



Plan of Salvation

Part I: Pre Study-The Trinity

When we come to know the Lord our spiritual life begins, and it is a life long journey. There is so much to learn about our God, and we can never in our entire lifetime know it all. Don't be discouraged, though, because we aren't meant to know everything about Him in this life. What we are meant to do, however, is to be constantly seeking Him through His Word, prayer, study, and fellowship. Each day we should be seeking to know more about Him through every experience in life. Through this, we build some basic foundations that help us grow closer to Him.

We will all understand the Lord differently depending on our past experiences. We may look to what our parents and churches taught us. We may look to what has happened to us in life. We may look to what the Lord has revealed to us in our hearts. All of these examples have shaped how we know God right now, and all play a part in our testimony. Good, bad, or otherwise, we need to take our past knowledge of God and, starting today, see how it measures up to the true Word of God.

This Part I Pre Study on the Trinity is designed to help you do just that. We start with the Trinity because, as you are already learning, we believe that God is the integral key to everything we do. In the next few weeks, you are going to take a crash course to discover the truth about who God is. You will be presented with a lot of information. Some you may already know, some may be new to you. No matter what your experience with God has been, or what your current view on Him is, you do have an opinion about Him based on your past. This will be your chance to consider everything you know, or think you know, about God and line it up to solid, biblical teaching, straight from His Word, in accordance with the scriptures. Since man can't know everything, we are going straight to the Source for the authoritative Word on God.

This material will guide you in building foundational truth about the Trinity, including God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Promise the Holy Spirit. As you read, you will begin asking yourself, "Who God is to me?" and consider how you would describe Him to someone else, in terms of all parts of the Trinity. Following this study and discussion with House Staff, you will move into Part II: Five Lesson Plans for the Plan of Salvation.

Part Two will help you gain overall knowledge of scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. When you complete each lesson plan, you will return it to House Staff for discussion. When you have completed these lessons, you will be ready for Part III: Writing the Personal Plan of Salvation. This is your story of your personal walk with the Lord and how that walk plays out in your daily life. You will include who each person of the Trinity is in your personal walk and how you interact with the Lord, what role the Trinity plays in your life, and where you feel led by the Spirit. You will also include biblical understanding about the enemy and sin. From there you will discuss the need for salvation and what Jesus did so that we may have eternal life.

The Plan of Salvation is not about just completing a task, or gaining head knowledge, but it is your own personal documentation of the change in your heart through the process of knowing God more fully. Staff will help you go deeper in this process by asking you challenging questions, having you search the scriptures yourself for answers, and challenging you to go before the Lord yourself for revelation and reflection. Some questions may not have a "right" or "wrong" answer, and you'll need to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through the process. In the end, you will have your own resource to remind you of why you believe, and you will be able to use this as directed in 1 Peter 3:15 to, "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you."

Lesson One: What is the Trinity?

The word "trinity" is a term used to denote the Christian doctrine that God exists as a unity of three distinct persons: *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. Each of the persons is distinct from the other yet identical in essence. In other words, each is fully divine in nature, but each is not the totality of the other persons of the Trinity. Each has a will, loves, and says "I" and "You" when speaking. The Father is not the same person as the Son, who is not the same person as the Holy Spirit, and who is not the same person as the Father. Each is divine, yet there are not three gods but one God. There are three individual subsistences or persons. The word "*subsistence*" means *something that has a real existence*. The word "*person*" denotes *individuality and self-awareness*. The Trinity is three of these, though the latter term has become the dominant one used to describe the individual aspects of God known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Included in the doctrine of the Trinity is a strict *monotheism*, which is the *teaching that there exists in all the universe a single being known as God who is self-existent and unchangeable* (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6, 8). Therefore, it is important to note that the doctrine of the trinity is *not polytheistic* (the worship or belief in multiple gods or multiple ways to God) as some of its critics proclaim. Trinitarianism (the belief in the Trinity) is monotheistic by definition, and those who claim it is polytheistic demonstrate a lack of understanding of what it really is.

The Trinity

God is three Persons.
Each Person is divine.
There is only one God.

Many theologians admit that the term "person" is not a perfect word to describe the three individual aspects found in God. When we normally use the word *person*, we understand it to mean physical individuals who exist as separate beings from other individuals. But *in God there are not three entities nor three beings*. God is a trinity of persons consisting of *one substance and one essence*. God is numerically one. Yet, within the single divine essence are three individual subsistences that we call persons.

