



Plan of Salvation

Part II: Six Lesson Plans for the Plan of Salvation

Now that you have completed Part 1: Pre Study-The Trinity, you are ready to move on to Part II. At this point, you have received much biblical instruction from our staff and volunteers at Hope Harbor in various ways. As you continue on in this process, you will want to draw on what you have learned through reading your Bible, attending church and chapel, participating in devotions and bible study, and through scripture memorization, discussion, prayer, and other times of fellowship with believers around the Word. The Lord will use all of these ways and more to speak to you daily. We must keep our spiritual eyes and ears open for what He is showing us!

It's safe to say that no matter where you are at with God right now, it is true that your understanding of Him and His character has changed from when you started this process, and your program. In Phase 1 of your program, we expect that you are learning about who God is and thinking about what a relationship with Him looks like. In Phase 2, it is our hope that you are further developing that relationship with Him. This study is designed to help you do that as you understand more about the Bible, what it means to be saved, and how to walk out your faith.

Part Two will help you gain overall knowledge of scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. When you complete each lesson plan, please 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. As you work on Part III, 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 1: Getting to Know the Bible

The Old Testament

The Old Testament has 39 books. The first 17 books, *Genesis to Esther*, tell one complete story. It is the **history** of the Jewish people, from their beginning with Abraham (about 2,000 BC) to a period of their history known as the 'restoration' (about 400 BC). It is an interesting history. After describing the early years of slow growth through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Jacob's 12 sons (*Genesis*), the history continues with the story of Moses, who helps free the Jews from Egyptian slavery and gives them God's law (*Exodus to Deuteronomy*).

After the death of Moses, *Joshua* leads the Jews into the Promised Land, where they live under the leadership of *Judges* (Samson, *Samuel*, and others). About 1,000 BC, the Jews begin to be ruled by *Kings* (Saul, David, Solomon). After Solomon's reign, the Jews are divided into two kingdoms: the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Israel is soon destroyed by Assyria. Judah is later taken captive by Babylon, but is 'restored' to their homeland about 70 years later.

It is during this period of the kings that the rest of the Old Testament is written. These are the books of **poetry** (*Job to the Song of Solomon*) and **prophecy** (*Isaiah to Malachi*).

Through the entire Old Testament account, one sad fact becomes plain: the people continually sin against God.

The New Testament

The New Testament contains 27 books. The New Testament then begins with the story of Jesus. There was a 400 year silence from God between the conclusion of the book of Malachi and the events in the beginning of the book of Matthew. *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John* are called the Gospels. These books are accounts of Jesus' life, from His miraculous birth to His ministry, death, and resurrection. The Gospels are accounts from four different men who were there, who knew Christ, and who interviewed others who were there. Each book reports what happened in a unique way, giving us the most accurate testimony of the life of Christ.

Matthew and *Luke* give us the account of Jesus' birth. *Matthew's* testimony focuses on presenting Jesus' Messianic prophecy fulfillments. *Mark* focuses on Jesus as the perfect servant. *Luke's* focus is Jesus as the perfect, sinless man. *John's* testimony shows us that Jesus is God. It is the story of Jesus which makes the Bible so special. He forgives our sins and gives us the gift of eternal life, just because He loves us.

Before He ascended back to heaven, Jesus commanded His apostles to preach this good news to the world. The book of *Acts* records some of this work. The rest of the New Testament (*Romans to Revelation*) contains letters written to churches and individuals instructing them how to live. The account of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus to Paul in Acts Chapter 9 is notable. The salvation of this man through Jesus Christ led him to write nearly half of the New Testament. Other authors include brothers of Jesus *James* and *Jude*, and *Peter* and *John*, who both had walked alongside Christ during His ministry.

The disciples and apostles of Christ, those who walked with Him and preached His Word, suffered greatly for their faith. Many were beaten, imprisoned, and martyred. But as Paul writes in Romans 8, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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. God promised Abraham three things in Genesis 12: (1) he would become a great nation, (2) his descendants would be given the land of Canaan, and (3) all nations of the earth would be blessed through him. Two of these promises were fulfilled in the Old Testament. One was not. Which one wasn't fulfilled? (Read Exodus 1:7, Joshua 24:13, Galatians 3:28-29).
2. A *testament* is a covenant or contract between two parties. Who were the two parties of the Old Testament covenant? (Read Exodus 24:3-8)
3. Who are the two parties of the New Testament covenant? (Read Romans 10:12-13)
4. When God established the New Testament, what did He do with the Old Testament? (Read Colossians 2:13-14, Galatians 3:24-25)
5. Which testament (or covenant) is better? (Read Hebrews 8:6-7)
6. Why is it better? (Read Hebrews 8:12)
7. Since we are not under the Old Testament covenant, why should we still study it today? (Read Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:11, 2 Timothy 3:15)

Lesson 2: The Absolute Authority of the Bible

What is Authority?

