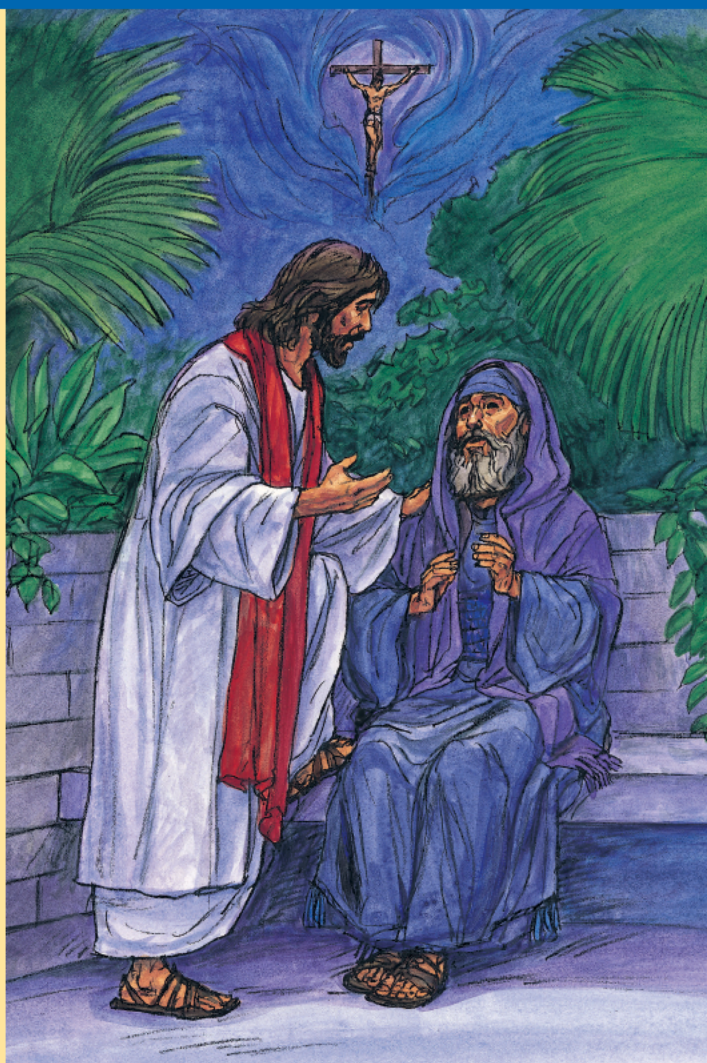


Believe and Live

A self-study
course about
the Gospel
of John

by
Gary P. Baumler



Believe and Live

*A study of the
Gospel of John*

By
Gary P. Baumler



**Multi-Language
Productions**

Bringing the Word to the World

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Level Two, Book 1

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BELIEVE AND LIVE

**INTRODUCTION AND SECTION 1:
How God Shows Us His Glory**

John 1:1 to John 1:18

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

INTRODUCTION

When he was about 30 years old, Jesus Christ started out to teach the people and to carry out God's plan to save us. He chose 12 men, called disciples, to go with him. Of those 12, only one, John, lived to old age. About 50 years after Jesus rose from the dead and went up to heaven, John wrote the Gospel named after him. This Gospel is the fourth book in the New Testament of the Bible.

The first three Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—were already written and in use. The Gospels told the good news of the life and work of Jesus Christ. Friends urged John, too, to write what he knew about Jesus. Moved by God's Spirit, John did. He generally assumed that his readers already knew what was in the other Gospels.

Some say that John's Gospel is more spiritual. That is, it speaks more of things that we cannot see or touch, things about God and his Son. It tells us things that will affect our spirits. He wrote, in part, to answer certain false teachers. Some were saying that Jesus was not fully God. Some said that Jesus was not fully human. John corrected the false teachings. He showed that Jesus Christ was both God and man. He wanted people to believe in Jesus and have eternal life.

Believe and Live

Things to remember

1. The one original disciple of Jesus who lived to old age was _____.
2. That disciple wrote his Gospel about _____ years after Jesus went up to heaven.
3. This Gospel is the _____ book in the New Testament of the Bible.
4. Some say that this Gospel is more _____ than the other three.
5. In this Gospel, we learn that Jesus is both _____ and _____.
6. When we _____ in Jesus, we have _____.

Check your answers on page 12.

