



GREAT
Truths
OF THE BIBLE

LESSON
ANSWER KEY

LESSON ANSWER KEY

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LESSON ONE

What the Bible Teaches Us about God

GREAT TRUTH 1

There is only one true God

1. GOD HEAVENS EARTH
2. NO OTHER NO GOD
3. PRAISE IDOLS GLORY HOLINESS ALL

GREAT TRUTH 2

God is our Creator and the Creator of the entire universe

1. CHECK required.
2. HEAVENS EARTH SEAS EVERYTHING WORSHIP
3. LIFE BREATH EVERYTHING
4. C
5. IMPOSSIBLE
6. INMOST BEING DAYS ONE

GREAT TRUTH 3

Our God is an awesome God

1. ETERNAL IMMORTAL INVISIBLE
2. a. EVERLASTING EVERLASTING
b. SAME END
3. COMPASSIONATE GRACIOUS ANGER LOVE
4. a. HOLY HOLY HOLY GLORY
b. GLORY HOLY
c. HOLY HOLY
5. SPIRIT
6. A, B, C
7. RIGHTEOUS
8. RIGHT JUST
9. D
10. A
11. LOVE

GREAT TRUTH 4

Though there is only one true God, this God exists in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

1. ONE
2. THE FATHER
3. GOD
4. SPIRIT OF GOD
5. THE FATHER THE SON HOLY SPIRIT
6. B

ESSAY QUESTIONS: The questions here require the students to express their own thoughts. Be sensitive to any misconceptions or wrong ideas students might have and respond to them appropriately.

LESSON TWO

How We Can Learn about God

GREAT TRUTH 5

God has made Himself known through the Bible

Where did the Bible come from?

1. EVERYTHING
2. B
3. GOD-BREATHED
4. FALSE

What is the main message of the Bible?

1. SALVATION FAITH
2. TRUE
3. BELIEVE LIFE

Can we trust what the Bible says?

1. TRUTH
2. SET ASIDE
3. DISAPPEAR
4. TRUE
5. A

What is the value of reading and studying the Bible?

1. LAMP LIGHT
2. a. YOUR WORD
b. HEART SIN
3. COMFORT
4. WISER
5. TEACHERS MEDITATE
6. B
7. REBUKING CORRECTING GOOD WORK

GREAT TRUTH 6 **God has also made Himself known through His creation**

1. GLORY SPEECH KNOWLEDGE HEARD EARTH WORLD
2. ETERNAL POWER DIVINE NATURE
3. C
4. RAIN CROPS FOOD
5. TRUE

GREAT TRUTH 7 **God sometimes made Himself known to people in other ways**

1. SANDALS HOLY
2. A
3. B
4. IN A DREAM

GREAT TRUTH 8 **God revealed Himself most clearly and fully through His Son, Jesus Christ**

1. SON ALL UNIVERSE
2. FLESH GLORY FATHER TRUTH KNOWN
3. ONE
4. C

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Many things might be mentioned. Among them are the following:
 - God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - God is holy, just, and righteous.
 - God is merciful and forgiving.
 - God is compassionate and gracious.
 - God wants us to love, honor, serve, and obey Him in ways that He has taught us.
 - God knows all things, understands all things, and can do all things in accordance with His will.
 - God will punish the unrepentant and unbelieving with everlasting destruction.
 - God will someday create a new heaven and earth in which righteousness dwells.
 - God promises that believers will live with Him forever in glory.
2. Students should disagree. If we pick and choose from the Bible those things we like and reject the rest, we set ourselves up as the ultimate authority in life. We must always be careful to place ourselves under the Bible's authority rather than evaluating the Bible by what we think is right and true.
3. Each student will give different answers to this question.
4. Students should agree with this statement. However, we should recognize and acknowledge that we do use certain terms in our teaching, such as "Trinity," "persons" etc., which are not found in the Bible itself, but are based on what the Bible says. Our primary objective here is to make sure that students do not turn to literature of the sects, cults, or non-Christian religions which teach things about God which are clearly contrary to what the Bible teaches.



LESSON THREE

The Creation of Humanity and Their Fall into Sin

GREAT TRUTH 9

God created humanity in His own image

1. IMAGE LIKENESS
2. TRUE
3. DUST GROUND BREATH LIFE LIVING BEING
4. RIB
5. ADAM AND EVE
6. BEAUTIFUL PEACEFUL FRUITFUL
7. VERY GOOD
8. FRUITFUL INCREASE RULE EVERY
9. FALSE
10. GLORY HONOR RULER EVERYTHING

1. GOOD EVIL
2. DIE
3. SERPENT
4. OPENED GOD EVIL
5. C
6. D
7. TRUE
8. They tried to hide
9. A
10. HIS WIFE; EVE
11. CHILDBEARING PAINFUL HUSBAND RULE
12. GROUND PAINFUL THORNS THISTLES SWEAT DUST DUST
13. DIE

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Answers to this will vary. However, each student should recognize that one of the most important things about humanity in the beginning was that people were holy and without sin. They had a beautiful relationship with God, with each other, and with the world around them. They also were free from all the results of sin—such as sickness, sorrow, pain, and hardship.
2. The results of humanity's sin are everywhere: suffering, sorrow, discord, hunger, disease, war, fear, crime, pain, misunderstanding, pollution, corruption, etc.
3. They died morally and spiritually. They became alienated from God, spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins. They "died" in their relationship to God and to each other, and they became mortal, destined for physical death.
4. Yes. We should treat each other with the dignity, respect, and concern that everyone deserves as an image bearer of God.
5. Some might give biblical reasons for this answer, while others might point to a deep personal awareness of their sin and lostness apart from Christ. The student should recognize that Adam and Eve's sin made us broken people, and affects us every day.