- Each of the three persons is completely divine in nature though each is not the totality of the Godhead.
- Each of the three persons is not the other two persons.
- Each of the three persons is related to the other two but are distinct from them.

The word "trinity" is not found in the Bible, but this does not mean that the concept is not taught there. The word "bible" is not found in the Bible either, but we use it anyway. Likewise, the words "omniscience," which means "all-knowing," "omnipotence," which means "all-powerful," and "omnipresence," which means "present everywhere" are not found in the Bible either, but we use these words to describe the attributes of God. So, *to say that the Trinity isn't true because the word isn't in the Bible is an invalid argument*.

Is there subordination in the Trinity?

There is, apparently, a subordination (ranking) within the Trinity *regarding order, but not substance or essence* (nature, being, element). We can see that the Father is first, the Son is second, and the Holy Spirit is third. The Father is not begotten (born), but the Son is (John 3:16). The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father (John 15:26). The Father sent the Son (1 John 4:10). The Son and the Father send the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 15:26). The Father creates (Isaiah 44:24), the Son redeems (Galatians 3:13), and the Holy Spirit sanctifies (Romans 15:16).

This *subordination of order does not mean that each of the members of the Godhead are not equal or divine*. For example, we see that the Father sent the Son, but this does not mean that the Son is not equal to the Father in essence and divine nature. The Son is equal to the Father in his divinity but inferior in his humanity. A wife is to be subject to her husband, but this does not negate her humanity, essence, or equality. By further analogy, a king and his servant both share human nature. Yet, the king sends the servant to do his will. Jesus said, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 6:38). Of course Jesus

already is King; but the analogy shows that because someone is sent, it doesn't mean they are different in essence from the one who sent him; both are still people, just with different roles or duties.

Critics of the Trinity will see this subordination as proof that the Trinity is false. They reason that if Jesus were truly God, then He would be completely equal to God the Father in all areas and would not, therefore, be subordinate to the Father in any way; but this objection is not logical. If we look at the analogy of the king and the servant, we certainly would not say that the servant was not human because he was sent. *Being sent does not negate sameness in essence.* Therefore, the fact that the Son is sent does not mean that He is not divine any more than when my wife sends me to get bread, I am not human.

Is this confusing?

Another important point about the Trinity is that *it can be a difficult concept to grasp*, but this does not necessitate an argument against its validity. On the contrary, *the fact that it is difficult is an argument for its truth.* The Bible is the self-revelation of an infinite God. Therefore, *we are bound to encounter concepts which are difficult to understand*--especially when dealing with an incomprehensible God who exists in all places at all times. So, when we view descriptions and attributes of God manifested in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we discover that a completely comprehensible and understandable explanation of God's essence and nature is not possible. What we have done, however, is derive from the Scripture the truths that we can grasp and combine them into the doctrine we call The Trinity. The Trinity is, to a large extent, a mystery. *After all, we are dealing with God Himself.*

It is the way of the cults to reduce biblical truth to make God comprehensible and understandable by their minds. To this end, they subject God's word to their own reasoning and end in error. The following verses are often used to demonstrate that the doctrine of the Trinity is indeed biblical:

- Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons."
- 2 Corinthians 13:14, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."
- Ephesians 4:4-7, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."
- 1 Peter 1:2, "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure."
- Jude 20-21, "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."

Lesson One Questions

Using your Bible, answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more space. Handwriting should be neat, sentences complete, with attention paid to spelling and grammar.

1. Define *subsistence*; define *person*; from these definitions, how do we explain the Trinity?
2. God is numerically _____.
Each of the three persons is completely _____ in nature but is not the totality of God.
Each of the three persons is not the _____.
Each of the three persons is related to the other two but are _____ from them.
3. What is the subordination or ranking within the Trinity regarding order? Though it exists in the Trinity, what does that *not* mean however?
4. Being sent does not negate _____ in essence. Explain what that means.
5. Read Matthew 28:19; where is the Trinity present in this verse?
6. Read John 10:30; how does this verse present the Trinity?
7. Read John 1:1 and John 1:14. Who is the Word? What do we learn about the Word and the Trinity from these verses?
8. Read 1 John 5:7; how does this verse present the Trinity?
9. Read Luke 3:21-22; how does this verse present the Trinity?
10. The book of 1 John lays out a clear blueprint for the work of the Trinity. Read the following verses and show in each one how/where God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit work together as one:
1:3
5:11
5:13
5:6
4:14
4:2
3:24
3:1
4:8

Lesson Two: Who Is God?

