

God's Redemption Message

(from the Bible)

Version 2.0

Teacher's Study Guide

Lesson 1: Who is God and what is He like?

Lesson 2: What is man and what is he like?

Lesson 3: Because of who God is and what people have done, what must happen?

Lesson 4: Out of love and mercy, God made a righteous way to save guilty sinners.

Lesson 5: The Gospel's promise, invitation and the proper response to it.

God's Redemption Message general knowledge evaluation

What will you do in response to God's Redemption Message?

Moving forward

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Instructions: All Bible verses are shown in italic font. First, read the verse(s) and then try to answer the question(s). If you cannot answer a question, just skip to the next question. Your friend will provide all the answers when you review the study together. **Remember that the questions are about the verses shown before them.**

Lesson 1: Who is God and what is He like?

God's power and authority:

1.1 **Isaiah 44:6** *Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; **Besides Me there is no God.***

Besides God, are there any other Gods? No

1.2 **Hebrews 1:2** *He made the **ages.***

Who created time (*the ages*)? God

1.3 **Isaiah 57:15** *Thus says the High and Lofty One **Who inhabits eternity,***

Does God exist inside the bounds of time? No

Therefore, did God ever not exist? No

Put another way, did God ever have a beginning? No

Therefore, before time even existed, did God exist? Yes

1.4 **Exodus 3:13-14** *Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.'"*

When asked about His name, who did God say He was? I am

1.5 **Acts 17:24** ***God, who made the world and everything in it,** since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.*

What did God create? The world and everything in it

1.6 **Psalms 50:12** ***The world is Mine,** and all its fullness.*

Who owns the world and everything in it? God

Since God owns everything He created, does He own you too? Yes

1.7 **Revelation 4:11** *You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And **because of Your desire** they exist and were created.*

Why did God create all things? For His pleasure

1.8 **Psalms 93:1-2** ***The LORD reigns,** He is clothed with majesty; The LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.*

Who rules (reigns) over the world? God

How long has God ruled over the world? Since the time He created it

1.9 **Acts 17:25** *Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, **as if** He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.*

Does God need anything? No

Review: There is only one God who always existed. He created time and exists outside of time. He created all things and owns all things in it. He rules over all things He created and has need of nothing.

God's love and mercy:

1.10 I **John 4:7** *God is love.*

Though some people accuse God of being unloving in how He governs the world, what is He? love

1.11 **Psalm 103:13** *As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.*

Is God's love impersonal or does it involve deep emotions? His love includes and involves His emotions

1.12 **Ezekiel 33:11** *"Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked'*

Is God happy that people die? No

1.13 II **Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Does God desire that people go to hell? No

1.14 **Proverbs 29:18** *Where there is no revelation (from God), the people perish.*

What would happen if God did not reveal Himself and His truth to people? They would perish

1.15 **Psalm 19:1-6** The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. *There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven. Its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

Has God been revealing Himself through the things He created? Yes

What do things tell you about Him? He is powerful. He is the great Creator. He owns all things. We should fear Him.

1.16 **Romans 2:14-15** When people who do not have God's law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

What other way has God made Himself known to man? He gave them a conscience so they know right & wrong

1.17 **Deuteronomy 33:3** *He loves the people; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; Everyone receives Your words.*

Because He cares (loves), what has God been doing? Making Himself and truth known to man through words

1.18 **Luke 11:28** *Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"*

When people hear and do God's word, do they receive benefit? Yes

Review: God is loving and merciful. He is not happy if people die and go to hell. In love, He has been communicating through His creation, through conscience, and through words so that people will become blessed.

God's absolute righteousness/justice

Note: Though God is indeed loving and merciful, He is also absolute in His righteousness. To be a righteous God, each and every sin must be punished. If He were to simply excuse even a single sin, He would cease to be the perfectly righteous judge. Because He is Holy, absolutely no sin can come into His presence.

1.19 Leviticus 9:23 - 10:3 *Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces. Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So, fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' "*

When they did not care enough burn the correct incense, what did God do? Caused fire to consume them

What was their mistake? They did not take God seriously enough to follow His instructions.