Authority is defined as “the right to rule, the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.” It might also be described as “the right to tell someone else what to do.” Some of us may have a distorted view of authority based on negative past experience; the word itself may leave a sour taste in our mouth. But authority is a God-given, God-established principle. Authority is necessary in our lives, and, believe it or not, is a real blessing.

Who has Authority?

The Bible makes this plain from the very first scripture. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Anyone with the power to create heaven and earth certainly has the right to direct it! God has ultimate authority over everyone and everything in the heavens and on the earth; everything everywhere.

When someone has authority, they have the right to “tell you what to do.” But God does not speak directly to each of us (Hebrews 1:1-2). How then can we know His will for us (what He would have us do)? Jesus helps us toward the answer to that question. Jesus said, “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). Who gave Jesus this power or authority? The only One who has it to give: His Father, God!

But Jesus is in heaven and does not speak directly to us either. So how does that work then? The night before He was crucified, Jesus made a promise to His apostles: that after He had gone, He would send them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would guide them “into all truth” (John 16:5-14). In this way God, the Ultimate authority, speaks to us!

Later, those apostles began to teach and preach. They received the message by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, so they were actually teaching and preaching the will of God Himself (1 Corinthians 2:10-13). Even their writings were directed by the Spirit of God, and are therefore the very Word of God Himself (Ephesians 3:1-5). These are the writings we call the New Testament. The Old Testament was written in a similar fashion, and is therefore also the very Word of God (2 Peter 1:20-21). This is why we accept the Bible as our only authority. It is the inspired Word of God who created the heavens and the earth.

The Chain of Authority: **GOD --> JESUS --> HOLY SPIRIT --> APOSTLES --> BIBLE**

Who Else Has Authority?

God uses man to establish authority and order in our lives. He used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3:10). He established Joshua to take Moses’ place after his death (Joshua 1:1). In Judges we see 13 different judges established as authority over God’s people. The people later demanded a king (1 Samuel 8:4, 7). God warned them a king would not rule fairly, but they insisted. Through Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles, we see God use Saul, David, and Solomon as key authorities, followed by a long reign of kings both good and bad.

We must remember that man is prone to sin. God is the only good and perfect authority, doing everything out of pure agape (unconditional) love for us. God knew man would not be able to rule that way. The good news is that the day is coming when Christ returns to establish His Kingdom, where He will reign forever!

Until then, God will use man in various capacities of authority over us. Biblically, parents, governments, pastors, bosses, and others have authority over us. This is only because God has given them that authority (Romans 13:1). Whether we like it (or them!) or not, our role is to submit to the authority He has placed over us. (James 4:7) Through submission, we have protection, restoration, learning, and blessing. God is well pleased when we choose to submit, even when we don’t want to.

Our authority has expectations and responsibilities too. These include following Christ’s example (1 Corinthians 11:1), dying to the flesh (Galatians 2:20), humility (Philippians 2:3-11), not being abusive (1 Peter 5:1-3), serving (Mark 9:35), and showing grace and love (John 13:1, Ephesians 5, 6). The only time we have the right to disobey our authority is if they ask us to do something that goes against the Word of God, or that is harmful to us (which probably goes against the Word). In Acts, Peter is twice faced with this issue (Acts 4:19-20, 5:29). When it comes down to man’s instruction contradicting God’s Word, we choose God’s Word. If our authority chooses not to submit to God’s will, we must trust Him to deal with that. We can still submit to people or instructions we don’t like (that don’t contradict God), and receive blessing in doing so; it will be well with us (Ephesians 6:3).