The question "Who is God?" is a good question. It is better than asking "What is God?" This is because God exists, created us, loves us, is concerned for our being, desires to provide for us, and sent the Son to redeem us. If we were to ask "What is God?" we might be tempted to say that God is the infinite being, the creator, a presence, or something like that. In some respect, this would be true. But the first question brings us closer to understanding more of who God really is *in His character and His love for us* as revealed in the Bible.

The Bible teaches us that in all existence, from all eternity, there has been and always will be *only one God*. God was *never created*, is *completely loving, completely just, completely holy, completely merciful*, and He *desires the best for us*. God is *holy* and He can have nothing to do with sin as the Bible says, "His eyes are too pure to look upon evil" (Habbakuk 1:13). This does not mean that God cannot see what someone does that is wrong. It is a way of describing how holy God is. God *cannot sin*. He is *perfect*.

In Christianity, God is a Trinity. This means that God is three persons, not three gods. Technically, the doctrine of the Trinity states that in the one God is the person of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each is not the same person as the other, yet there are not three gods but one. This is similar in analogy to the nature of time. *Time is past, present, and future*. The past is not the same as the present, which is not the same as the future. But, there are not three times. *There is only one thing called time*.

The reason the word "person" is used in describing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is because each exhibits attributes of personhood -- not in a body of flesh and bones, but in *personality*. In other words, each has a will, loves, speaks, is aware of others, communicates with others, etc. These are attributes of personhood and we see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit each demonstrate these qualities.

Because of the Trinity, God can become flesh in the form of the Son, and still exist in such a way so that He can run the universe. Therefore, the Son can communicate to us on our level.

Following are a couple verses that hint at the Trinity.

- Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."
- 2 Corinthians 13:14, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."

The Bible says there is only one God: "I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God," (Isaiah 45:5). Yet, the Bible teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each called God.

Below is a very brief chart that shows that each of the persons in the Trinity share the same attributes that only God has. But remember, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each have wills, and speak, etc. Therefore, we say there are three persons.

	FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
Called God	Philippians 1:2	John 1:1,14;	Acts 5:3-4
Creator	Isaiah 64:8	John 1:3;	Job 33:4, 26:13
Everywhere	1 Kings 8:27	Matthew 28:20	Psalm 139:7-10
All knowing	1 John 3:20	John 16:30; 21:17	1 Corinthians 2:10-11
A Will	Luke 22:42	Luke 22:42	1 Corinthians 12:11
Speaks	Matthew 3:17;	Luke 5:20; 7:48	Acts 13:2

Who is God?
Know God's Character from His Word

1. God Is One--Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4
2. God Is Truth--Psalm 117:2; Jeremiah 10:10
3. God is Light--1 John 1:5
4. God is Love--1 John 4:8, 16
5. God Is Infinite--Jeremiah 23:24; Psalm 147:5
6. God is All-Knowing--1 John 3:20
7. God is Everywhere--Psalm 139:7-12
8. God is All-Powerful--Jeremiah 32:17, 27
9. God is Unequaled--Isaiah 40:13-25
10. God Is Perfect--1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 139
11. God Is A Most Pure Spirit--John 4:24
12. God Is Invisible--1 Timothy 1:17
13. God Does Not Have A Human Body--Luke 24:39; Deuteronomy 4:15-16
14. God Does Not Change--Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17
15. God Is Without Limit--1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:23-24
16. God Is Eternal--Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17
17. God Is Incomprehensible--Romans 11:33; Psalm 145:3
18. God Is The Almighty One--Revelation 1:8; Revelation 4:8
19. God Is Most Wise--Romans 16:27; Jude 1:25
20. God Is Most Holy--Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8
21. God Is Most Free--Psalm 115:3
22. God Is Most Absolute--Isaiah 44:6; Acts 17:24-25
23. God Works According To His Will--Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28
24. God Receives Glory--Romans 8:36; Revelation 4:11
25. God Is Most Loving--1 John 4:8-10
26. God Is Gracious--Exodus 33:19; 1 Peter 2:3
27. God Is Merciful--Exodus 34:6; Psalm 67:1; James 5:11
28. God Is Long-suffering--Psalm 86:15; 2 Peter 3:15
29. God Abounds In Goodness--Psalm 31:19; Psalm 52:1; Romans 11:22
30. God Is Forgiving--Daniel 9:9; Ephesians 1:7; Psalm 86:5
31. God Rewards Those Who Seek Him--Hebrews 11:6
32. God Is Just In All His Judgments--Nehemiah 9:32-33; 2 Thessalonians 1:6
33. God Hates Sin--Psalm 5:5-6; Habakkuk 1:13
34. God Is the Creator--Isaiah 40:12, 22, 26
35. God Is Shepherd--Genesis 49:24

Lesson Two Questions

Using your Bible, answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more space. Handwriting should be neat, sentences complete, with attention paid to spelling and grammar.