Because God does not take pleasure in the death of people, what demanded this outcome? His righteousness

For anyone wanting to approach God, how must they regard Him? As holy

1.20 Hebrews 12:29 *Our God is a consuming fire.*

While God is indeed love, what else is He? A consuming fire

1.21 Isaiah 48:11 *For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.*

Why must God not allow His name to be profaned and give His glory to another? It would not be right (righteous)

Though God is merciful, He also has immense righteous anger:

1.22 Nahum 1:6 *Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him.*

Can anyone survive when exposed to God's fierce anger? No

1.23 Nahum 1:2 *God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies;*

Ultimately, what will God do to those who dishonor Him? He will take vengeance on them.

Contrary to sinful revenge by human beings, does God take pleasure in the death of the wicked? No (See 1.12.)

What does God desire, deserve and expect from those He created and owns?

1.24 **Deuteronomy 6:5** *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

What does God desire and command us to do? Love Him

1.25 **John 14:21** *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.*

If a person loves God, what will they do? Respect Him and obey Him.

1.26 **Acts 17:25** *He gives to all life, breath, and all things.*

Why does God deserve our perfect obedience and our love and affection? He created us, owns us and provides.

Review of Lesson 1 (Who is God and what is He like?)

Next to each review statement, a number is provided in case you want to look back at the verse and question.

There is only one God (1.1).

He created time and He exists separate from it. (1.3 & 1.2)

He always has existed. He had no beginning. (1.4 and 1.3)

He created the entire universe and everything in it. (1.5)

He owns the world and all its fullness. (1.6)

He rules over all things (1.8)

He does not need anything. (1.9)

God is love and He pities those who fear Him. (1.10 & 1.11)

God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked and does not desire that people go to hell. (1.12&1.13)

Because of this, God made Himself and His truth known through creation, consciences and His words. (1.14-1.18)

Because God is holy, all who dare to approach Him must treat Him with great reverence. (1.19&1.20)

To remain perfectly righteous, God cannot allow glory due Him to be received by any other. (1.21)

Though God is loving and merciful, He also has immense righteous anger. (1.22&1.23)

Because He created us, owns us and provides for us, God desires and commands us to love Him. (1.24)

To respect Him and love Him, people must obey Him completely. (1.25)

Because He created us, owns us and provides for us, God deserves our perfect obedience. (1.26)

Lesson 2: What is man and what is he like?

What it was like for man in the very beginning.

2.1 **Psalm 8:5-8** *You have made him [man] a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen -- Even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.* **Genesis 2:15** *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*

What special purpose did God have for man in the world? To rule over all the animals and to be in charge on earth.

2.2 **Genesis 1:27** *God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* **Genesis 2:16-17** *The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

Besides being in charge of the earth, what else made man different from the animals?

Man was made to be similar to God in some ways. One example is that he could have two-way communication with God and therefore, have a personal relationship with God. He could receive special love and give love and respect to God through obedience.

According to Genesis 2:16-17 (above), what was the only command (restriction) that God gave to man?

Do not eat from one particular tree in the garden.

Was God requesting too much from them? No

What did God warn them would happen if they disobeyed Him? They would experience death.

If they would have obeyed him, how long would they have lived? Forever

What man was like after they disobeyed God's single command.

2.3 **Genesis 3:6** *When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

Did man obey that single command (restriction) that God gave them? No

By disobeying that single command, did they honor God or dishonor Him? They dishonored Him.

2.4 **Romans 5:12** *Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.*

As a result of their disobedience, what two things entered the world for the first time? Sin and death.

2.5 **Genesis 4:8** *Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. [Cain and Abel were their first two children.]*

Romans 3:13 *Their feet are swift to shed blood. Genesis 6:5* *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

What did people start doing to each other soon after the first sin? They started killing each other.