LESSON FOUR

Only God Can Save Humanity from Sin

GREAT TRUTH 11

Humanity is no longer holy or good

1. DECEITFUL CURE
2. EVIL THOUGHTS THEFT ADULTERY ENVY FOLLY
3. DEAD FLESH DESIRES THOUGHTS WRATH
4. DISOBEDIENT PLEASURES ENVY HATING
5. NONE; NOT EVEN ONE
6. DECEIVE OURSELVES

GREAT TRUTH 12

There is nothing we can do to make ourselves right with God

1. B
2. FILTHY RAGS
3. FALSE
4. ALL

GREAT TRUTH 13

Our sins provoke God to anger and deserve eternal punishment

1. a. DETECT HATE
b. DEATH
2. a. WRATH ANGER
b. WRATH DISOBEDIENT
3. a. REPAID
b. BLAZING FURNACE WEeping
c. EVERLASTING LORD

1. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
2. HIS SON JESUS
3. CHRIST DIED FOR US
4. LAMB SIN
5. C
6. DESTROY THE DEVIL'S WORK
7. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
CHECK required.
8. a. REPENT SINS
b. BELIEVE SAVED
9. A
10. FALSE
11. LOVE MERCY ALIVE DEAD GRACE FAITH GIFT WORKS

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Most students will probably acknowledge that what the Bible says is true. They will recognize the sinfulness of their own hearts and will also recognize the sinfulness of others. Some students, however, may indicate that they know some “good” people, even though they are not Christians. If so, point out to them that even though some people may do things that are “good” by human standards, no one loves God and others perfectly as God requires. No one lives every moment to God’s glory. No one is free from sin. Even though God graciously restrains some people from committing all kinds of sinful deeds, sin resides deeply in every human heart.
2. Students’ answers will vary. However, they should include such things as the following: God demands perfection in all that we do, and we are all very imperfect. No one is capable of keeping God’s law or giving Him the perfect love and obedience He requires of us; each day we add to our debt through the sins we commit. The penalty for any sin is eternal death, so none of us can pay that penalty and still live.
3. It is extremely serious, since the Bible never speaks of a “second chance” to repent and believe after we die. Hebrews 9:27 tells us that people are destined to die once and after that we will face judgment. Those who are not forgiven will experience the full penalty for their sins.



LESSON FIVE

Jesus Christ, Our Savior, Is Truly Human and also Truly God

GREAT TRUTH 15

Jesus Christ is human—just like us

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT
2. MANGER ROOM*
3. GREW STRONG WISDOM
4. WISDOM STATURE GOD MEN
5. TRUE
6. A
7. TRUE

GREAT TRUTH 16

Jesus is the Son of God

1. SON OF GOD
2. SON OF GOD
3. SON LOVE
4. CHRIST SON LIVING GOD

GREAT TRUTH 17

Jesus Christ is truly God

1. MIGHTY GOD
2. GOD WITH US
3. GOD
4. DEITY
5. MY GOD
6. O GOD
7. GOD HUMAN
8. GOD SAVIOR
9. JESUS
10. TRUE

**Students who receive an older version of this lesson may have three blanks. The correct answers are NO ROOM INN, but answers may vary slightly depending on which Bible translation is used.*

GREAT TRUTH 18

Jesus lived a life of perfect obedience

1. SIN (or WITHOUT SIN**)
2. NO SIN DECEIT
3. SIN
4. RIGHTEOUS
5. FAITH BELIEVE

GREAT TRUTH 19

Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin

1. CHECK required.
2. A
3. B
4. a. SAVE SINNERS
b. OUR SINS
c. OUR SINS
d. THE SINS
5. a. LOVED
b. LOVED LOVED (or LOVE**)
c. LIFE (or HIS LIFE**)
d. HIS LIFE
6. PLAN (or PURPOSE**) FOREKNOWLEDGE CROSS
7. B

GREAT TRUTH 20

Jesus Christ arose from the dead and returned to heaven

1. a. MARY MAGDALENE
b. AFRAID CRUCIFIED RISEN DISCIPLES
c. HURRIED AWAY AFRAID JOY
2. CONVINCING PROOFS ALIVE KINGDOM GOD
3. a. PREACHING FAITH
b. FUTILE SINS
c. LOST
d. PITIED
4. C
5. a. PREPARE PLACE
b. COMPLETELY INTERCEDE
c. HIGHEST EVERY
d. ALL EVERYTHING
6. HEAVEN LOWLY GLORIOUS

***Some students may receive an older version of this lesson with slightly different answers.*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Answers here will certainly vary. Some may emphasize *who* Jesus was—both human and God. Others might emphasize *what* Jesus did. Still others might emphasize what Jesus means to them *personally*. All students should at least include something about Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and future return. But do not expect a complete Christology in one paragraph!
2. In His human nature, Jesus is as human as we are and was tempted as we are. He certainly does understand all our temptations. In His compassion and mercy, He is concerned about everything that concerns us. Moreover, because He is divine, He is able to know each one of us completely and give each one of us all the attention we need or desire.
3. If Jesus was nothing more than a “good” person, He was not and could not be our Savior. We need a Savior who was perfect in every way and who was both willing and able to pay the eternal death penalty we deserved. Moreover, since Jesus made some fantastic claims for Himself, He was not even a “good” person if the claims He made were not true. Either Jesus was all He said He was or He is in no way worthy of our praise, trust, or obedience.
4. We hope that each student will be able to say sincerely that Jesus Christ is his or her Savior and Lord. If a student is not able to say that yet at this point, do stress (again) the importance of repentance and faith and the glory and joy which accompany salvation. You may also wish to share briefly your own testimony.



