has ever produced righteousness on their own**

*Romans 3:11 there is no one who understands, **no one who seeks God.***

After the first man sinned, has anyone ever sought after God on their own initiative? **No one**

*Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, **each of us has turned to his own way;***

Instead of seeking God, whose desires does each person seek after? **They seek their own desire**

*Romans 3:12 All have turned away, they have together **become worthless**; there is **no one** who does good, not even one.*

As a result of turning away from God, what have people become to Him? **worthless**

Does anyone (through their own power) have a life that God calls good? **No one**

*Romans 3:16 **ruin and misery** mark their ways*

What marks the ways of man? **Ruin and misery**

*Romans 3:17 the way of **peace** they do not know.*

Because of his sin, what has man never really enjoyed on earth? **True lasting peace**

*Romans 3:18 There is no **fear** of **God** before their eyes.*

Though they really should do this because of their guilt, what don't they do? **Fear God**

*Genesis 3:12-13 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate.*

As a result of their sinful nature, what do people do rather than recognize their condition? **People tend to make excuses for their sins and fail to see that they are wicked for dishonoring God.**

*Hebrews 9:27 man is destined to die once, and after that to **face judgment.***

What happens to every person after they die? **judgment**

*Matthew 8:12 the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

*Matthew 13:40 As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.*

*Matthew 25:41 Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'*

What will God do to people who die in a guilty condition? **Eternal punishment**

*II Thessalonians 1:7-9 This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with **everlasting destruction** and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power*

What penalty will people pay who do not obey the gospel? **Everlasting destruction away from God's presence**

Note: The Bible teaches that the punishment that comes after the judgment is eternal, not temporary. There is no place where people go to suffer for their sins until they are paid for because God declares the penalty is for eternity and this is the correct (just) punishment.

**Now determine if you are one of the “guilty” ones that deserve punishment.**

*Exodus 20:3-17 -"You shall have no other gods before me.*

*-"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

*-"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*

*-"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

*-"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

*-"You shall not murder.*

*-"You shall not commit adultery.*

*-"You shall not steal.*

*-"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*

*"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*

*Matthew 5:21-22 You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, ' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. (Jesus said this.)*

*Matthew 5:27-28 You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

God said that we must not do certain things. We have already seen that if we choose not to obey Him we dishonor Him and therefore we become guilty in His sight. Name at least six things that we must never do in order to remain innocent.

**To love something or someone more than God**

**To steal or cheat**

**To misuse God's name in any way**

**To commit adultery or look as someone with desire**

**To murder someone or hate them**

**To lie**

Have you ever disobeyed any of His commands (Have you ever dishonored Him?) **Yes**

Does that make you guilty or innocent of dishonoring God (and breaking His laws)? **Guilty**

Since God created you and has kept you alive and is the rightful ruler of all things, is it reasonable for Him to demand that we honor Him completely every moment of our lives (perfect obedience)? **Yes**

**As we learned in lesson 1 (page 3), God's holiness and justice demands that all who are guilty be punished (Nahum 1:3). In lesson three, we will see how God made it possible for the guilty ones (all of us) to receive the benefit of God's love and mercy and escape the punishment due them.**

### Lesson 3: Could anything be done to reconcile man to God?

Lesson one shows that God will not let the guilty go unpunished. Lesson two shows that all men are guilty. Now we will see other characteristics of God that make it impossible for sinful man to be in God's presence.

*Habakkuk 1:12-13 O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish. Your eyes are **too pure to look on evil**; you cannot tolerate wrong.*

Can God look upon anything evil? **no**

Why? **He is holy and pure**

Can God tolerate any wrong? **no**

*1 John 1:5 God is light; in him there is **no darkness** at all.*

Is there any darkness in God at all? **no**

*Deuteronomy 4:24 the LORD your God is **a consuming fire**, a jealous God*

What is God said to be? **A consuming fire**

*Hebrews 10:31 It is a **dreadful** thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

What is it like for anyone to fall into the hands of the living God? **Dreadful, terrifying**