Not long after that, how did God describe people? Every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

2.6 **Romans 1:21** *Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

What happened as a result of sin? They did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

2.7 **Romans 3:10** *There is none righteous, no, not one;*

After the first man sinned, has anyone (on his own) ever produced righteousness that God considers righteous? No

2.8 **Romans 3:11** *There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.*

After the first man sinned, has anyone ever sought God on his own initiative? No

2.9 **Romans 3:12** *They have all turned aside; They have together become worthless; There is none who does good, no, not one.*

As a result of turning away from God and living that way, what does God say about them? worthless

Does anyone have a life that God considers good (in their own power)? No

2.10 **Romans 3:16** *Destruction and misery are in their ways*

What marks the ways of man? Destruction and misery

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

Do people respect God? No

2.12 **Isaiah 53:6** *All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way*

Instead of looking after God's interests, whose desires do people look after? Their own

2.13 **Genesis 3:12-13** *Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

After the first sin, what do people do rather than recognize and acknowledge their own sin? Blame others

Lesson 3: Because of who God is and what people have done, what must happen?

3.1 **Habakkuk 1:13** You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.

Because God is pure and holy, can sinners come into His presence with their sin? No

3.2 **Isaiah 59:2** *Your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*

Since human beings have iniquities, can they enter into relationship with Him? No

3.3 **Psalms 92:15** *the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*

Why can't God tolerate or excuse even a single sin in His presence? There is no unrighteousness in Him.

3.4 **Nahum 1:3** *The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all let the guilty go unpunished. The LORD has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.*

Since every human being is guilty of breaking God's laws, what must happen? Their sins must be punished.

3.5 **Romans 2:5-6** *But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each one according to his deeds.*

Is it just certain sins, or is every single sin piling up God's wrath that is coming our way? God's wrath is piling up.

3.6 **Hebrews 9:27** *It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*

When is their judgment scheduled? After they die.

3.7 **Matthew 5:21-22** *You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.*

Is it only sinful behavior that will be judged or will even our thoughts be judged? Even our thoughts

3.8 **Romans 3:19-20** *we know that whatever the law says, it says to those in the law that every mouth would be shut, and all the world would become accountable to God. Therefore, from works of law, no flesh will be justified before Him because through law is the knowledge of sin.*

Is it possible to erase some of our sins by doing works in an attempt to earn God's approval? No

3.9 Romans 1:18-21 *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness because that which is known about God is manifest in them, for God made it evident to them. For His unseen attributes are clearly seen from the things made since the creation of the world, even His eternal power and divine nature, so that they are without excuse, because, having known God, they didn't honor Him as God or give thanks, but became distorted in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

If a person never hears about Jesus, are they off the hook? No. Why? They knew enough. They should have lived righteously. Instead, they insulted God by living their lives as if they were God.

3.10 Matthew 13:40-42 *As the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 25:41 *He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 *When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.*

After people are found guilty at the judgment, where will they be placed? Tormented in fire of some sort.

How long will they be tormented? forever

Based upon 3.3 (above), is this a just punishment? Yes, there is no unrighteousness with God.

Lesson 2 and 3 review:

Next to each review statement, a number is provided in case you want to look back at the verse and question.

Lesson 2: What was man like?

Man was created without sin and given charge over the earth and everything in it. (2.1)

Man was created special. He was different from the animals. He could have two-way communication with God and know Him personally if he desired. (2.2)

God gave man only one restriction but man dishonored God's authority by disobeying Him. (2.2&2.3)

When man disobeyed, sin and death entered the world and spread to all human beings ever since. (2.4)

Besides killing each other, every thought of their heart was evil continually. (2.5)

Instead of caring about what God wanted, they looked after their own desires and became worthless to God. (2.12)

On their own, none sought after God. None were righteous. They did not fear or respect God. (2.7, 2.8, 2.11)

Lesson 3: Because of who God was and what man was like, what is the result?

The God can't have any sin come into His presence and He will not allow sinners to commune with Him. (3.1 & 3.2)

Because all people are guilty of breaking God's laws, God must punish all the sins (which are accumulating). (3.4&3.5)

The judgment is schedule to take place after each person dies. (3.6)

Besides behaviors, thoughts and motives will also be judged and punished. (3.7)

Because God must punish all sin, people cannot make up for their past sins by trying to earn God's approval. (3.8)

Because God created them, owns them, and has made Himself sufficiently known through creation and conscience, nobody is excused from the judgment. They all dishonored God and deserve payback. (3.9)

The righteous punishment will include torment of fire forever. (3.10)

Lesson 4: Out of love and mercy, God made a righteous way to save guilty sinners.