LESSON SIX

What the Bible Says about Salvation

GREAT TRUTH 21

Salvation must include repentance from sin

1. REPENT
2. CONFESSING BAPTIZED
3. REPENT GOD DEEDS
4. FALSE
5. BROKEN CONTRITE DESPISE
6. B
7. a. JOY GLADNESS
b. CLEAN or PURE
c. SALVATION WILLING
8. B

GREAT TRUTH 22

Salvation must include a personal faith in Jesus

1. ETERNAL LIFE REJECTS WRATH
2. a. BELIEVED CHILDREN
b. SAVED
c. BELIEVES ETERNAL LIFE
3. LORD
4. TRUE
5. B

GREAT TRUTH 23

The blessings of salvation are many

1. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
2. D
3. PEACE
4. CHILDREN OF GOD
5. a. SPIRITUAL
b. CREATION HOLY BLAMELESS
c. SONSHIP (or HIS SONS*)
d. GRACE
e. REDEMPTION FORGIVENESS SINS GRACE
6. PREPARE PLACE COME BACK I AM

GREAT TRUTH 24

No one is too sinful or too bad to be saved

1. WORST MERCY WORST PATIENCE BELIEVE ETERNAL
2. TRUE
FALSE
TRUE
TRUE
TRUE
3. TODAY PARADISE
4. TRUE
5. WHITE RED WOOL

**Some students may receive an older version of this lesson with slightly different answers.*

1. ETERNAL LIFE PERISH SNATCH NO ONE
2. BEGAN COMPLETION
3. BELIEVE KNOW

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Sin involves a very serious offense against God. If we are not sorry that we have offended God and do not repent of that, we are not even serious about wanting forgiveness. We may want to avoid the penalty for our sin, but we are then concerned only about ourselves and not about the honor and holiness of God. God will forgive only those who understand what they have done, who are sincerely sorry for having offended Him, and who desire a new heart and spirit, as David did.
2. Most students should understand by now that Christ lived, died, and rose again in their place, meriting eternal life for those who believe and paying the death penalty which they deserve.
3. Most students will understand that no one is too bad to be forgiven.
4. Students will probably point to their way of life, their testimony, their devotional life, their sincere desire to study the Bible, and their eagerness to share the message of salvation with others.


LESSON SEVEN
What the Bible Says about Following Jesus as Our Lord

1. LORD KINGS
2. LORD
3. LORD GOD
4. TRUE
5. LORD
6. B
7. LORD JESUS CHRIST
8. TURN AWAY FROM WICKEDNESS
9. MONEY (POSSESSIONS, WEALTH, PROPERTY, RICHES...)
10. FALSE

Students should express that it is impossible for someone to be a Christian without serving Jesus as Lord in everything. Service to Jesus is an immediate response to the grace God first showed us.

GREAT TRUTH 27

It may be very costly for us to follow Jesus as Lord

1. ME HATES MASTER YOU
2. GOD FATHER ME
3. A
4. EVERYTHING
5. A
6. GODLY PERSECUTED
7. WORLD SUFFERINGS
8. a. INSULT ME
 b. SURPRISED ABUSE
 c. INSULTED CHRIST
9. C

**Those who faithfully follow Jesus as Lord will
receive great blessing and joy**

GREAT TRUTH 28

1. GLAD HEAVEN
2. MOMENTARY ETERNAL GLORY
3. A
4. HONOR SERVES
5. C
6. TRUE
7. C

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. No. Everyone who has truly been born again will also have a strong desire to live a life of thankfulness and obedience to Jesus. It's quite possible, of course, for sincere believers to fall into sin—even very serious sin. However, sin and failure will always be followed by sincere repentance and by a sincere desire to live for Christ—even if the desire is not always faithfully carried out.
2. Everyone who truly desires to serve Christ as Lord will want to serve Christ as Lord in every area of his life. Anyone who deliberately chooses not to honor Christ as Lord in even one area of his life has chosen to make himself lord rather than Christ. At the same time, we must readily acknowledge that almost all of us have at least one area of weakness in our lives where we struggle to honor Jesus consistently as Lord. We may seriously desire to serve Christ in this area, but we do not faithfully carry out that desire. So, though it is theoretically true that Christ is Lord of all or not Lord at all, almost everyone of us will have to acknowledge that we fail to honor Christ as Lord the way we should. Even so, our prayerful desire should always be to make Christ Lord of all without hesitation, excuse or compromise.

3. In general, the answer should be a clear *Yes*. Those who follow Christ will seek to honor Him in every area of life and others will soon discern this. Areas where our Christian commitment should become evident are in such things as our language, attitude, concern for others, devotional life, and in an increasing demonstration of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).
4. Some students may not wish to answer this question at all. A few may give an answer which is not really true. Others, however, may choose to share with you something they are really wrestling with. Those who do this should receive from you a sincere, thoughtful, humble, biblically-based response.
5. Students who are being “persecuted” for their faith will probably experience some form of ridicule, mockery, taunting, or the like. They may also be subject to very special temptations. A few may also be subject to various forms of physical abuse. Be sensitive to their responses.
6. Believers are blessed already now! They have peace with God, forgiveness, the promises of God, and many other blessings besides. (Review some of the blessings mentioned in Lesson 6.) However, some students may also be experiencing some very difficult times and consequently long for their heavenly home. Such longing is quite natural for a persecuted or struggling believer and should not be condemned. However, students should be encouraged to trust the Lord for help in their present situations rather than try to escape from or run away from their problems. Encourage each student with such things as the following:
 - (a) Reflect on the blessings we have already now and thank God for them.
 - (b) Remember that God often uses difficult circumstances to purify and strengthen our faith and make us stronger and more effective Christians.
 - (c) Take courage from the fact that God promises never to leave us nor forsake us.
 - (d) Rejoice in God’s promise of future blessings, give Him thanks for them, and joyfully look forward to them.