*John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's **wrath** remains on him.*

What is hanging over the heads of all guilty people? **God's wrath**

**Now we will learn that we cannot do good works in order to cancel out our guilt:**

*Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*

In God's sight, do our good works amount to much? **no**

How does God describe them? **As filthy rags**

*Ephesians 2:8-9 it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- **not by works**, so that **no one can boast**.*

Can we earn salvation by doing good works? **no**

If we could, then what could we do? **boast**

*Romans 4:4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.*

If you could stand before Him at the judgment on the basis of your good works, would He receive all the glory for it or would you receive at least some of the glory?

**I would receive some glory if I actually could stand before Him on the basis of my own goodness or good works.**

*Romans 3:20 **no one** will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*

As a result of these truths about God and man, can anyone be justified by the works of the law? **no**

*Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another.*

*Isaiah 48:11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.*

Will God give any glory due Him to any other being? **no**

In light of what God has said about Himself and about each person, answer the following question:

Is it honoring to God or dishonoring to Him to think that you can be acceptable to Him on the basis of your own goodness? **Dishonoring to Him**

Since a) every person is guilty of dishonoring God and b) no person can make themselves right in God's sight on the basis of their own good works, and since c) God will not let the guilty go unpunished, how can anyone be saved from the wrath of God that is coming? (This will be answered later.)

**So far, we have been examining God’s holy and righteous nature. But the Bible also says that He is a God of love and mercy.**

*1 John 4:7-8 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.***

According to this verse, is God loving? **yes**

What word is used here to describe God? **love**

*James 5:11b The Lord is full of **compassion and mercy.***

What is the Lord full of? **Compassion and mercy**

Though God is love, He also has a standard that demands absolute righteousness that He cannot violate. We will now learn how God had to make a way that allowed Him to exercise love and mercy towards guilty sinners without violating His perfect righteousness.

### **The need for a sacrifice that would absorb the wrath that we deserve**

*Exodus 12:1-13 “The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover. “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.*

Read the following explanation of the Bible passage above:

Just before He delivered them out of slavery in Egypt, God made it clear to the people of Israel that His deliverance requires the shedding of blood. He brought several plagues on the nation of Egypt. He promised that Egypt would let the people of Israel go after the final plague. In this plague, every firstborn creature would die in the land unless they followed God’s instructions for them to sacrifice a perfect lamb and apply its blood on the doorway of their house. If they did this, then God would “pass over” that house and spare all who were inside. Everyone who participated in the Passover on that night in Egypt was saved from God’s wrath. This began the Jewish celebration of the “Passover.” The Bible calls this celebration a lesson that shows people God’s requirement for a blood sacrifice as the means for God’s deliverance.

*Hebrews 9:22 the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.***

Will God forgive sin without a blood sacrifice to pay for them? **no**

*Hebrews 10:4 it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*

Is it possible for the blood of animals to take away sin? **no**

If God requires a blood sacrifice to pay for sins, and He will not accept an animal blood sacrifice, what sacrifice do you think He will accept? ( If you don't know the answer, you can answer this question later.)

*John 1:29 John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, **the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world!'*

When John the Baptist first announced Jesus to the people, what did he call Him? **The Lamb of God**

*Isaiah 53:3-11 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed **for our iniquities**<sup>1</sup>; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet **it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer**<sup>3</sup>, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and **he will bear their iniquities.**<sup>2</sup>*

(The words in the verse above were written about 700 years before Jesus was born by the prophet Isaiah. They explain what the coming Messiah would be like.)

Why would he be pierced through and crushed (1)? **For our iniquities**

What would he bear (2)? **The iniquities of many people**

Was it God's will that He would suffer and die? (3)? **yes**

*II Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

How can God, without compromising His perfect righteousness, give love and mercy to those who are guilty of dishonoring Him? **by taking our sin upon Himself and giving us His righteousness**

*Romans 5:8 God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

How has God demonstrated His love for us? **While we were sinners (His enemies), Jesus died for us.**

Did we deserve His love to be poured out this way for us? **no**

**Teacher:**

This is a good time to review the following:

God is absolutely righteous and must punish each and every sin (otherwise He would cease being perfectly righteous).