In lesson 3, we learned that God is absolute in His righteousness and no sin can come into His presence. We also learned that no human being can make himself acceptable to the holy God. Even if he were to beg for mercy, God cannot let the sins of the guilty lawbreaker go unpunished while at the same time remain perfectly righteous. The sins had to be punished in order for God's perfect justice to be served. Beginning in Lesson 4, we will learn how God made a way for guilty sinners to be saved while at the same time pouring out the full punishment for sins.

God sent a qualified, righteous substitute to take our punishment and satisfy justice.

4.1 **Romans 6:23** *The wages of sin is death.*

For God's justice to be served, what was the righteous punishment for sins? Death

4.2 **Hebrews 9:22** *According to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.***

For a guilty sinner to have his sins blotted from his record, what had to happen? Someone had to die.

4.3 **Hebrews 10:4** *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*

Could the blood of animals satisfy the demand for justice? No

4.4 **Isaiah 53:5-6** *He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

The prophet Isaiah, who lived about 700 years before Jesus was born, prophesied about a man who would bear the punishment that we deserve. But Isaiah did not say what this man's name would be. But he did tell us in another passage a little more information about him.

Isaiah 9:6 *Unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

How would this man come into the world? As a baby.

What would he be called? Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Though the blood of an animal could not take away sins by dying as a substitute, God pictured substitution using the death of animals (long before Jesus was born). From these actual events, God pictured for us what His perfect sacrifice would be like. One of those events was the Passover lamb that died so that death would not come to the house of the family that killed the Passover lamb.

4.5 Exodus 12:2-13 *This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. ⁸ 'Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ 'Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire -- its head with its legs and its entrails. ¹⁰ 'You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ 'And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. ¹² 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. ¹³ 'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

Describe the lamb that God required: A lamb without blemish, a male of the first year.

What did God tell them to do with the lamb's blood? Put some of it on the two door posts & the lintel over the door.

What did God say would happen in every house without the blood? All firstborn humans and animals in it would die.

What did God promise He would do in every house with blood? Pass over that house so nothing dies in it.

So, even though the blood of animals could not take away sin, God used animals to teach about substitution. (The animal dies so that the human does not have to die.)

4.6 John 1:29 *The next day John [the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

When Jesus was first introduced to Israel by John the Baptist, what did John say about Him?

He said that Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

What qualified Jesus to pay the ransom that God would accept as payment in full?

4.7 II Corinthians 5:21 *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Hebrews 4:15 *He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

Like the Passover lamb that had no blemish, did Jesus ever sin? No.

4.8 Philippians 2:5-11 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Before Jesus the baby was born, what form did He exist in? the form of God

From the time He was born as a baby until the time He died, did Jesus obey God? Yes

How do we know that **God approved of Jesus' sacrifice death**? He raised Him and exalted Him above all

Why did God approve? He obeyed perfectly always, He was perfectly righteous, without blemish.

4.9 John 6:38 *Jesus said: I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

Where did Jesus say He was before coming down to earth? In heaven

4.10 John 5:16-18 *For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. **John 10:26-33** Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. "I and My Father are one." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."*

Why were the Jewish leaders wanting to kill Jesus? He was making Himself equal with God.

4.11 Matthew 16:20-21 *Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

Before Jesus died, what did He say would happen to Him after He died? He would be raised the third day.

4.12 Luke 24:1-8 *Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " And they remembered His words.*

Did Jesus rise from the dead as He promised? Yes

4.13 John 20:24-28 *Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So, he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*

What did Thomas say when he realized that Jesus had risen from the dead? My Lord and my God!

After Thomas said this, did Jesus correct him and tell him that He was not God? No

4.14 Colossians 2:13-15 *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

When Jesus laid down His life, was He defeated? No

By His death, what did Jesus accomplish against His enemies? He disarmed them and made a public spectacle of them.

Lesson 4 review

Next to each review statement, a number is provided in case you want to look back at the verse and question.