1. God was never created, He has always existed. He is the Great I Am. Read Psalm 90:2 and 93:2; how do these scriptures confirm that truth about God?
2. One attribute of personality or personhood of God is God the **Father**. Read the following scriptures and use them to explain how the Father meets the description of the characteristic given.

For example: The Father is God.

Philippians 1:2 says, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ."

From this scripture, I know that the Father is God because the author describes "God" as "Father."

The Father is *everywhere (omnipresent)* 1 Kings 8:27

The Father is *all powerful (omnipotent)* Job 42:2

The Father is *Creator* Isaiah 64:8

The Father is *Truth* Jeremiah 10:10

The Father has a *perfect plan* Daniel 2:21

The Father *speaks* Matthew 3:17

The Father *cannot lie* Hebrews 6:18

The Father is *all knowing (omniscient)* 1 John 3:20

The Father is *Love* 1 John 4:8

The Father is *Holy* Revelation 4:8

3. What aspect of God's character as the *Father* is most important to you? Find a scripture that supports that characteristic, and share why it is important to you.

Lesson Three: The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. He is fully God. He is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, has a will, and can speak. He is alive. He is a person. He is not particularly visible in the Bible because *His ministry is to bear witness of Jesus* (John 15:26).

Some cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses say that the Holy Spirit is nothing more than a force (Reasoning from the Scriptures, 1985, pp. 406-407). *This is false.* If the Holy Spirit were merely a force, then He could not speak (Acts 13:2), He could not be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), and He would not have a will (1 Corinthians 12:11).

The truth is that the Holy Spirit is a person the same as the Father and the Son are within the Trinity.

His Names	His Attributes	Symbols of	Sins Against	Power in Christ's Life
God Acts 5:3-4	Eternal Hebrews 9:14	Dove Matthew 3:16	Blasphemy Matthew 12:31	Conceived of Matthew 1:18, 20
Lord 2 Corinthians 3:18	Omnipotent Luke 1:35	Wind Acts 2:1-4	Resistance (Unbelief) Acts 7:51	Baptism Matthew 3:16
Spirit 1 Corinthians 2:10	Omnipresent Psalm 139:7-10	Fire Acts 2:3	Insult Hebrews 10:29	Led by Luke 4:1
Spirit of God 1 Corinthians 3:16	Will 1 Corinthians 12:11	*****	Lied to Acts 5:3	Filled with Power Luke 4:14, 18
Spirit of Truth John 15:26	Loves Romans 15:30	*****	Grieved Ephesians 4:30	Witness of Jesus John 15:26
Eternal Spirit Hebrews 9:14	Speaks Acts 8:29; 13:2	*****	Quenched 1 Thessalonians 5:19	Raised Jesus Romans 8:11

The Works of the Holy Spirit

Access to God-- Ephesians 2:18	Inspires prayer-- Ephesians 6:18 ; Jude 20
Anoints for Service-- Luke 4:18	Intercedes-- Romans 8:26
Assures-- Romans 8:15-16 ; Galatians 4:6	Interprets Scripture-- 1 Corinthians 2:1, 14 ; Ephesians 1:17
Authors Scripture-- 2 Peter 1:20-21	Leads-- Romans 8:14
Baptizes-- John 1:23-34 ; 1 Corinthians 12:13-14	Liberates-- Romans 8:2
Believers Born of-- John 3:3-6	Molds Character-- Galatians 5:22-23
Calls and Commissions-- Acts 13:24 ; 20:28	Produces fruit-- Galatians 5:22-23
Cleanses-- 1 Thessalonians 3:13 ; 1 Peter 1:2	Empowers Believers-- Luke 24:49
Convicts of sin-- John 16:9, 14	Raises from the dead-- Romans 8:11
Creates-- Genesis 1:2 ; Job 33:4	Regenerates-- Titus 3:5
Empowers-- 1 Thessalonians 1:5	Sanctifies-- Romans 15:16
Fills-- Acts 2:4 ; 4:29-31 ; 5:18-20	Seals-- Ephesians 1:13-14 ; 4:30
Gives gifts-- 1 Corinthians 12:8-11	Strengthens-- Ephesians 3:16 ; Acts 1:8 ; 2:4 ; 1 Corinthians 2:4
Glorifies Christ-- John 16:14	Teaches-- John 14:26
Guides in truth-- John 16:13	Testifies of Jesus-- John 15:26
Helps our weakness-- Romans 8:26	Victory over flesh-- Romans 8:2-4 ; Galatians 4:6
Indwells believers-- Romans 8:9-14 ; Galatians 4:6	Worship helper-- Philippians 3:3