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. What will happen to those who preached a message different from the gospel? Should he be believed? (Galatians 1:8-9)
2. What did Jesus say about those who follow their traditions instead of God's commandments? (Mark 7:7-9)
3. What did Jesus say about those who follow the teachings of their parents instead of Him? (Matthew 10:34-37)
4. A preacher using dynamic speaking ability to gather followers, instead of the Word of God, is using what kind of allurements? (2 Peter 2:18)
5. Some preachers use more human philosophy than scripture in their sermons. What does God think about the use of human wisdom? (1 Corinthians 1:18-24)
6. Many believe that if they do not violate their conscience (it feels right to them or they don't feel bad about it), they are pleasing to God. Did Paul have a good conscience when he persecuted Christians? (Acts 26:9)
7. Read Proverbs 14:12. Is it possible to think we are right, when we are wrong?
8. Some people believe that God will be pleased if we simply perform many "good works" in the name of Jesus. Those who ignore the will of God in order to do these "good works" will face what sentence on judgment day? (Matthew 7:21-23)
9. All authority comes from where? (Romans 13:1)
10. When is the only time it is right to not obey authority? (Acts 4:19-20, 5:29)

Lesson 3: What Must I Do to Be Saved?

An Important Question

One day, we will die. We will also stand in judgment for how we have lived our lives (Hebrews 9:27, 2 Corinthians 5:10). These facts should sober us. How will we be saved on that day?

The Bible has the Answer

As with all the important questions of life, the Bible gives us the answer-especially the book of Romans.

Paul begins the letter by pointing out that all mankind is guilty of sin, and therefore in need of salvation (Chapters 1 and 2). Chapter 1:18-32 give us a unique view on the progression of sin, which starts with not glorifying God or being thankful to Him, and develops into vile action and a debased mind. That's pretty intense, but Paul explains that God has provided for the forgiveness of sin, only by the blood of Jesus. The righteousness of God will be revealed through faith in Jesus if we hope to gain forgiveness, to all and on all who believe (Chapter 3). That's important, because Paul clearly states that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (verse 23).

In Chapter 4, Paul illustrates this by pointing out that even Abraham, who knew God intimately and was credited with great faith many times, was not able to earn his salvation by perfect obedience (boastful works). In Chapter 5, Paul lists several advantages of being justified by faith and forgiveness rather than by perfect obedience. It's a good thing too, because before we were reconciled to God through Christ, sin made us enemies of God (verse 10).

In chapters 6 and 7, Paul addresses a very important point. If we are justified by faith and forgiveness anyway, does this mean that we can sin as much as we want? The answer is, of course, 'no'. In these chapters, Paul emphasizes that salvation involves more than faith. After baptism into Christ's death (6:4), we must "walk in newness of life" (6:4). *We must obey "from the heart"* (6:17), and we must "*serve*" (7:6). We have to want to do something from the heart, and we have to want to serve. It's not always easy, but we get ourselves to that place by crucifying our old self (verse 6) which contains our sin; literally putting our desire to sin to death. Then it no longer has dominion over us (verse 9). *That is freedom*. In Chapter 7, Paul pours out his heart through verses 13-26. He verbalizes the struggle that we have as man to put that sin to death. It isn't easy, but it is possible through Christ. Chapters 12-16 of Romans gives us many practical ways that we can walk and work in the way Christ would have us. These guidelines give useful details about serving from the heart.

Chapter 8 begins with a very important reminder; there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. We must accept that we will stumble, because we are too weak do this ourselves (verse 1, 3). But as believers, we walk "after the Spirit," we don't fall for the accusations of our enemy. This simply means that we must be "spiritually minded" (8:6). There is nothing mysterious about this.

Note that Paul says we are "in Christ Jesus" (8:1), but Christ is also in us (8:10). In the same way, we are "in the Spirit" (8:9), but the Spirit is also in us (8:11). These expressions are not referring to physical location. Rather, they beautifully describe the relationship between God and the one who has surrendered his mind to God's will. The amazing promise in verse 13 is that when we live according to the Spirit, we put to death the deeds of the body, and we will live! We sometimes need the reminder found in verse 15 that we did not receive the spirit of bondage to fear, but we received the Spirit of adoption by which we cry out to God as our Abba (Father). We were not created to live a fearful life bound in our sin. If you are living that way, God has more for you.

Verse 31 of Chapter 8 declares, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" What power the believer has through a life with Christ! And that life is available for all; in fact, Chapters 9-11 record Paul's appeal to his Jewish brethren to receive this wonderful blessing of salvation from God too. Best of all, "in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Salvation is forever.**

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. Do we play a role in our own salvation? (Philippians 2:12-13)
2. What will be the end result of those who do not believe in Jesus? (John 8:24)
3. Can we be justified by faith alone? (James 2:24)
4. What kind of works was Paul describing in Romans 4:2? (see also Ephesians 2:8-9)
5. What kind of works does God require? (Ephesians 2:10)
6. Those who allow God to lead their life will be led to do a number of things. For example, the goodness of God leads us to _____. (Romans 2:4 NKJV).
7. Fill in the blanks (from Romans 10:10 NKJV) "For with the heart man _____ unto _____ and with the mouth _____ is made unto _____.
8. According to Romans 6:3, what brings us into contact with the death (or blood) of Jesus?
9. According to Mark 16:16, who will be saved?
10. Read 1 John 1:7-9. According to this apostle, what two things must a Christian do to maintain a right relationship with God?