LESSON EIGHT

The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life

GREAT TRUTH 29

The Holy Spirit is the giver of life

1. WATERS
2. MADE LIFE
3. CREATED GROUND
4. SPIRIT SPIRIT BORN AGAIN
5. CREATION OLD NEW
6. GOOD GIFTS ASK HIM

GREAT TRUTH 30

The Holy Spirit helps believers live fruitful and holy lives

1. HOLY ALL I AM HOLY
2. TRUE
3. LOVE PEACE KINDNESS FAITHFULNESS SELF-CONTROL
4. B
5. POWER WITNESSES
6. A
7. TEMPLES YOUR OWN BOUGHT BODIES

GREAT TRUTH 31

The Holy Spirit helps believers bring praise and thanksgiving to God

1. WINE FILLED SPIRIT HEART EVERYTHING
2. D
3. GOOD
4. POWER GREATNESS
5. LOVE FAITHFULNESS
6. DARKNESS SON
7. ALL WILL
8. We should also tell others what Jesus has done for us.

GREAT TRUTH 32

The Holy Spirit helps believers show their thankfulness in lives of service and obedience

1. MERCY LIVING PLEASING THIS WORLD MIND
2. B
3. THANK SONGS JOY
4. E
5. LOVE

1. ANYTHING WILL
2. WEAKNESS PRAY FOR WORDLESS THE SPIRIT GOD
3. a. ME ANSWER TROUBLE HONOR
 b. CALL HEAR
 c. ANSWER YOU
 d. GIVEN FIND OPENED
4. A
5. D
6. YOUR YOUR YOUR
7. TRUE
8. PRAY CONTINUALLY
9. TRUE
10. B

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Students should agree. We can in no way earn salvation by what we do ourselves. Salvation is totally a gift of God’s grace which we receive by faith. However, once we are saved, we will begin to do the good works which “God prepared in advance for us to do.” Someone who claims to be saved but does not do good works of service and gratitude is not truly saved at all. See James 2:14-26.
2. By nature all people are spiritually dead in their transgressions and sins, totally depraved, incapable of doing any spiritual good (Ephesians 2:1-3). Therefore, they need a new heart, a new spiritual nature. They need to be made alive in Christ or “born again” (Ephesians 2:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:5-8). Being “born again” means to receive this new nature or new heart which comes to us through the work of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20). Though the old sinful nature can never please God (Romans 7:18; Romans 8:8, 13), the new Spirit-given nature does produce spiritual fruit which pleases God and leads to life, peace, and holiness (Romans 6:20, 22; Romans 8:6).
3. Some students might find it difficult to find ways to express their gratitude and praise to God under their present circumstances. Others, however, find many ways to do so. They can pray, tell others about Christ, worship with others, help others who are in need, learn more about God through the study of His Word, put aside deeds of darkness and walk as children of light.
4. Student responses will obviously be varied but should all be very interesting. Be sensitive to their observations and provide encouragement where you can.
5. Each student will find different things to write about here. Answers may include the following (as well as other valid things): God is eager to have us pray and willing to listen to us and answer us when we do; Jesus prays for us in heaven and the Holy Spirit also helps us pray according to God’s will; God grants us far more than we ask for or can even think of; we should pray for the needs of others and not just for our own; we should always remember to pray first of all for God’s honor and glory (“Your kingdom come, Your name be hallowed, Your will be done”). We do well to follow the ACTS pattern of prayer—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

LESSON NINE

What the Bible Says about Relationships

GREAT TRUTH 34

Relationships are a gift from God

1. B and C
 2. STRANGERS ANGELS WITHOUT KNOWING
 3. GRACE
 4. COMPASSION KINDNESS HUMILITY GENTLENESS PATIENCE
 5. a. EVIL EVIL RIGHT DEPENDS PEACE REVENGE WRATH ENEMY
FEED GIVE NOT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD
 - b. KIND COMPASSIONATE FORGIVING GOD FORGAVE YOU
 - c. FORGIVE FORGIVE THE LORD FORGAVE YOU
6. B
 7. LOVE LOVED LOVE HATES LIAR LOVE LOVE LOVES LOVE
 8. D

GREAT TRUTH 35

Both being married and being single are gifts from God

1. MALE FEMALE
2. GOOD FAVOR
3. FULFILL WIFE BODY HUSBAND BODY WIFE
4. TRUE
5. NOT TO RESTRICT YOU UNDIVIDED DEVOTION

GREAT TRUTH 36

God gave us guidelines for a good marriage

1. A and C
2. C
3. HONORED PURE JUDGE
4. B
5. PURITY REVERENCE
6. INNER GENTLE QUIET GOD'S
7. CONSIDERATE RESPECT LIFE PRAYERS

GREAT TRUTH 37

1. C
2. HEARTS CHILDREN HOME WALK LIE GET UP
3. a. NOT TURN FROM IT
b. PEACE DELIGHT(S)*
4. a. DISGRACES
b. JUDGE SIN RESTRAIN
5. DISCOURAGED
6. A
7. a. FATHER MOTHER
b. RIGHT FATHER
c. FAITH GRANDMOTHER MOTHER YOU
8. HONOR
9. A
10. A

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Some students may give a fairly routine response to this question. Others, however, may point out an area in which they are really struggling to be obedient to the Lord. Seek to be sensitive to their situation so that you can be helpful in your response.
2. Some students may already have had a significant failure in relationships. They may genuinely regret what they have done wrong and express a strong desire to start over—either in a marriage or in another relationship. Some will acknowledge that following God’s guidelines is the only possible way for them to be happy in their relationships.
3. Many students may be able to write here from experience. Some may come from broken homes with strained relationships and may themselves be separated or divorced or estranged. An Instructor could possibly relate to the student because many are also affected by broken homes in some way. However, even if Instructors cannot relate to the student’s situation, seek to be empathetic and understanding to their comments and feelings.
4. It is quite likely that most students will recognize that the failures in their own lives and in the lives of others have come about because they did not follow the Bible’s teachings. It is doubtful that many students will suggest other teachings that they think are actually better than those found in the Bible.
5. Some students may find that it is too late for them to make the changes they would like to see. They may simply regret that there is nothing they can do presently to repair the damage brought about by earlier mistakes. On the other hand, many might welcome the opportunity to indicate what they would like to do or wish they had done. It should be interesting to read their answers.