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

SECTION ONE:

How God Shows Us His Glory

God introduces us to his Son, the Word.

(Read John 1:1, 2 [chapter 1, verses 1 and 2].)

¹ In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.

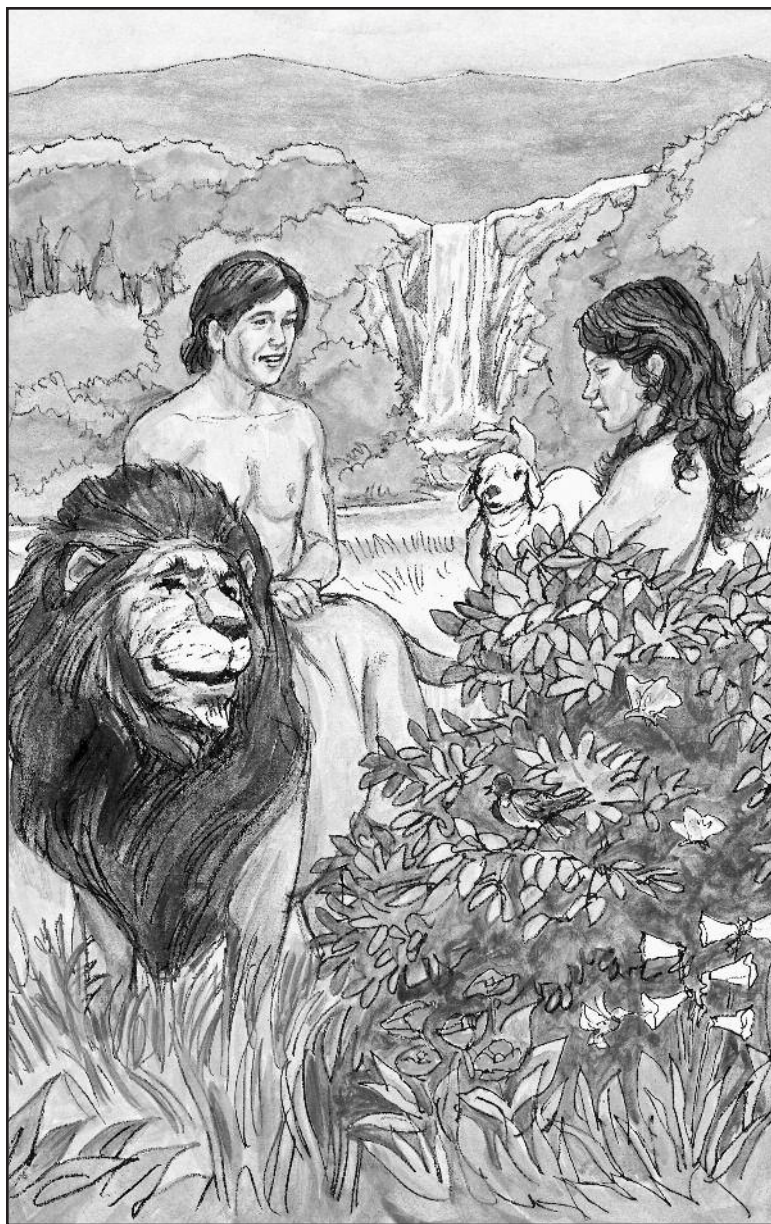
In the beginning before anything was made, the Son of God was already there with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. He was eternal. We know that Son as Jesus, but here John calls him “the Word.” He tells us that “the Word was God” and that the Word was “with God.” John doesn’t mention the Spirit of God until later in his Gospel.

We wonder how the Word can be both God and with God at the same time. It is a mystery of how God reveals himself to us. He is one (*une*) God, and he is three (*tri*) distinct persons (Father, Son, and Spirit). We call him “triune” (3-in-1).

The Son of God is “the Word.” Think of what we do with words. We reveal our thoughts. We explain things. We identify things. We give commands and promises that are backed by the power and authority we have. For example, a father’s word is law for his child.

Things to remember

7. The Son of God was already present in the
“_____.”
8. The Son of God is called the _____.



God Made All Things.

9. The Son of God was present as _____, and was _____.
10. The truth of number 3 is evidence of the mystery that God is _____ (3-in-1).

Check your answers on page 12.

God's Son is life and light.

(Read John 1:3-5.)

³ All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him. Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not understood it.