In lesson 3, we learned that God is absolute in His righteousness and no sin can come into His presence. We also learned that no human being can make himself acceptable to the holy God. Even if he were to beg for mercy, God cannot let the sins of the guilty lawbreaker go unpunished while at the same time remain perfectly righteous. The sins had to be punished in order for God's perfect justice to be served. In Lesson 4, we learned how God made a way for guilty sinners to be saved while at the same time pouring out the full punishment for sins on His Son.

The punishment for sin is death. (4.1)

To have sins of guilty sinners blotted out, someone had to die and it had to be a human being. (4.2&4.3)

700 years before Jesus, God promised to send a special man to take our full punishment. (4.4)

The man would have to be sinless in order to "take away" sins and Jesus was the One God sent. (4.5&4.6)

Jesus, as a man, was always obedient to God, even to the point of death on the cross. (4.7&4.8)

Because Jesus was always obedient, even unto death, God counts His death as a righteous payment for sins. (4.8)

Though Jesus was a man while on earth, He existed beforehand as God. (4.8&4.9)

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Him because He made Himself out to be equal with God. (4.10)

Before He died, Jesus said that after He died, He would rise again. (4.11)

After He died, Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. (4.12)

Many people saw Him after He rose. When Thomas saw Him, he said, "My Lord and my God!" (4.13)
(Jesus did not correct Thomas for saying that.)

When He died, Jesus was not defeated. Rather, He conquered His enemies through His death. (4.14)

Lesson 5: The Gospel's promise, invitation and the proper response to it.

Though all people have broken God's laws and deserve the wrath of God, Jesus, through His substitutionary death on the cross, made it possible for guilty sinners to be saved from God's wrath. (And this can be accomplished without violating God's absolute righteousness because the sins were punished on Jesus.) Now, God makes the following promises to every person who responds appropriately.

The Gospel promise:

5.1 **Acts 10:43** *To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes into Him [Jesus] will receive remission of sins.* Note: Though many Bibles say, "believes in Jesus," the more accurate translation is, "believes into Him."

What does God promise to do for whoever believes into Jesus? Take away their sins off their record.

5.2 **John 11:25-26** *Jesus said to her, "I AM the resurrection and the Life. Concerning the one who is believing into Me, though he may die, he will Live. And all those who Live and are believing into Me will NEVER, EVER die."*

What else does God promise to the one who is believing into Jesus? A) that he will live even if he dies B) that the actual person himself will Never, ever die.

5.3 **John 1:12** *As many as received Him, He gave them authority to become children of God, to those who are believing into His Name.*

What else does God promise to the one who is believing into Jesus? That he has the right to have a personal relationship with God as one of His beloved children.

The Gospel invitation (call):

5.4 **Luke 5:32** *Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

Who does Jesus call to repentance? sinners

5.5 **John 7:37** *Jesus stood and cried out saying, "If anyone thirsts, come to Me and drink."*

What type of sinner is invited to come to Jesus? The one who "thirsts"

5.6 **Matthew 11:28-30** *Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

How does Jesus describe the person who He invites to come to him? Weary and weighed down with burdens

Imagine the type of person who thinks he is an okay person and is not really concerned about what will happen to him after he dies. Based upon these verses, does it seem like he is invited? No

Is he the type of person who takes Jesus' invitation seriously? No

Why do you think some people are concerned about these things while others are not concerned?

John 6:44 *Jesus said, "No one is able to come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."*

Who are the only ones that will respond to Jesus' invitation and come to Him? Those that the Father draws to Him.

If you are one of the people who is weary and troubled about your sin and what might happen to you after you die, what should you conclude? Jesus has invited you personally and the Father is drawing you to come to Jesus.

(Consider yourself personally invited!!!)

What is expected from those who respond to Jesus' invitation?

5.7 John 3:16 *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes (and continues believing) into Him should not perish but have everlasting Life.*

In order to avoid perishing, what must a person do? Believe (and continue to believe) into Jesus.

Note: The original language of the New Testament includes the idea of continuation (of believing). But since most English Bibles do not convey this aspect of the original Greek words, other verses are included below which convey the need for those who believe into Jesus to continue to believe so that they do not perish.