**Some students may receive an older version of this lesson with slightly different answers.*

LESSON TEN

What the Bible Says about the Church

GREAT TRUTH 38 The church of Jesus Christ is made up of all true believers

1. C
2. a. BODY
b. WIFE or BRIDE
c. HOLY TEMPLE
d. PILLAR FOUNDATION
3. COUNT TRIBE LANGUAGE LAMB

GREAT TRUTH 39 We can recognize the true church of Jesus Christ by what it teaches and what it does

1. TEACHING TRUTH FREE
2. TEST FALSE PROPHETS
3. FALSE
4. A
5. LOVE ONE ANOTHER
6. OBEY LOVE HOME TEACHING
7. C
8. FALSE
9. DISCIPLES BAPTIZING EVERYTHING

GREAT TRUTH 40 Members of Christ's church joyfully serve others

1. SERVED GIVE HIS LIFE
2. D
3. DOING GOOD OPPORTUNITY ALL BELIEVERS
4. LOVE GOOD DEEDS
5. B

GREAT TRUTH 41 The church should be different than the unbelieving world

1. LOVE THE FATHER FLESH (or CRAVINGS*) EYES PRIDE (or BOASTING*) WORLD
2. C
3. FALSE
4. NO WORLDLY PASSIONS SELF-CONTROLLED

**Some students may receive an older version of this lesson with slightly different answers.*

1. SALT LIGHT
2. POWER WITNESSES
3. PREACHED WHEREVER
4. GLORIFY (or PRAISE*) FATHER
5. a. NUMBER SAVED
- b. COURAGE ORDINARY ASTONISHED JESUS
- c. DISCIPLES RAPIDLY LARGE FAITH

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Answers will vary. However, since special emphasis is put on the church as the Bride of Christ in this lesson and in the Roadmap, many may choose to comment on this.
2. The answer is clearly No. It is difficult or even impossible to speak effectively and persuasively about the life-changing work of Christ if one is not changed oneself.
3. Some will probably write about the effectiveness of a changed life. Others may write about direct, personal evangelism. Still others may emphasize quiet conversations, Bible studies, worship—or other things. You may well learn something from your students to help you witness more effectively yourself!
4. We would like students to remember some of the traditional “marks” of the true church such as the pure preaching of God’s Word, faithful and proper celebration of the sacraments, effective and consistent church discipline, and a strong outreach program of some kind. Some students, however, may choose to write about good fellowship, lively sermons, love and warmth, personal acceptance, uplifting music, a variety of people in terms of age, race, interests, and other things. All of these things are also significant but we do not want them to lose sight of the items first mentioned above.

**LESSON ELEVEN****What the Bible Says about Failures, Frustrations and Faithfulness**

**The strongest believers must still wrestle with
sin and failure in their lives**

GREAT TRUTH 43

1. SILENT GROANING HEAVY STRENGTH
2. B
3. UNDERSTAND WANT HATE
4. C
5. Peter denied three times that he knew Jesus.
6. NAIL MARKS FINGER SIDE BELIEVE
7. FALSE

**Some students may receive an older version of this lesson with slightly different answers.*

GREAT TRUTH 44

We may experience major problems and trials in this life

1. JOY TRIALS FAITH
2. CROWN LIFE
3. PEACE TROUBLE OVERCOME
4. A, C and D
5. GENUINE
6. ASTRAY OBEY
7. B
8. OUTWARDLY INWARDLY LIGHT MOMENTARY
GLORY SEEN UNSEEN TEMPORARY ETERNAL

GREAT TRUTH 45

God is faithful to all His promises and will never fail us

1. WITH LEAVE FORSAKE AFRAID
2. PARDONS ANGRY MERCY COMPASSION DEPTHS SEA
3. DESERVE HEAVENS GREAT LOVE EAST WEST REMOVED
4. FAITHLESS FAITHFUL
5. SEARCH LOOK AFTER RESCUE SCATTERED
6. LOVE CONSUMED COMPASSIONS FAITHFULNESS
7. ANXIETY CARES
8. PROSPER HOPE FUTURE PRAY LISTEN FIND HEART
9. DEATH LIFE PRESENT FUTURE ANYTHING ELSE SEPARATE
10. TIRED FALL HOPE STRENGTH EAGLES WEARY FAINT

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Answers will vary depending on the students' experiences.
2. Most of us, even the mature Christians among us, cannot honestly say that we find our trials to be a source of "pure joy." On the other hand, there are some people who have profited greatly from their trials and who honestly thank God for them. All of us should seek to find "God's rose" in the midst of the thorns of our lives. We will rarely enjoy the thorny trials, but we may have the satisfaction and thus the joy of knowing that God is graciously using trials for our spiritual benefit.
3. The blessings of our future are wonderfully great—beyond anything we can imagine or describe. At the same time, the blessings of our present life are great, too. True Christians enjoy peace, love, joy in the Lord, and all the benefits and blessings of salvation already now (see Lesson 6). If we learn, as Paul did, to be content under all circumstances (Philippians 4:11-12), and if we are able to do whatever God requires of us—with Christ's help—(Philippians 4:13), we will enjoy blessings already in this life which far surpass those of the unbeliever (Philippians 4:19).
4. Student responses should be both interesting and revealing. Be sure to encourage them!