In the beginning, God made all things from nothing by the power of his Word. From this Gospel we know that means that all things were made through the Son of God. By his power he created us and everything else that is created.

“Life was in [the Word], and that life was the light for all people.” “Life was in him,” does not just mean that the Son was alive. It means that in him was the very essence and source of life. He brings a heavenly and spiritual life that God wants for all of us. John will mention this life 54 times in the Gospel.

“That life was the light for all people.” The Word of God shines in the world. He reveals all the truth of God and offers all the good things that come from God, including eternal life. When we come into his light, we enjoy the life he gives. But this world had become darkened by sin that brings death. Lost in that darkness, many people fail to see the light and to receive life. They not only do not listen to the Word, they oppose him.

Believe and Live

Things to remember

11. As the Word, the Son of God _____ all things, and in him was _____ and _____.
12. The darkness that causes people not to recognize, but rather to oppose, the light of the Word is caused by _____.

Check your answers on page 12.

God's Son makes us God's children by faith.

(Read John 1:6-13.)

⁶ A man came who was sent from God. His name was John. ⁷ He came to give witness about that light. He gave witness so that all people could believe.

⁸ John himself was not the light. He came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ The Word was in the world that was made through him. But the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him.

¹² Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. ¹³ To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does.

The Word was the source of life and light. This Word was to come into the world. To help prepare the people to receive him, God sent a man as a witness to tell others about him. The man's name was John, but not the John who wrote this Gospel. We know him today as John the Baptist.

John witnessed to "the light" of the world but he did not claim to be the light. He was pointing to the Son of God, who shows the light of God to every person. He was pointing to Jesus.



Jesus is the “true light.” Think of how we turn on lights so we can see better. Or, think of how a cartoonist will draw a light bulb to show that a character understands something or has a good idea. Jesus sheds light on God and his way to life. In Jesus we learn to understand God in all his goodness. We see the light of heaven.

Still, people who could see only the ways of the world that has been darkened by sin did not see that Jesus was the Son of God. Many of his own people rejected him. They were once God’s people, the Jews, whom God had chosen to receive the promised Savior. But, they failed to believe in him when he came.

However, not everyone rejected God’s Son. Some believed and trusted in him. They accepted that he was God sent from God. And God made them his children. This birth as God’s children was not a birth they planned. God himself made it happen. He caused them to believe when they saw and heard “the Word.”

Things to remember

13. When the time came for “the Word” to come into this world, God prepared a man named _____ [the Baptist] to be his witness.
14. Although the Word made the world and was “the true _____” of the world, those who were caught up in the ways of the _____ did not see that he was the _____ of God.
15. Those who _____ in him became the _____ of God.

Check your answers on page 12.

Believe and Live

God's Son became one of us, and in him we see God's glory.

(Read John 1:14.)

¹ The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the one and only Son.

He came from the Father. And he was full of grace and truth.

We have learned that the Word was God. Now we learn that he also became flesh. That is, he became a human being like us, but he had no sin. He came as the baby born of the Virgin Mary, as the other Gospels tell us. He is Jesus, as John will soon identify him.

Jesus lived here on earth as a real human being, a true man. But he didn't stop being God. John says that he and the other followers of Jesus saw in him the glory of the one-and-only Son who came from the heavenly Father.

This glory of Jesus connects nicely with him coming as the light of the world. Think, for example, of a dark cloudy day when the clouds suddenly break and the sun shines brightly through. We think, "Oh, how glorious!" In another way, you can also think of glory as we say famous athletes gain glory, that is, fame and a good reputation.

The glory of Jesus shines because he comes to us from the Father, and he is "full of grace and truth."

We see that glory in the great love and truth of Jesus. Grace is love, an unearned love that God showed the world by sending Jesus. And in Jesus alone, we see all the truth of God and his plan to save us. Through the love and truth found in Jesus, the glory of God shines. We see his brilliance and his greatness. We can say of God, "Oh, how glorious!"



Jesus is Born.

Believe and Live

Things to remember

16. The Word became a _____. Jesus was a true _____.
17. Jesus was also still true _____, and he displayed the glory of the One-and-Only from the _____.
18. We see God's glory in Jesus, who is "full of _____ and _____."
19. When we say that we see the glory of Jesus, we mean we see in his love and truth heavenly _____ and _____.

Check your answers on page 12.

Jesus brings us God's grace.

(Read John 1:15-18.)