Lesson 4: Condemnation versus Conviction

Many believers hear condemning thoughts; criticism, judgment, accusation. Some even think its God, but that is a lie from the enemy! God never tells us we're losers. Jesus didn't come to condemn the world, but to save it!

What is Condemnation?

Condemnation comes from Satan and is meant to tear us down. Condemnation accuses us of being a failure and points out how badly we've messed up. Condemnation is showing us the problem, but avoiding the solution.

We have an enemy who hates us, the devil, Satan. The word "Satan" comes from the Hebrew "adversary." Satan opposes God. He was a powerful and beautiful angel created by God (Ezekiel 28:11-19). His fall occurred because of pride in him. He rebelled against God, saying he would exalt himself above God and be like God (Isaiah 14:12-21). He was then cast out of heaven and a third of the angels followed (Daniel 8:10-12, Jude 6, Revelation 12:3-4, 7-12). These fallen angels now operate in the demonic world doing Satan's work.

That makes some uneasy, but we don't have to be. Angel means messenger; they were created by God to serve Him and carrying out His will. Fallen angels rebelled against God, but are still subject to Him because He created them. Not one, including Satan, are more powerful than God. One day their rebellion will be crushed when they are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone forever (2 Peter 2:4, Revelation 20:10). Remember that while the devil took one-third of the angels with him when he was cast out by God, there are two-thirds left in heaven. That means for every one fallen angel, there are twice as many angels still doing God's work!

Satan has many names, most referring to his character and work. Lucifer (Isaiah 14) means light-bearer, and it is possible he was originally purposed to be involved in the God's worship. He is also called the devil (Matthew 4:10), tempter (Matthew 4:3), accuser, (revelation 12:10), prince of demons (Luke 11:15), and ruler of this world (John 12:31). These are a few of the many biblical names that refer to Satan. Remember that at his core, Satan is our enemy. An enemy is one who feels hatred for us, fosters harm against us, and is an adversary or opponent.

This describes Satan exactly. He hates us because we are made in the image of God, and he hates God. As the enemy, he tries to use condemnation to ruin our lives. He tempts us to act against God's will, then accuses us by our sinful actions after we fall for it. Satan tempts us, but we make our own choice to act on temptation or not (James 1:13-15). This is what he did to Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3), and what he does to us today.

There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). Satan is known for accusing the brethren (Rev 12:10), never God. All condemnation comes from the enemy alone. We'll never hear God telling us we are a failure; Jesus said, "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." (John 12:47). In fact, even Jesus endured Satan's temptation in Matthew 3. Jesus' commitment to God is an example to us how to overcome Satan in our lives, by relying on His Word. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says that God will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear but that He will make a way for us to stand up under it. Simply put, God is always for us, never against us.

What is conviction?

Conviction is "Godly sorrow that leads us to repentance" (Romans 2:4). Conviction is God's invitation to Him so He can forgive us. He is willing to forgive our sins and longs to! Isaiah 30:18 says, "The Lord longs to be gracious to us, waits to have compassion on us, and He is a God of justice." 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Romans 2:4 says that the goodness of God leads us to repentance. Conviction shows us the answer to our problem, that the blood of Jesus wipes away our sins! There is a big difference between condemnation and conviction. Condemnation shouts, "Your past! Your sins! You loser!" Conviction shouts, "The Blood of Jesus washes away sins! Come to Jesus and be forgiven of your sins! You can be forgiven! Your sins and past don't have to be a part of you anymore!" It's so important to understand the nature of God's forgiveness and His desire to wash us clean from our past sins.

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. Read Ezekiel 28:11-19. List some of the characteristics that described Lucifer, as he was created by God.
2. Read Isaiah 14:12-21. What was Satan's sin?
3. Read Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-10. What do we learn about the enemy from these passages (who is in charge of him, and how do you know that?).
4. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the enemy (name, description, and/or activity)?