LESSON TWELVE

The Kingdom of God and the World to Come

GREAT TRUTH 46

God is King forever

1. RULER KINGS LORDS HONOR MIGHT
2. KING PRAISE NATIONS THRONE
3. PRAISE GLORY EVERLASTING ALL

God's glorious kingdom is opposed by Satan's kingdom of darkness

GREAT TRUTH 47

1. a. GOD
b. RULER
2. RULERS POWERS SPIRITUAL EVIL
3. a. LIGHT
b. ROARING LION

The kingdom of God came to earth in the person and work of Jesus Christ

GREAT TRUTH 48

1. GLORY WORSHIPED EVERLASTING DESTROYED
2. B
3. KING (or RIGHT*) BORN WORLD TRUTH
4. a. DISEASES DEMONS
b. SINS FORGIVEN
c. SET FREE
d. DEAD TALK
5. WORLD FIGHT ANOTHER PLACE
6. a) DARKNESS KINGDOM FORGIVENESS
b) POWERS AUTHORITIES CROSS
7. B
8. TRIUMPH (or OVERCOME*) KING KINGS FAITHFUL

GREAT TRUTH 49

The kingdom of God has not yet come in all its fullness

1. C
2. B

**Some students may receive an older version of this lesson with slightly different answers.*

- 1. TRUE
- 2. GLORIOUS IMPERISHABLE IMMORTAL POWERFUL SPIRITUAL
- 3. FIERY LAKE DEATH
- 4. C
- 5. a. GOD
- b. TEAR DEATH MOURNING CRYING PAIN
- c. NEW
- d. PEARLS GOLD
- e. NIGHT
- f. IMPURE NAMES BOOK LIFE

ESSAY QUESTIONS: All the essay questions here require personal, thoughtful responses. Be sensitive to any responses which may require special comments.



GREAT
Truths
OF THE **BIBLE**

ROADMAP
ANSWER KEY

ROADMAP ANSWER KEY

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Day One—God Alone Is to Be Worshipped

Jeremiah 10:6-7

⁶“No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. ⁷Who should not fear you, King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.”

Psalms 46:10

¹⁰He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Matthew 4:10

¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Day Two—God Is Great and Worthy to Be Praised

Psalms 99:1-3

¹The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. ²Great is the Lord in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. ³Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy.

Psalms 66:1-5

¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth! ²Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. ³Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. ⁴All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name.” ⁵Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind!

Psalms 95:3-7

³For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. ⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. ⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; ⁷for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Day Three—Who Is Like Our God?

1 Kings 8:27

²⁷“But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!”

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Romans 11:33-36

³³Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” ³⁶For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Day Four—Our Creator God Is Worthy of All Praise

Psalm 47:6-8

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. ⁷For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. ⁸God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

Psalm 89:11-13

¹¹The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it. ¹²You created the north and the south; Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name. ¹³Your arm is endowed with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.

Revelation 4:11

¹¹“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Day Five—God Is Holy and Mighty

Psalm 99:9

⁹Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

Exodus 15:11

¹¹Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

Revelation 4:8

⁸Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”

Day Six—God Is Righteous and Just

Psalm 11:4-7

⁴The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them. ⁵The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion. ⁶On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. ⁷For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.

Psalm 96:10-13

¹⁰Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.” The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. ¹²Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. ¹³Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Zephaniah 3:5

⁵The Lord within her is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail, yet the unrighteous know no shame.

Day Seven—Our God Is Merciful and Loving

Psalm 25:6-7

⁶Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. ⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

Psalm 86:5-7

⁵You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. ⁶Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. ⁷When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.

Psalm 103:1-5

¹Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. ²Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, ⁴who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Roadmap 2 Light upon Your Path

Day One—The Bible Came from God: We Must Obey!

Exodus 32:15-16

¹⁵Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. ¹⁶The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

Deuteronomy 17:18-19

¹⁸When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees . . .

2 Kings 17:13

¹³The Lord warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: “Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.”

Day Two—The Bible Is a Guide for Living

Psalm 19:7-11

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. ¹⁰They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. ¹¹By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 119:1-6

¹Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. ²Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—³they do no wrong but follow his ways. ⁴You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. ⁵Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! ⁶Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

Psalm 119:30-32

³⁰I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws. ³¹I hold fast to your statutes, Lord; do not let me be put to shame. ³²I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.

Day Three—God Teaches Us through His Word

Acts 20:32

³²“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Romans 15:4

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Hebrews 4:12

¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Day Four—God’s Word Gives Life

Psalms 119:93

⁹³I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.

James 1:18

¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

1 Peter 1:23

²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Day Five—The Bible Is Powerful and Authoritative

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Matthew 4:4-10

⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Day Six—The Bible’s Prophecies Will Be Fulfilled

Matthew 5:18

¹⁸“For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

Acts 1:16

¹⁶and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus.”

1 Peter 1:10-11

¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.

Day Seven—God’s Word Is Eternal

Psalms 119:89

⁸⁹Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Isaiah 40:8

⁸“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

1 Peter 1:25

²⁵“ . . . but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

Roadmap 3

From Glory to Glory

Day One—All Creation Declares God’s Glory

Isaiah 40:25-26

²⁵“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Psalms 8:1-9

¹LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. ²Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalms 19:1

¹The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day Two—People Are Created in God’s Image

Genesis 1:27

²⁷So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 5:1-2

¹This is the written account of Adam’s family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ²He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind” when they were created.

James 3:9

⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

Day Three—Creation Is Broken by Sin

Genesis 3:17-18

¹⁷To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field."

Romans 8:22

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Psalm 103:15-16

¹⁵The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; ¹⁶the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

Day Four—Our Father Is Merciful to His Broken Creation

Psalm 145:8-9

⁸The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. ⁹The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Matthew 5:45

⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Luke 6:35-36

³⁵"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Day Five—God Preserves His Creation

Psalm 36:5-9

⁵Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. ⁶Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals. ⁷How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. ⁸They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. ⁹For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Psalm 65:9-13

⁹You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. ¹⁰You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. ¹¹You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. ¹²The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. ¹³The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

Psalm 104:24-30

²⁴How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. ²⁵There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small. ²⁶There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. ²⁷All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. ²⁸When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they

are satisfied with good things. ²⁹When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. ³⁰When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

Day Six—God’s People Will Be Transformed and Made New

Matthew 13:43

⁴³“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Colossians 3:4

⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Philippians 3:21

²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Day Seven—God Will Restore His Creation and Make It New

Revelation 21:1

¹Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

Isaiah 65:17-19

¹⁷“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. ¹⁹I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.”