¹⁵ John gives witness about him. He cries out and says, "This was the one I was talking about. I said, 'He who comes after me is more important than I am. He is more important because he existed before I was born.'"

¹⁶ We have all received one blessing after another. God's grace is not limited. ¹⁷ Moses gave us the law. Jesus Christ has given us grace and truth.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. But God, the one and only Son, is at the Father's side. He has shown us what God is like.

John the Baptist continues his witness. John says that Jesus is greater than he is. Jesus' ministry would come after John's, but Jesus, the Word, existed from eternity. Through Jesus we are all assured that God loves us. Jesus loves us with a love that grows and never goes away. It's a never-ending source of God's blessings. We do not deserve such love. But that is the grace we have in Jesus. We can never run out of or use up all of Jesus' love.

God's Word comes to us in two great teachings. One is the law, in particular the Ten Commandments that he gave through Moses. His law tells us what to do and what not to do. When we fall short, as everyone does, it threatens us with eternal punishment from God. Through the law we see God as angry and threatening.

The other teaching is the good news (the gospel) of Jesus Christ. In Jesus, God shows us his love. Again the word "grace" is used along with truth. You can remember the meaning of grace as "undeserved love." God shows us that love in Jesus. He came to take our place and satisfy God's anger against us for our sin. The Gospel writer John will clearly show how Jesus carried out his mission. We know we have the truth of God in Jesus, because Jesus came to us from and is at the Father's side.

Things to remember

20. We can never use up all of Jesus' _____.
21. The two great teachings of God are the _____ given through Moses, and the _____ of Jesus Christ.
22. A good definition of the word "grace" is _____.
23. We know that what Jesus shows us about God is true because he came to us from and "is at the _____."

Check your answers on page 12.

Things to remember-Answers

1. John, 2. 50, 3. fourth, 4. spiritual, 5. God and man, 6. believe, eternal life, 7. beginning, 8. Word, 9. God, with God, 10. triune, 11. made, life, light, 12. sin, 13. John, 14. light, world, Son, 15. believed [trusted], children, 16. human being, man, 17. God, Father, 18. grace and truth, 19. brilliance [light], greatness, 20. love, 21. law, gospel, 22. undeserved love, 23. Father's side.

TEST - Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Introduction and Section 1

Please review the “Things to remember.”

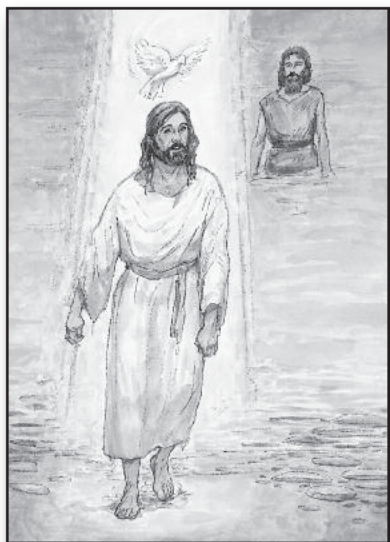
INTRODUCTION:

1. The John who wrote this Gospel was a _____ of Jesus.
2. This Gospel shows that Jesus is both _____ and _____.
3. This Gospel was written so that we might _____ and have _____.

SECTION 1:

4. At the start of the Gospel, Jesus is given the name “the _____,” and is revealed as present already in the _____.
5. All things were _____ by him.
6. In him was _____ and _____.
7. He became _____ and lived among us.
8. _____ caused many not to recognize Jesus as the one sent from heaven.
9. Those who _____ were made the _____ of God.
10. In Jesus we see the _____ of God, because he is “full of _____ and _____.”
11. We can never use up Jesus’ _____.
12. Grace means “_____.”

Check your answers on page 234.



BELIEVE AND LIVE

SECTION 2:

How Jesus Got Started in His Ministry

John 1:19 to John 1:51

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

SECTION TWO:

How Jesus Got Started in His Ministry

God sent John the Baptist ahead of Jesus

(Read John 1:19-28. Verses 22, 23, 26, and 27 are printed here.)

²² They asked one last time, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied, using the words of Isaiah the prophet. John said, "I'm the messenger who is calling out in the desert, 'Make the way for the Lord straight.'"

²⁶ "I baptize people with water," John replied. "But One is standing among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ He is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie his sandals."