Colossians 1:21-23 *You, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight –IF indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard.*

John 15:1-6 *Jesus said, "I AM the true vine and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes it away. And every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it that it may bear more fruit. You are now clean because of the Word that I have spoken to you. Remain in Me and I in you. As the branch is not able to bear fruit of itself if it does not remain in the vine, likewise, you are not able to bear fruit if you do not remain in Me. I AM the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me, you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered, and they gather them and throw them into the fire and he is burned."*

Hebrews 10:32-39 *"IF anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul" (Hebrews 10:32-39 NKJV).*

Hebrews 3:14 *"We have become partakers of Christ IF we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end" (Hebrews 3:14).*

So, what happens to the person who stops believing into Jesus and does not remain in Him? He will perish.

5.8 Luke 12:8-9 *Jesus said, "I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God." I **John 4:15** *Whoever confesses (and continues to confess) that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God.**

What does the person who believes into Jesus do and continue to do before men? Confess Jesus

Luke 14:27 *Jesus said, "Anyone who does not carry (and continue to carry) his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."*

If to avoid being killed, a person is not willing to confess (and keep confessing) Jesus before men, can he be one of Jesus' disciples? No

As we saw in Lessons 2 and 3, people (sinners) can do nothing to earn salvation because God must punish all sin. In Lesson 4, we saw that Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross alone makes it possible for a sinner to be reconciled to God. Those who trust in Christ's merit alone receive remission of sins. While this is true, it is important also to understand that genuine believing produces fruit such as the confessing of Jesus before men even when threatened with death for doing so. From the previous verses, we learn something about what it means to really believe into Jesus. It is a very serious thing that involves total surrender of one's life.

5.9 Romans 12:1 *I beseech you brethren through the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well-pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.* **Luke 9:24** *Jesus said, "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."*

What will a person do when they really believe into Jesus? He will surrender his entire life into Jesus' care and trust Him to govern over it, even if Jesus decides to take his life from him.

Note that this idea of surrender is a part of Jesus' invitation. He said come and take my yoke upon you. (See 5.6.) A yoke is a device that bonds two animals together. So, the one who comes to Jesus willingly surrenders the rule of his life to Jesus and begins walking in lockstep with Him for the rest of his life.

5.10 John 15:18-20 *Jesus said, "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, on account of this, the world hates you. Now remember the saying that I told you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."* **Matthew 7:13-14** *Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."*

If you accept Jesus' invitation and begin to follow Him, what treatment should you expect? Hatred and persecution.

Will following Jesus be easy or difficult? difficult

5.11 Matthew 28:19 *Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

What is one of the first things you can do in order to confess Jesus before men? Be baptized in front of them.

What characterizes the lives of those who truly accept Jesus' invitation?

5.12 Titus 2:11-14 *The saving grace of God has appeared to all men, instructing us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us that He might deliver us from all lawlessness, and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

What was God's ultimate purpose for sending Jesus here to die? That He might deliver us from all lawlessness, and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

II Peter 1:5-8 *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and are increasing, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

When a person truly believes into Jesus, what begins to happen? He becomes more and more like Jesus.

God's Redemption Message general knowledge evaluation

The following questions are provided so that the student can evaluate his overall knowledge of God's Redemption Message in the Bible. If you are unsure of an answer, that is okay. It would be helpful to write what you think might be the correct answer. And if you have no idea how to answer a question, just leave it blank. When you review the questions and answer with your teacher, you can note the correct answers on your copy of the God's Redemption Message study guide and this will sharpen your understanding of the gospel further.