Genesis 3:1

John 13:2

Zechariah 3:1-5

2 Corinthians 11:14

Matthew 4:1-3

1 Peter 5:8

Matthew 12:24

1 John 3:8

Matthew 13:39

Revelation 12:3-4

John 8:44

Revelation 12:9-10

John 10:10

Revelation 20:2, 10

5. Read 2 Peter 3:9. How do we know that God wants to forgive us, according to this verse?
6. Read Ezekiel 18:30-31. How do we know that God wants to forgive us, according to this verse? What do we need to do, and what will we get in return?
7. Read 1 John 4:8-9, 16. Describe God. How do we know God wants to forgive us, according to this verse?

Lesson 5: Which Church Do I Join?

When one becomes a child of God, they must decide which church to attend. The Bible encourages us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). We do this by becoming actively involved in the ministry at a local church. The answer to which church to attend depends on several considerations.

Definition of Church

The church is the entity that God has established on earth for the spiritual well-being of those who have committed themselves to Christ. It is the guardian of God’s truth as revealed in the Bible, and the church is charged with the responsibility of proclaiming God’s truth until Christ’s second coming.

The word "church" is used in at least two different ways in the Bible. It may refer to the "one body" of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:4). This is the one church which Jesus had promised to build (Matthew 16:18). No one actually "joins" this church. When a person responds in faith to the gospel message by repenting and being baptized (Acts 2:38), the Lord adds him to His church (Acts 2:47). All Christians are thus members of the body of Christ, the true church.

However, the word "church" is used in another sense. Revelation, for example, is addressed to "the seven churches which are in Asia" (Revelation 1:4). The letters to the Corinthians are addressed to the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Corinthians 1:1). Galatians is addressed to the "churches of Galatia" (1:2). These churches were local groups of Christians in the various cities. It is God’s will that Christians should meet together as a spiritual body on the local level, and Christians have been doing so for more than two thousand years.

The Reason for Joining a Church

While no one can "join" the one body of Christ (Acts 2:47), we do need to join a local church. Saul of Tarsus tried to "join" the church at Jerusalem soon after he was converted (Acts 9:26). He saw the need for such an association. We need to identify with God’s people to stand up and be counted as those opposed to sin and evil in the world.

Christians are not to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together." The reason for this is that we need to "exhort one another" (Hebrews 10:25). No Christian is so strong that he can survive long without the encouragement of other Christians; we cannot thrive in isolation outside the church. In God's wisdom, He established the local church to provide encouragement. We need fellowship with others of like mind, which leads to stability and spiritual maturity.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that our physical bodies have many parts, and all are necessary in different ways (verse 12-14). The body of Christ is the same; we all have a role in the body, and there are others in the body who need us, too! Verse 26 tells us that if one member suffers, all suffer; if one rejoices, all rejoice. There is accountability and responsibility within the body of Christ. You matter!

We also need the church for united worship, public reading of the Word, prayer, and studying the scripture together. This is worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). Fellowship and the teaching of the church will inspire us to lead biblically based lives and encourage others to conform to Christ’s example. The church also provides an outlet for serving Christ and other believers. We build relationships around Christ in the church, and we have an opportunity to use the spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit (and we *all* have them to use!)

Which Church to Join

Not every local "church" is recognized by God. He removes the "candlestick" of unfaithful churches (Revelation 2:5). False teachers abound, and they lead many people astray (2 Peter 2:1-3). Paul prophesied of an apostasy (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3). How can we be sure to avoid all this? The apostle John tells us to "try the spirits" (1 John 4:1). This is done by comparing the teachings and practices of local churches to the pure Word of God.

We need to be alert to avoid involvement with any false teaching or group that teaches doctrines or beliefs that deviate from the biblical message of the Christian faith. They often teach some Christian truth mixed with error, which may be difficult to detect. Look for a church that does not deviate from the 66 books of the Bible as the inspired Word of God, that teaches that salvation through Jesus Christ’s work on the cross alone, and that gives Jesus Christ the Son of God the full divine recognition that He merits.

When you look for a church, remember that denomination is not the most important factor. Consider whether the church’s beliefs and practices keep with God’s Word. Seek identity and fellowship within the church.