When the Jews of Jerusalem heard about the ministry of John the Baptist, they wondered who he was. God had promised to send a Messiah (Hebrew for "Christ." It means "The Anointed."). Was John the Christ? Was he the prophet Elijah that God promised to send (see Malachi 4:15)? Or was he the Prophet like Moses that God promised (see Deuteronomy 18:15)? The Jews sent priests and temple attendants (the Levites) to find out.

John told them clearly that he was not the Christ. Nor was he Elijah or the Prophet. When they pressed him further, John quoted Isaiah 40:3, saying he was God's messenger in the desert. His message: "Make the way for the Lord straight."

John carried out his ministry in the rocky desert near the Jordan River. But that is probably not all that the word "desert" means here. It has a more spiritual meaning. It means the desert wasteland that sin makes of this world and our lives.

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The paths in the desert areas of Israel were hilly and rocky. It could be rough and dangerous to travel there. If someone important, say a king, was known to be coming, men would be sent out ahead to clear the way.

John was calling for people to prepare for Jesus' coming. That's a spiritual matter. We make the way for the Lord Jesus straight by turning from our sins and turning to the Lord in faith. Then the way of the desert and death becomes the way of life instead.

Next, some Pharisees challenged John: How could he baptize if he was not the Christ or a prophet? Pharisees were religious leaders among the Jews. They were very strict, and they opposed anyone who seemed to threaten their leadership.

John did not argue with them about his authority to baptize (you do not need special authority to do that). Instead, he spoke again of Jesus, whom they would soon see. Jesus is the one who has all authority. "I am not good enough to untie his sandals," said John.

Things to remember

1. John told the Jews who asked that he was not the _____ nor _____ nor the _____ like Moses.
2. "Christ" is the same word as the Hebrew word "_____." It means the "_____."
3. We "make the way for the Lord straight" by turning from our _____ and turning to the _____ in _____.
4. John told the Pharisees that he was not good enough to _____ Jesus' sandals.

Check your answers on page 28.

John the Baptist witnessed to Jesus.

(Read John 1:29-34.)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, “Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the One I was talking about. I said, ‘A man who comes after me is more important than I am. That’s because he existed before I was born.’ ³¹ I did not know him. But God wants to make it clear to Israel who this person is. That’s the reason I came baptizing with water.”

³² Then John told them, “I saw the Holy Spirit come down from heaven like a dove. The Spirit remained on Jesus. ³³ I would not have known him. But the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘You will see the Spirit come down and remain on someone. He is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³ I have seen it happen. I give witness that this is the Son of God.”

The next day Jesus came on the scene. John said, “Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world!” Now John could actually show the people Jesus. He called Jesus the Lamb of God.

Anyone who knew the history of God’s people and of their worship would see special meaning in the word “Lamb” here. The people sacrificed lambs to God (see Numbers 28:4). The blood of a lamb saved the people of Israel in Egypt the night before they escaped the country (see Exodus chapters 12 and 13). God had said through the prophet Isaiah that the Savior would be “led away like a sheep [lamb] to be killed” (see Isaiah 53:7).

This Lamb takes away sin. He takes away the sin of the world. We are all included in the world. The Lamb, Jesus, takes away our sin too. No person is so bad or sin so great that Jesus didn’t take it away. His forgiveness belongs to everyone.

John told them again that Jesus was much greater than he was. Jesus was born later than John was and started his



The Lamb's Blood is Painted on the Lintel and Doorposts.

ministry later, but he existed as the Son of God, the Word, already in eternity.

John did not know much about who Jesus was at first. But God showed him when Jesus came one day to be baptized by John (see Mark 1:9-11). God told John to watch for a sign. The Spirit of God would rest on Jesus. John would know then that Jesus was the promised Messiah. At Jesus' baptism, the Spirit did rest on him in the form of a dove. And God said of Jesus: "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

Now John told the people that Jesus was the Son of God.

This same Jesus would one day baptize with the Spirit. That happened later, after Jesus had gone up into heaven. He sent the Spirit on his disciples in the appearance of tongues of fire.