Answer these questions according to the Bible:

1. Do you think God requires all people to obey Him perfectly every moment of their life? YES
2. If so, do you think this is fair? YES Why? He created us and therefore owns us.
3. Have you fulfilled God's requirement that you obey Him perfectly every moment of your life? No
4. Do you think that you deserve to be punished for your many acts of disobedience? Yes
5. If so, what type of punishment do you think your sins deserve? Hell, forever.
6. Do you think it would be okay or right ("just") if God excused your sin? No
7. Do you think He can excuse sins? No
8. If you think it would not be right for God to excuse sins, why do you think it would not be right? Because if He did so, He would fail to be a righteous judge...He would fail to uphold the law.
9. Pretend that the only sin you ever committed throughout your life was one little lie. If you died with just that one little lie on your record, do you think God would let you into heaven or send you to hell forever? Send me to hell forever
10. The Bible teaches that God must punish each and every sin and all who die with their sins must suffer in hell forever. Do you agree with this? Yes
11. Since the Bible teaches that everyone has sinned, does everyone therefore deserve to go to hell? Yes
12. If this is true, what hope (apart from God's help) can anyone have of escaping hell since everyone has sinned and God cannot excuse any sin? No hope of escaping punishment if we go to the judgment with sin on our record.
13. Did God provide a way of escape? Yes
- 13a. If so, what is the way of escape He provided? He sent His Son to take the full punishment for my sins and accepted His death as full payment for my sins.
14. Does God excuse sins under His way of escape? (Does He pretend that they did not happen?) No, all the sins were fully punished in a righteous way. He graciously took the punishment Himself.
15. If God does not simply excuse sins under His way of escape, how are all the sins punished? On Jesus, the innocent One.
16. Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son as the Bible declares? Yes

17. Do you believe that Jesus died for you personally or for other people? For me personally and for other people too.
18. If you believe that Jesus died for you personally, bearing the punishment for all your sins, do you think that God accepted Jesus' payment in your behalf? Yes!
19. If you believe that Jesus took your punishment, what do you think will happen to you after you die? My body will be raised from the dead and I will live with Jesus forever enjoying His love.
20. Besides deliverance from the punishment (hell), how else does salvation affect those who believe the gospel from the heart? They receive new life from above that is inclined to obey God.
21. What types of changes in the things a person likes or dislikes, if any, would you expect to take place if that person starts believing the gospel from the heart? He will no longer love sin. He will hate it. He will also love God instead of hate Him. He will be inclined to obey Him. He will begin to think, feel and act like Jesus does.
22. If you are, or soon become a disciple of Jesus Christ, what will you do if people start to make fun of you, persecute you or injure you (just because you are one of Jesus' disciples)? By God's grace, I will bear up under it and look to Him for comfort.
23. Do you plan to continue running your life in a way that suits you or do you want Jesus to run it from now on? By God's grace, I plan to live my life joyfully submitted to Jesus as my loving Master.
24. If Jesus wants you to do something very different such as leaving this country to take the gospel to people who live in a country far away, would you leave or stay here? By God's grace, I would leave.
25. What does God expect and command all people to do in response to the gospel? Believe it and surrender the control of my life to Him to do with it as He pleases.
26. Did Jesus teach that being a disciple would be easy or difficult? Difficult
27. Is it okay if a person keeps his identity as a disciple of Jesus secret in hope that other people will not make fun of him or mistreat him? No
28. What might this type of behavior suggest? He is more concerned about what other people think of him and he is ashamed of Jesus.
29. If a person gives up being a disciple of Jesus and returns to his old way of living, what will happen to him at the judgment? Unless he repents before dying, he should think he is headed for hell.
30. Is it important to have strong hope that we will be saved at the end and live with Jesus forever? Yes, otherwise, we would give up our striving because we are very weak.
31. What is the basis for someone having strong hope of this? 1) God has promised to raise all who believe the Gospel. 2) There is evidence of genuine faith in the person, especially when he endures suffering while remaining loyal to Jesus as Lord.

What will you do in response to God's Redemption Message?

(Questions for you personally)

1. What promise can you point to in the Bible that proves Jesus will accept you as one of His disciples? He promised to receive me if I come to Him. So, I now plan to follow Jesus until I die.
2. Is there any reason for you hesitating to identify yourself as a disciple of Jesus Christ by being baptized as soon as possible? No reason not to do so.
3. What do you think you should do about this? I will declare my allegiance to Jesus as His disciple by being baptized. And I will begin telling friends and family that I am now following Jesus.
4. If you are hesitating, what do you suppose is causing you to hesitate? _____
6. Are you content to let that stand in your way? No (Nobody should be content letting anything stand in their way).