2 Peter 3:13

¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Roadmap 4

The Wages of Sin

Day One—No One Is Without Sin

Psalms 143:2

²Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.

Romans 3:23

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . .

Proverbs 20:9

⁹Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin”?

Day Two—Our Sins Are Many

Romans 1:21-32

²¹For 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. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and

worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. ²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³²Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Isaiah 59:12-15

¹²For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: ¹³rebellion and treachery against the Lord, turning our backs on our God, inciting revolt and oppression, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. ¹⁴So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. ¹⁵Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

Amos 5:11-12

¹¹You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

Day Three—We Are Hypocrites

Isaiah 29:13

¹³The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”

Matthew 23:23-24

²³“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.”

Romans 2:1

¹You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Day Four—Our Sin Has Provoked God to Wrath

Ephesians 5:5-6

⁵For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient

Romans 1:18

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness . . .

Matthew 10:28

²⁸Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Day Five—Resisting Sin Is the Way of Life

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

1 Peter 2:11

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

Proverbs 6:23-26

²³For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life, ²⁴keeping you from your neighbor's wife, from the smooth talk of a wayward woman. ²⁵Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes. ²⁶For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread, but another man's wife preys on your very life.

Day Six—We Must Repent of Our Sins

Isaiah 55:7

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Psalm 25:11

¹¹For the sake of your name, Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Psalm 38:18

¹⁸I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.

Day Seven—God Forgives When We Repent

Isaiah 43:25

²⁵"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."

Proverbs 28:13

¹³Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

1 John 1:9

⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Day One—Jesus Is Our Savior

Luke 4:18-19

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Matthew 1:21

²¹“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Luke 19:10

¹⁰“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Day Two—Jesus Is the Divine Son of God

John 11:27

²⁷“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Acts 9:20

²⁰At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Matthew 8:28-29

²⁸When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. ²⁹“What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”

Day Three—Jesus Had the Divine Power to Do Miracles

Matthew 14:15-23

¹⁵As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” ¹⁶Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” ¹⁷“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. ¹⁸“Bring them here to me,” he said. ¹⁹And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. ²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone . . .

Mark 6:45-51

⁴⁵Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. ⁴⁷Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, ⁵⁰because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” ⁵¹Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed . . .

John 2:1-11

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." ⁴"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." ¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Day Four—Jesus' Compassion Led Him to Heal Many People

Matthew 9:35-36

³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 20:29-34

²⁹As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" ³¹The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" ³²Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. ³³"Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." ³⁴Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Mark 1:40-42

⁴⁰A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." ⁴¹Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Day Five—Jesus Loved Sinners

John 8:1-11

¹but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house,

so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. ³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.” ⁴⁰Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said. ⁴¹“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” ⁴³Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said. ⁴⁴Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Luke 15:1-7

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

Day Six—Jesus Died for Our Sins

Isaiah 53:5-7

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He 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 its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Hebrews 2:9

⁹But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

1 John 3:16

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Day Seven—Believing in Jesus Brings Eternal Life!

John 3:14-15

¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

John 11:25-26

²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 6:40

⁴⁰“For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Roadmap 6

The Greatest Gift

Day One—We Are Saved by Grace

Titus 3:5-7

⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Romans 11:6

⁶And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Day Two—Only Faith Saves Us and Makes Us Righteous

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Philippians 3:8-9

⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Galatians 2:16

¹⁶know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Day Three—Jesus’ Blood Redeems Us from Sin

1 John 1:7

⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 Peter 1:18-19

¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Peter 2:24

²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

Day Four—Jesus Frees Us from Sin

John 8:31-36

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” ³⁴Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Romans 6:6-7

⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

1 Peter 2:16

¹⁶Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves.

Day Five—Salvation Allows Us to Live Holy Lives

Philippians 2:12-13

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Colossians 3:12-14

¹²Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Day Six—Salvation Makes Us Children of God

Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

1 John 3:1-2

¹See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

John 1:12-13

¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Day Seven—Salvation Produces Good Works

John 15:5-6

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."

Titus 2:13-14

¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Roadmap 7 Lord of All

Day One—Jesus Reigns over All

Colossians 1:16-18

¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

1 Corinthians 8:6

⁶yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

Jude 4

⁴For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Day Two—We Must Acknowledge Jesus as Lord

Romans 10:9-10

⁹If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . .

Acts 5:14

¹⁴Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

Day Three—Jesus Gives Us Blessings as Lord

Romans 8:37-39

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

⁹For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Day Four—We Must Serve Jesus as Lord

Ephesians 5:8-12

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

Ephesians 5:17-20

¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:17-23

¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ¹⁸Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. ²²Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters . . .

Day Five—We Must Obey Jesus as Lord

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

James 1:22

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

¹As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

Day Six—Jesus Will Provide for Us as Lord

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:13

¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Matthew 6:24

²⁴“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Day Seven—Jesus Is Glorified as Lord

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 17:1-5

¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

Revelation 5:12

¹²In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Roadmap 8

The Giver of Life

Day One—The Holy Spirit Is Our Counselor

John 14:16

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever . . .

John 14:26

²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Ephesians 4:30

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Day Two—The Holy Spirit Gives Us New Life

John 3:5-8

⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Titus 3:5

⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit . . .

John 1:12-13

¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

Day Three—The Holy Spirit Gives Gifts to All Believers

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Hebrews 2:4

⁴God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Acts 5:12-16

¹²The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. ¹³No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

Day Four—The Holy Spirit Gives Believers Power and Boldness

Acts 1:8

⁸“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 2:2-4

²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 4:31

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Day Five—The Holy Spirit Leads the Church

Acts 13:2-4

²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. ⁴The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

Acts 16:6-7

⁶Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

Acts 20:28

²⁸Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Day Six—The Holy Spirit Purifies Believers

Galatians 5:16-18

¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Romans 5:5-9

⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!

1 Peter 1:2

²who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Day Seven—The Holy Spirit Makes Us Fruitful

Galatians 5:22-25

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18-19

¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord . . .

Galatians 6:8-9

⁸Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Roadmap 9

Happiness Is...

Day One—Husbands, Love Your Wives

Ephesians 5:25-28

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Titus 2:4

⁴Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children . . .

Colossians 3:19

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Day Two—Sex Belongs in Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:2-5

²But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. ³The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. ⁵Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Ecclesiastes 9:9

⁹Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.

Proverbs 5:20-21

²⁰Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman? ²¹For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths.

Day Three—God Means for Marriage to Last

Matthew 5:32

³²“But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Mark 10:9

⁹“Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

¹⁰To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

Day Four—Children Are a Blessing from God

Psalm 113:9

⁹He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the Lord.

Psalm 127:3-5

³Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. ⁴Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. ⁵Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

Proverbs 17:6

⁶Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Day Five—Parents, Instruct Your Children in the Lord

Deuteronomy 4:9

⁹Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Psalm 78:5-6

⁵He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, ⁶so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

Proverbs 4:1-2

¹Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. ²I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.

Day Six—Children, Honor Your Parents

Mark 7:10

¹⁰“For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’”

Proverbs 23:22

²²Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Proverbs 6:20

²⁰My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Day Seven—Wise Children Are a Joy

Proverbs 15:20

²⁰A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

Proverbs 23:24

²⁴The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.

Proverbs 27:11

¹¹Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.

Roadmap 10 **The Beautiful Bride**

Day One—The Church Is Christ’s Bride

Ephesians 5:31-32

³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

2 Corinthians 11:2

²I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

Revelation 19:7

⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Day Two—Christ’s Bride Is Faithful

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

3 John 3-4

³It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

Revelation 14:12

¹²This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

Day Three—Christ’s Bride Loves (Part I.)

John 13:34-35

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 John 4:11-12

¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

John 15:12

¹²“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

Day Four—Christ’s Bride Loves (Part II.)

Romans 12:9-10

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Ephesians 4:2

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 5:1-2

¹Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Day Five—The Church Tells Others about Her Bridegroom

Acts 4:33

³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all . . .

Acts 5:30-32

³⁰"The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³²We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Acts 22:14-15

¹⁴"Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard.'"

Day Six—God Makes His Bride Holy and Pure

1 Thessalonians 3:13

¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Philippians 1:9-11

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Day Seven—The Bride Is Very Beautiful

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Revelation 21:2

²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Song of Solomon 4:7

⁷You are altogether beautiful, my darling; there is no flaw in you.

Day One—Broken People Fail to Meet God’s Standards

2 Samuel 11:1-5; 14-15

¹In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. ²One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” ⁴Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”

Galatians 2:11-13

¹¹When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said. ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. ⁷¹Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁷²He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!” ⁷³After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.” ⁷⁴Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Day Two—Our Broken Bodies and Hearts Fail

Psalms 25:16-21

¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. ¹⁷Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. ¹⁸Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins. ¹⁹See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me! ²⁰Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. ²¹May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you.

Psalms 31:9-12

⁹Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief. ¹⁰My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. ¹¹Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends—those who see me on the street flee from me. ¹²I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.

Psalms 6:6-7

⁶I am worn out from my groaning. All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. ⁷My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes.

Day Three—Believers Will Suffer Hardship

2 Corinthians 1:8

⁸We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.

Matthew 10:21-23

²¹“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

1 Corinthians 4:11-13

¹¹To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. ¹²We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment.

Day Four—God Is Faithful to Us

Luke 22:32

³²“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Psalms 40:1-3

¹I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. ²He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. ³He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

2 Chronicles 33:12-13

¹²In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. ¹³And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.

Day Five—God Will Help Us to Be Faithful

Psalms 86:15-17

¹⁵But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. ¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy on me; show your strength in behalf of your servant; save me, because I serve you just as my mother did. ¹⁷Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Psalms 37:23-24

²³The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; ²⁴though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

Psalms 55:22

²²Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.

Day Six—God Forgives Our Failures

Psalms 85:2-3

²You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins. ³You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

Psalm 32:5

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

John 8:11

¹¹“No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

Day Seven—God Is Faithful to Keep Us Faithful

1 Corinthians 1:8-9

⁸He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

³But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Roadmap 12

Glory without End

Day One—God Is Glorious

Psalm 93:1-2

¹The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure. ²Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.

Psalm 97:9

⁹For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

Psalm 138:4-5

⁴May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord, when they hear what you have decreed. ⁵May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.

Day Two—Jesus Showed God’s Glory

Matthew 12:28

²⁸But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Matthew 4:23

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Acts 10:36-38

³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Day Three—Jesus Reigns in Glory

Ephesians 1:19-22

¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church . . .

Revelation 11:15

¹⁵The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

1 Peter 3:22

²²who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Day Four—Jesus Will Be Revealed in Glory

Matthew 24:30

³⁰“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.”

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7

⁶God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

Matthew 25:31

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.”

Day Five—Evildoers Will Be Expelled from God’s Glorious Kingdom

Matthew 13:41-42

⁴¹“The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 22:13

¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Matthew 25:46

⁴⁶“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Day Six—Believers Have a Place in God’s Glorious Kingdom

2 Timothy 4:7-8

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing

Colossians 3:4

⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Revelation 3:4-5

⁴Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

Day Seven—Believers Will Share in Christ's Glory

Matthew 13:43

⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Romans 8:17

¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Revelation 22:5

⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.