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. Organization: What offices did the church at Philippi have? (Philippians 1:1)
2. Organization: What qualifications does the Bible give for these offices? (1 Timothy 3:1-13)
3. Work: Members of local churches often combined their funds to accomplish certain works (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). They helped Paul in his work of _____ (Philippians 4:15-18). They also took up collections for poor _____ (Romans 15:25-26).
4. Work: Paul reminded Christians that assemblies were not for the purpose of _____ (1 Corinthians 11:22).
5. Name: Individually, the children of God are referred to as _____ (Acts 11:26). As a group, they are called the church of _____ (1 Corinthians 1:2), the churches of _____ (Romans 16:16), etc.
6. Name: What does Paul say about those who wear the names of men? (1 Corinthians 1:10-13)
7. Worship: When Christians assembled together in the first century, they engaged in _____ (Ephesians 5:19), _____ (Acts 4:24), and _____ (Acts 14:21-22). On the first day of the week, they also engaged in breaking _____ (Acts 20:7), and taking up a _____ (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
8. Worship: (Fill in the blanks) "But in _____ they do _____ me, teaching as _____ the commandments of _____ (Matthew 15:9 NKJV).

Lesson 6: Living the Life of a Christian

In our mind

Christianity is more than doing good deeds and avoiding evil ones. Paul reminds us that a Christian is transformed "by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). Jesus says "for from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man." (Mark 7:21-23).

Some people think it doesn't matter what they think about; no one else knows what is on their mind. But the same God who created us on the outside and sees all that we do, created us on the inside and sees all that we think. Jesus asked the question, "Did not He that made the outside make the inside also?" (Luke 11:40).

What we think about makes a difference in how we feel and act, something we have all experienced. Paul gives us important advice in Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."

In our actions

If our hearts are right, and if we depend on God's word to guide us (Lesson 2), our actions will be pleasing to God. This covers a lot of ground. In our relationship with God, we will actively pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and learn of Him (John 6:45, 2 Peter 1:5-8). Prayer is essential to keep us connected with God, trusting and leaning on Him, as evidenced in Philippians 4:7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

In our relationship with others, we will actively look for opportunities to help others in need (Matthew 25:37-40, Luke 10:25-37). Philippians Chapter 2 tells us to have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, our example of servant leadership. Verses 1-3, "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

In our personal lives, we will actively control our speech (Joshua 3:10-12), our morals (1 Corinthians 6:9-10), and our behavior toward others (Ephesians 4:31-32). Luke 6:45 says, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." What comes out of our mouths is a clear indication of what is going on in our hearts.

What if I stumble?

No one but Jesus has ever lived a perfect life (Romans 3:23). Even Christians will sin (1 John 1:8). But there is nothing that we can do that is too big or too bad for God to forgive us. Scripture says "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). Jesus "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession," (Titus 2:14)

When we accept Christ as our Savior, our past and future sins are forgiven. Jesus already knows what we've done, and what we will do, before we know it, and He forgives us anyway. But as we learned in Romans, that doesn't give us the license to sin. The Bible tells us to walk in the light with Jesus and away from our sin (1 John 1:7). When we do stumble, we need to confess our sins (1 John 1:9) and receive forgiveness. We must **keep on** walking in the light and **keep on** confessing sin. If we do this, the Lord has promised to "forgive us our sins" (to **keep on** forgiving).

If we give up and go back to walking in darkness, we have fallen away by giving up the gift of salvation and will be lost (Hebrews 6:4-6). Remember, we cannot "lose" our salvation; to lose something is to misplace it or to fail at it. Salvation cannot be taken away; Jesus said, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand," (John 10:28-29).

Because following Christ is a choice, there are times when people choose to walk away from Him. Someone who does this will show contempt, insult, and complete lack of reverence for God; that is called blasphemy. It is a "tongue sin," that is, speaking evil of God. Scripture talks about blasphemy of the Holy Spirit as the only sin which God says is unforgivable, because it is to completely reject Him forever (Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, Luke 12:10). This is a deliberate choice to turn away from God by someone who knows Him but decides not to follow Him anymore. Someone who does this has no remorse for it, a seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:2) and chooses not to return.

Lesson Six 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. We are not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed (or changed). How is this change accomplished? (Romans 12:2)
2. What must a Christian do in order to keep from falling spiritually? (2 Peter 1:10).
3. How do we know that it is possible for a Christian to fall back into the world and be lost? (2 Peter 2:19-20).
4. Can we “lose” our salvation, or can it be taken away from us? Can we choose to give it up? (Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-20, Luke 12:10).
5. How can we truly be disciples of Jesus, and be made free from sin? (John 8:31-32).
6. Who is the One who can cleanse us from all sin? (1 John 1:7-9)