God came here (Jesus) in order to take the punishment that we deserve.

He took our sins upon Himself and was punished instead of us.

So, God punished all our sins when He poured out His wrath on Jesus.

Since the sins have been punished, He can now forgive all who believe and yet remain perfectly righteous. (Because all the sins have been punished, He is not letting any sin go unpunished.)

#### Lesson 4: Who is Jesus and what is He like?

*Matthew 27:11* Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'Yes, it is as you say,' Jesus replied.

*John 4:25-26* The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.' Then Jesus declared, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Did Jesus claim to be the Messiah promised by God through the prophets? **yes**

*Isaiah 9:6* For to us a child will be born, to us a son will be given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah wrote this statement about 700 years before Jesus was born. What did Isaiah say that the coming Messiah (to be born as a baby) would be called? **The Mighty God**

*Luke 3:4* As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: 'A voice of one calling in the desert, Prepare the way for the **Lord**, make straight paths for him.' (These are words of John the Baptist.)

Who was John the Baptist saying that the people should clear the way for? **The Lord**

Who do you think John the Baptist was talking about when he said this? **Jesus**

*Matthew 4:10* Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'

Who did Jesus say is the only one that should be worshiped? **God**

*John 9:36-38* 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him. (This is part of a conversation between Jesus and a man who He healed from blindness.)

Did the man worship Jesus after he found out that He was the Messiah? **yes**

Did Jesus tell him to stop worshiping Him or did He accept the man's worship? **He accepted his worship**

*Mark 9:2-9 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!' Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.*

Before dying, did Jesus predict that He would be raised from the dead? **yes**

*Luke 24:1-6 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:*

According to Luke, did Jesus rise from the dead? **yes**

*John 20:24-28 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.' A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.' Thomas said to him, '**My Lord and my God!**'*

What did the Thomas say when he realized that Jesus was alive from the dead? **"My Lord and my God!"**

Did Jesus correct Thomas after he called Jesus "God?" **No**

*Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, **I saw the Lord** seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.*

*John 12:41 Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.*

Isaiah claimed to see the Lord's glory. Whose glory did John say that it was? **Jesus' glory**

*John 5:16-18 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. Jesus said to them, 'My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.' For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, **making himself equal with God.***

Why were the Jews trying to kill Jesus? **Jesus was making Himself out to be equal with God.**

*John 10:24-33 The Jews gathered around him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.' Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, 'I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?' 'We are not stoning you for any of these,' replied the Jews, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, **claim to be God.**'*

Why were the Jews trying to kill Jesus? **Jesus was claiming to be God.**

Even though they were threatening to kill Him for this, did Jesus deny their accusation? **no**

*Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. **The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.***

What is Jesus called here? **The radiance of God's glory and exact representation of His being**

What did Jesus accomplish? **Made purification for sins**

What did He do after that? **He sat down at the right hand of majesty in heaven.**

*John 11:38-45 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 'Take away the stone,' he said. 'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.' Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.' Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.*

*Luke 7:12-16 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out--the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, 'Don't cry.' Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, 'Young man, I say to you, get up!' The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. 'A great prophet has appeared among us,' they said. 'God has come to help his people.'*

*Mark 5:35-43 While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. 'Your daughter is dead,' they said. 'Why bother the teacher any more?' Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, 'Don't be afraid; just believe.' He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha koum!' (which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!'). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.*

According to the Bible, did Jesus raise people from the dead? **Yes**

*Luke 2:9-11 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'*

When the angels announced His birth, what did they say about Jesus? **He would be a savior**

*Matthew 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

Did Jesus predict that He would be killed by the Jews? **yes**

*Matthew 26:52-54 'Put your sword back in its place,' Jesus said to him, 'for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?'*

Did Jesus voluntarily die or did he try to escape? **He voluntarily died**

*John 10:14-18 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me--just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to **lay it down and authority to take it up again**. This command I received from my Father.'*

According to these verses, what authority did the Father give to Jesus?