Lesson Three Questions

Using your Bible, answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more space. Handwriting should be neat, sentences complete, with attention paid to spelling and grammar.

1. What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit (include scripture reference)?
2. How do we know that the Holy Spirit is not merely a force, but an actual Person of the Trinity, and God?
3. Read Luke 24:49; what name does Jesus give to the Holy Spirit in this verse?
4. Read John 16:7-14.
Jesus says He must leave for what purpose; what will He do for us after He leaves (:7)?
What will the Holy Spirit come to do (:8)?
Why will the Holy Spirit convict the world of sin (:9)?
Why will the Holy Spirit convict the world of righteousness (:10)?
Why will the Holy Spirit convict the world of judgment (:11)?
When the Spirit comes, He will do what (:13)?
Who will the Spirit glorify (:14)?
5. Read Acts 2:4. This scripture is the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit. What happens to the believers in this verse?
6. Read John 14:16-17. How do we come to receive the Holy Spirit? How do we know the Holy Spirit?
7. Read John 14:26. What two things will the Holy Spirit do for us described in this verse?
8. 1 Corinthians 12 is one of many places that discuss spiritual gifts in the bible. Read verse 12:11. How does the Holy Spirit distribute spiritual gifts to believers?
9. Read Romans 8:11. The Holy Spirit is very powerful; in this verse, what do we see the Holy Spirit has already done, and is now able to do in the believer?
10. Read Galatians 5:16-25. *Note that acts/works are things we choose to create, we choose to participate in. To act or work, we make a choice to put in the effort for the result to occur. Fruit, however, grows naturally. We cultivate the right environment for fruit to grow, but we don't have a hand in actually causing the growth. That occurs naturally without our work. When you plant a tree in the right environment, and keep out what is contrary to its growth, you don't choose what fruit the tree bears. The natural fruit bears itself.*
In what manner are we to walk (:16)?
Our flesh (sinful nature) and the Spirit are in what relation to one another (:17)?
List a few of the acts of the sinful nature (or work of the flesh) (:19-21).
What is Paul's warning to those who practice such things (:21)?
What is the Fruit of the Spirit (:22)?
Those who belong to Christ have done what with their sinful nature/flesh (:24)?
If we live in the Spirit, what else must we do (:25)?
According to this passage then, as a believer, a new creation in Christ, when the Holy Spirit is living in us, how will others know that (Read Luke 6:43-45)?

Lesson Four: Jesus Is Man

One of the lesser-known biblical doctrines concerns Jesus as a man right now. Many do not know that *right now in heaven Jesus is a Man*, though in a glorified body. Some object to this and cite various reasons (answered at the end of this paper) for denying His present humanity. They are in error. Following is a biblical demonstration that Jesus is still both divine and human in nature:

It is biblically correct to say that Jesus is a Man right now in heaven, though a glorified Man. But, it would be *wrong to say He was only a man*. He is both *divine and human* in nature at the same time (Colossians 2:9); He is both *God and man* right now.

Furthermore, Jesus' humanity now is important for two reasons. First, *this is what the Bible teaches*. Second, as a man, *Jesus is a priest* forever after the order of Melchizedek. As a priest He *forever intercedes for us*.

- "Where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 6:20).
- "Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:25).

In order to be a priest, Jesus has to be a man. A spirit cannot be a priest after the order of Melchizedek, and if Jesus is not a man now, He could not hold His priesthood, and He could not be forever interceding for us. Therefore, *to deny Jesus' present humanity is to deny His priesthood and His intercession on our behalf*. Without His intercession, we are lost.

Jesus died.