Do you have any questions? If so, write them below and discuss them with your teacher.

Moving forward

If you believe God's Redemption Message, you must, (and you will) begin following Jesus. Because you believe the gospel, you will find yourself becoming increasingly thankful to God for sending Jesus to die for you. You will also increasingly look forward to the day that you will be glorified together with Him (just as God has promised to all who believe and continue to believe the gospel). God's Redemption Message will become increasingly wonderful to you. As a result, you will want to read and learn more and more about it in the Bible. Because of what Jesus has done and promised, you will also spontaneously want your unbelieving friends and family to know about God's Redemption Message. Because you care what happens to them, you will find yourself asking God to help them understand their situation so that they also turn to Jesus. Because other Christians also believe, you will enjoy their company and enjoy talking with them about Jesus. If none of these things begin to happen, then you probably have not yet begun to believe the gospel from the heart. Ask God and keep asking Him to help you understand and believe the gospel from the heart.

If you do believe the gospel from the heart, you will have a new desire to please God and observe Him doing great things within you. And you will soon experience trials of your faith. Every believer experiences both victories and defeats in their new life of faith. Victories are encouraging because they prove that God is unleashing His power and glory in our lives. With each victory, it is evident that God is the One who brought about the victory. But sometimes, we experience spiritual defeats. These are times when we failed to lay hold of God's power and deliverance. This happens whenever we attempt to accomplish things in our own power. Jesus said that apart from Him, we can do nothing. (See John 15:5.) Spiritual defeat always produces discouragement. Also, Satan is actively trying to turn believers away from Jesus so that they return to their old way of living.

Sometimes, a believer can get so discouraged that he might begin to wonder if he is even a Christian. He might think that he is fooling himself or that he just does not have it within himself to continue following Jesus. If this happens, just know that you are not alone. Honest Christians will admit that this type of thing has happened to them also. Like every Christian, you need a solid hope/expectation of glory. Satan does not want you to have hope of glory. He wants you to think there is no use even trying to follow Jesus. You need to know that because of God's Redemption Message, any Christian, including you, can regain your hope of glory and increasingly gain hope/expectation of glory.

Satan's strategy is to mix truth with lies in order to confuse you and distract you from God's promise. One thing he will try to tell you is that you are pathetic and no good. This is actually true. We are all pathetic and no good. But then Satan will try to tell you that God does not love you and wants nothing to do with you. This is an all out lie that contradicts God's promise.

Here is what you need to do and probably do every day. You need to rehearse the truth of the gospel.

1. God has already proven that He loves you because Jesus died for you. (Romans 5:8)
2. Jesus' sacrifice has made the way fully open for sinners to be reconciled to God.
3. The fact that you are even concerned about this proves that He is, and has been calling you to come to Jesus.
4. Jesus' invitation to you (personally) is to come (and keep coming) to Him. And He promised that the one who comes and keeps coming to Him, He will NEVER cast out, but rather, raise him on the last day. (John 6:37-39)

This gospel is God's power to propel you unto your ultimate salvation. He does not retract His promise to glorify those who continue following Jesus. While you are in this age, you will always be battling against the desires of your sinful flesh. If you give in and revert back to living the old way according to the dictates of our own flesh, you are in danger of perishing. But, if you remain in the battle, striving to put to death the misdeeds of your flesh, you will live! (See Romans 8:13). Yes, you will experience both victories and defeats. But the important thing is to get back up after every defeat and resume the battle, knowing that glory is promised by God if you keep in the battle. Just keep rehearsing the gospel truth (#1-4 above) and standing firmly upon God's sure promise of the gospel. The more victories you observe, the more evidence you have that Christ is in you. Therefore, you have all the reason to hope/expect glory. (*Christ in you, the hope of glory – Colossians 1:27.*) Keep asking God to show you all the things He is doing within you. Evidence of the Holy Spirit's work includes such things as an increased interest in the Bible, a desire to help other people in need, a desire that people learn the gospel, a desire to observe God's great works in you and in the world, a desire to pray, a desire to be with God's people.