**The authority to lay His own life down and then take it back up again**

*Colossians 2:13-15 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having **disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

When Jesus laid down His life, was He defeated? **no**

In His death, what did He accomplish against His enemies? **Disarmed them and made a public spectacle of them**

*John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. **He who believes in me will live, even though he dies<sup>1</sup>**; and **whoever lives and believes in me will never die<sup>2</sup>**. Do you believe this?'*

What promise did Jesus give to those who believe in Him according to these verses?

**1. That they will live even after they die**

*Matthew 11:28-30 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest for your souls**. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'*

What did Jesus promise to give those who are weak and heavily burdened? **Rest for their souls**

*Matthew 26:26-28 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is **my body**.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is **my blood** of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'*

When celebrating the Passover the night before His crucifixion, what did He say that the bread and wine represented? (Remember from Lesson 3 that the Jewish Passover feast required the sacrifice of a lamb.)

**His body and His blood**

## Lesson 5: What does all this mean for those who have heard this information?

*Acts 10:43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives **forgiveness of sins** through his name.*

What does everyone receive who believes on Jesus? **Forgiveness of their sins**

*John 1:12 to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become children of God***

What right is given to those who “receive” Jesus? **The authority to become children of God**

*Hebrews 10:29-30 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be **punished** who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ and again, ‘The Lord will judge his people.’*

Does it honor or does it insult God if a person insists on going his own way instead of believing in and following Jesus? **It insults God**

What will God do to that person? **Punish him**

**We must truly believe that we have offended God and stand guilty, condemned before Him.**

**Now we will consider what it means to believe in Jesus from the heart.**

*Luke 18:9-14 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ‘But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’*

Which man thought he was righteous enough to stand before God already? **The Pharisee**

Which man “believed” he was a sinner and deserved punishment? **The tax collector**

Which man “believed” that he was in need of God’s mercy? **The tax collector**

Which man believed that there was nothing he could do to be good enough in God’s sight? **The tax collector**

Why did the tax collector’s belief look genuine? **He was deeply troubled about his sin against God**

*Romans 10:8-10 But what does it say? 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you **confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,'** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

You must believe **from the heart** that Jesus took all of God's punishment that you deserved and that He rose from the dead like He promised and will raise you from dead as He promised. According to the verse above, if your belief is real, what will you spontaneously begin to tell others?

**We will gladly tell people that Jesus is our Lord.**

*Psalm 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*

*Psalm 86:3-7 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to you all day long. Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. You are **forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.** Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for **you will answer me.***

Based upon these verses, name some things about God that we should believe and start to act upon.

**He is abounding in love. He is forgiving and good. He will answer our prayers for help.**

*Jeremiah 17:5-8 This is what the LORD says: 'Cursed is the one who **trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength** and whose **heart turns away from the LORD.** He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the man who **trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.** He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.'*

What are some differences between the unbeliever and one who walks by faith?

Unbeliever: **trusts in man, depends on his own strength and understanding, turns away for God**

Believer: **trusts in God and places his confidence in Him instead of himself**

*Luke 9:24 whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever **loses his life** for me will save it.*

What does a man willingly give up forever when He starts believing in Jesus?

**His life: He lets God have complete control over it and accepts whatever God wants to do in it.**

*Matthew 28:19 go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

After a man has already believed in Jesus and received forgiveness of sins (already saved), what can he do to show his allegiance to Jesus? **Be baptized and tell other people about Him**

*Mark 8:38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.*

If a man has come to know (believe) Jesus, what will he do before other men? **Identify himself as one of Jesus' disciples.**

*Romans 12:1 I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.*

What is the appropriate response to God's redemptive message to us? **surrender our life completely to God**

If you do this, who gets to direct your entire life from now on? **God**

Do you plan to follow Jesus from for the rest of your life and let Him rule over you? \_\_\_\_\_