There is *no dispute that Jesus died on the cross*, except for some non-Christian religions and atheistic groups who deny the biblical record. Nevertheless, the scriptures teach us that Jesus died.

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

Jesus rose from the dead physically.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus rose from the dead. Unfortunately, some Christians are not aware that Jesus actually rose from the dead *in the same body in which He died though it was a glorified body*. We see that Jesus prophesied the resurrection of His physical body in John 2:19-21 and fulfilled this in other verses:

John 2:19-21: "Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews therefore said, 'It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple of His body."

Luke 24:39: "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

John 20:19-20: "When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples therefore rejoiced when they saw the Lord."

John 20:27: "Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing'."

1 Corinthians 15:14: "and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain."

Merely asserting that Jesus rose is not enough. It must be stated that Jesus *rose physically* lest the very words of Christ be denied.

1 Corinthians 15:35, 40-49: "But someone will say, 'How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come? . . . There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory

of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthly; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthly, so also are those who are earthly; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."

These verses tell us that *something happens to the body that is raised from the dead*. Notice that verse 44 says that "it is sown a natural body. It is raised a spiritual body." The same body that is sown (dies) is raised. The *natural body is the body with which we are born*. The natural body dies and is raised from the dead. But, when it is raised, *it is changed* into a spiritual body.

The resurrected body is different from the natural body in its *abilities and qualities* as Jesus demonstrated; however, and this is vitally important, *it is the same body as before*--only "improved," "glorified," "spiritualized," etc. We see this in the fact that Jesus retained the wounds of His crucifixion as evidenced by the holes in His hands and side (John 20:27), yet He was able to simply appear in a room with the disciples without entering through the door (John 20:19-20). He was raised in the same body He died in though it had been glorified.

Jesus is a man in a glorified body.

We have already seen that Jesus was raised from the dead in the same body in which He died, but that body is a resurrected body. However, some people believe that at Jesus' ascension, He was somehow changed, and His physical body was no longer needed. But, this is not what the Bible teaches. There is *no place where it states that Jesus stopped being a man*. If anything, the New Testament says He is still a man.

Colossians 2:9: "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."

1 Timothy 2:5: "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

We see here that Jesus is called a man. Like Colossians 2:9 above, this verse uses the present tense ("is"). It clearly states that Jesus is a man.

Revelation 1:17-18: "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."

Notice that in Colossians 2:9 it speaks in the present tense ("dwells"). Colossians was written well after Jesus' ascension into heaven, yet Paul tells us that Jesus is in bodily form. What body would that be? Why, it would be the same body in which He was raised. To clarify that Jesus is a man, read the next verse. In Revelation 1:17-18, *Jesus is in heaven*, and John the Apostle falls at Jesus' feet; and Jesus laid His right hand on him. Clearly, from these verses we can see that *Jesus is in bodily form as a man*.

Objections Answered

"Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God." (wrong)

Some argue that the Bible says that flesh and blood cannot go to heaven as is stated in 1 Corinthians 15:50, "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable." The term "flesh and blood" is a phrase used *to designate the natural state even the carnal state of man*.

Matthew 16:17: "And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

Galatians 1:16: "to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood."

Ephesians 6:12: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Hebrews 2:14: "Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil."

After the resurrection, Jesus said, "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39). Jesus specifically stated that He had flesh and bones--not flesh and blood. This may seem like a word game, but it is not. Every word is inspired in the Bible, and Jesus chose His words for a reason.

Remember, Jesus' blood was drained out of His body on the cross. It is His shed blood that cleanses us of our sins: "but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). Jesus was the sacrifice, and His blood cleanses us. Therefore, flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, but flesh and bones can.

The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 1 Corinthians 15:45 says, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit." This verse is not saying that Jesus is without a body, but that He is a life-giving spirit. That is, as the last Adam, He is the one who gives life to people (John 10:27-28). Furthermore, it is designating that Jesus' resurrected body is equipped to be in both the physical realm and the spiritual.

Lesson Four Questions

Using your Bible, answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more space. Handwriting should be neat, sentences complete, with attention paid to spelling and grammar.

1. Right now, in heaven, Jesus is both _____ and _____
2. What are the two reasons Jesus's humanity is important?
3. The natural body dies and is raised from the dead; when it is raised, however, it is changed into a spiritual body, in what ways?
4. How did Jesus' appearance to His disciples evidence this truth?
5. Read Matthew 1:18-25.
What was the name of Jesus' mother (:18)?

She was betrothed (pledged to marry) Joseph. She was found to be with child in what manner however (:18)?

What was Joseph's reaction to this (:19)?

How did the Lord fulfill His plan and reach Joseph (:20-21)?

What prophecy was fulfilled through Jesus' birth (:22-25)?
6. When He came as Man, Jesus had human experiences, both things He did and things done to Him, and emotions, just like we do. Read the following verses and identify the human experiences Jesus had.

Matthew 4:1

Luke 23:11

Matthew 26:39

Luke 24:42-43

Matthew 26:48-50

John 2:15-16

Matthew 26:59-60,

John 4:7

Matthew 26:56, 69-75

John 11:35

Matthew 27:50

John 12:27

Mark 4:38

John 15:9-12

Mark 14:10

John 15:18

Mark 14:22

John 17:1-5

Luke 2:52, 3:23

John 17:9, 20

Luke 4:2

John 19:23-24

Lesson Five: Jesus is God

Lord Jesus Christ.

He is the Lord. His name is Jesus. He is Messiah.

Lord is His title; it refers to relationship. He is the Master, you are the servant. It implies obedience.

Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name, "Joshua," or "Yeshua," which means Yahweh Is Salvation."

Christ is His mission. Jesus is the promised Messiah, which means "Anointed One," *mashiyach*, or Messiah. In Old Testament times, priests and kings were anointed for office. Jesus is anointed for the office of King of Kings by God. The word "Messiah" in Greek is *Christos*, where we get Christ.

There is only one Lord Jesus Christ. He has many roles, names, and titles throughout the bible, but He is only one. The following pages will provide some a starting off point to discover more about who Jesus is as God.

Jesus is found throughout the entire bible, from Genesis to Revelation. A great place to start looking for the many names of Jesus is by reading through the book of John, which follows His ministry and journey to the Cross.

These reference will help you to better understand exactly why Jesus Himself is fully God.

"You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me" (Isaiah 43:10).

JESUS

IS

GOD, "YAHWEH"

John 1:3, "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."
Colossians 1:16-17, "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Creator

Job 33:4, "The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."
Isaiah 40:28, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."

Revelation 1:17, "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.'"

Revelation 2:8, "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again."
Revelation 22:13, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

First and Last

Isaiah 41:4, "Who has done this and carried it through, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD--with the first of them and with the last--I am he."

Isaiah 44:6, "This is what the LORD says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God."
Isaiah 48:12, "Listen to me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am he; I am the first and I am the last."

John 8:24, "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (NKJV)

John 8:58, "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" See Exodus 3:14
John 13:19, "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He."

I AM "ego eimi"

Exodus 3:14, "God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Isaiah 43:10, "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me." See also Deuteronomy 32:39

2 Timothy 4:1, "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge . . . "

2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

Matthew 2:2, " . . . Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Luke 23:3, "So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied." See also John 19:21

John 8:12, "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Luke 2:32, "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." See also John 1:7-9

1 Corinthians 10:4, " . . . for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ." See also 1 Peter 2:4-8.

John 4:42, "They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.'" 1 John 4:14, "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world."

John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Hebrews 13:20, "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep . . . " See also John 10:14, 16; 1 Peter 2:25

Joel 3:12, "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side."

Judge

Romans 14:10, "You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat."

Jeremiah 10:10, "But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath."

King

Isaiah 44:6-8, "This is what the LORD says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God." See also Psalm 47

Psalm 27:1, "The LORD is my light and my salvation -- whom shall I fear?"

Light

Isaiah 60:20, "our sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end."

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

Deuteronomy 32:4, "He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he." See also 2 Samuel 22:32 and Isaiah 17:10.

Rock

Isaiah 43:3, "For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" Isaiah 45:21, " . . . And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me."

Savior

Psalm 23:1, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want."

Shepherd

Isaiah 40:11, "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young."

There is no question that these many prophecies prove that Jesus is the one and only Messiah.

Old Testament Scriptures That Describe The Coming Messiah

The Messianic Prophecy (paraphrased)	Old Testament (1450 BC-430BC)	Jesus' fulfillment in the New Testament (45-95 AD)
The Messiah will be the offspring (descendant) of the woman (Eve)	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4
The Messiah will be a descendant of Abraham, through whom everyone on earth will be blessed	Genesis 12:3; 18:18	Acts 3:25,26
The Messiah will be a descendant of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Matthew 1:2 and Luke 3:33
The Messiah will be a prophet like Moses	Deut 18:15-19	Acts 3:22,23
The Messiah will be the Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matt 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22
The Messiah will be raised from the dead (resurrected)	Psalms 16:10,11	Matthew 28:5-9; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:4-7; John 20:11-16; Acts 1:3 and 2:32
The Messiah crucifixion experience	Psalms 22 (11 prophecies)	Matthew 27:34-50 and John 19:17-30
The Messiah will be sneered at and mocked	Psalms 22:7	Luke 23:11,35-39
The Messiah will be pierced through hands and feet	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33 and 24:36-39; John 19:18 and 20:19-20,24-27
The Messiah's bones will not be broken (legs were usually broken after crucifixion)	Psalms 22:17 and 34:20	John 19:31-33,36
Men Will Gamble for the Messiah's clothing	Psalms 22:18	Matt 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23,24
The Messiah will be accused by false witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:59,60 and Mark 14:56,57
The Messiah will be hated without a cause	Psalms 35:19 & 69:4	John 15:23-25
The Messiah will be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18,21
The Messiah will ascend to heaven (at the right hand of God)	Psalms 68:18	Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9; 2:33-35; 3:20-21; 5:31,32; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20,21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet 3:22
The Messiah will be given vinegar and gall to drink	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23; John 19:29,30
Great kings will pay homage/tribute to Him	Psalms 72:10,11	Matthew 2:1-11
The Messiah is a "stone the builders rejected" who will become the "head cornerstone"	Psalms 118:22,23 and Isaiah 28:16	Matthew 21:42,43; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6-8
The Messiah will be a descendant of David	Psalms 132:11 and Jer 23:5,6; 33:15,16	Luke 1:32,33
The Messiah will be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matt 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35
Messiah's first spiritual work will be in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1-7	Matthew 4:12-16

The Messiah will make the blind see, the deaf hear, etc.	Isaiah 35:5-6	Many places. Also see Matthew 11:3-6 and John 11:47
The Messiah will be beaten, mocked, spat upon	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67 and 27:26-31
The “Gospel according to Isaiah”	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
People will hear and not believe the “arm of the LORD” (Messiah)	Isaiah 53:1	John 12:37,38
The Messiah will be rejected	Isaiah 53:3	Matthew 27:20-25; Mark 15:8-14; Luke 23:18-23; John 19:14,15
The Messiah will be killed	Isaiah 53:5-9	Matt 27:50; Mark 15:37-39; Luke 23:46; John 19:30
The Messiah will be silent before his accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 26:62,63 and 27:12-14
The Messiah will be buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:59,60; Mark 15:46; Luke 23:52,53; John 19:38-42
The Messiah will be crucified with criminals	Isaiah 53:12	Matt 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 23:32,33
The Messiah is part of the new and everlasting covenant	Isaiah 55:3-4 and Jeremiah 31:31-34	Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6-13
The Messiah will be our intercessor	Isaiah 59:16	Hebrews 9:15
The Messiah has two missions	Isaiah 61:1-3 (first ends at “year of LORD’s favor”)	First mission: Luke 4:16-21; Second mission: to be fulfilled at the end of the world
The Messiah will come at a specific time	Daniel 9:25-26	Galatians 4:4 and Ephesians 1:10
The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1 and Luke 2:4-7
The Messiah will enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:1-11
The Messiah will be sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12,13	Matthew 26:15 with Matthew 27:3-10
The Messiah will forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:31,56
The Messiah will enter Temple with authority	Malachi 3:1	Matthew 21:12 and Luke 19:45

Lesson Five Questions

Using your Bible, answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more space. Handwriting should be neat, sentences complete, with attention paid to spelling and grammar.

1. What does “Lord” mean in reference to Jesus?
2. What does “Jesus” mean in reference to Jesus?
3. What does “Christ” mean in reference to Jesus?
4. Read Revelation 19:16; what will we call Jesus in this passage?
5. Read Matthew 1:21; how did Jesus receive His name?
6. Read Matthew 1:23; what is another name we have for Jesus and what does it mean?
7. Read Mark 8:29; who does Peter say that Jesus is?
8. Read John 1:41; who does Andrew say that Jesus is?
9. Read Philippians 2:5-11.

Though Jesus is God, He was willing to do what for us?

What has God done in return for His sacrifice?

The day will come when every tongue will confess what?