Things to remember

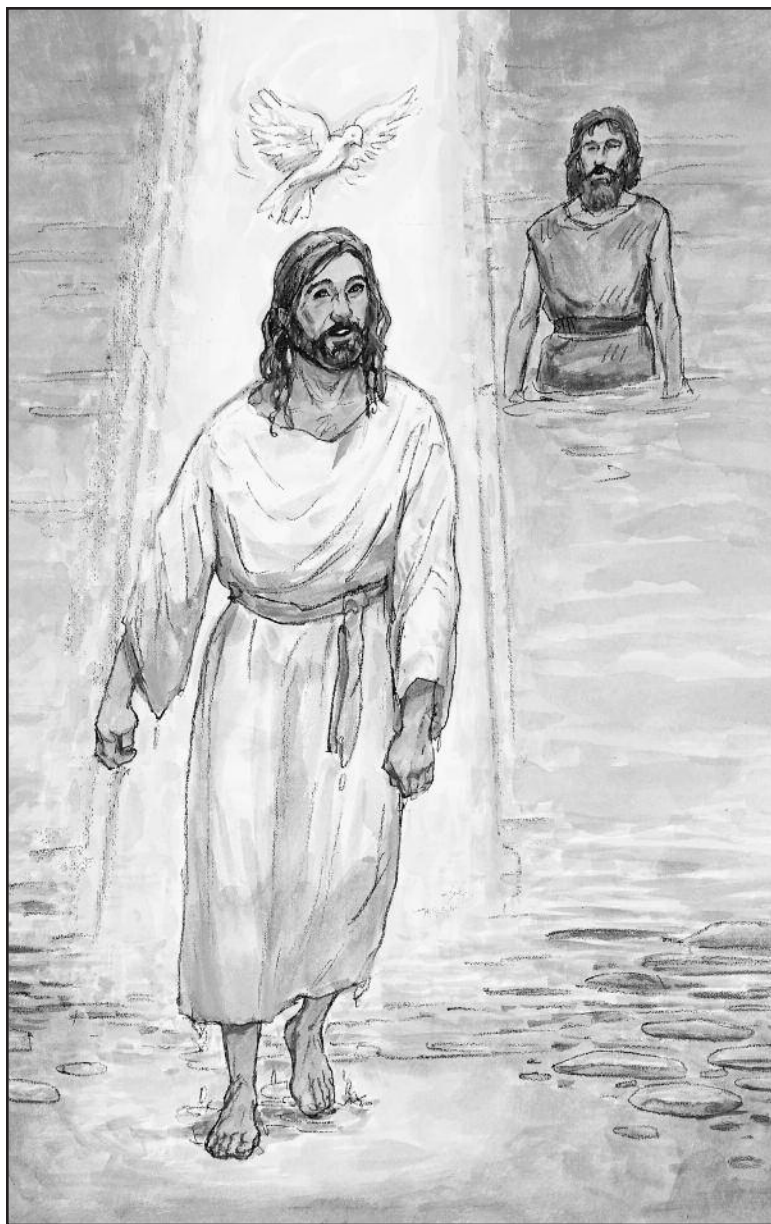
5. John saw Jesus coming and called him "the _____ of God."
6. John says that Jesus "takes away the _____ of the _____."
7. Jesus' _____ belongs to everyone.
8. John knew that Jesus was the promised Messiah because the _____ of God had rested on Jesus.
9. John then told the people that Jesus was the _____ of God.

Check your answers on page 28.

Andrew and Peter became Jesus' disciples.

(Read John 1:35-42.)

³⁵ The next day John was again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ He saw Jesus walking by. John said, "Look! The Lamb of God!"



Jesus is Baptized.

³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this. So they followed Jesus.

³⁸ Then Jesus turned around and saw them following. He asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” *Rabbi* means Teacher.

³⁹ “Come,” he replied. “You will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying. They spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

⁰ Andrew was Simon Peter’s brother. Andrew was one of the two disciples who heard what John had said. He had also followed Jesus. ¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon. He told him, “We have found the Messiah.” Messiah means Christ. ² And he brought Simon to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas.” Cephas means Peter (or rock).

The time had come for Jesus to start his public ministry. He began by gathering some followers, whom we call disciples. Two of them were disciples of John the Baptist. But when John pointed again to Jesus as the Lamb of God, those two went to follow Jesus.

When Jesus saw them following, he asked them, “What do you want?” They answered that they wanted to be with him. They called him “Rabbi,” which means “Teacher.” They wanted to learn from him.

Think for a minute if Jesus were asking you, ‘What do you want?’ Would you be ready to say that you want to be with him and learn from him?

Jesus invited them to come with him. They went to where Jesus was staying. They spent the rest of the day with him. One of the men, Andrew, went quickly and found his brother, Simon Peter. He was excited to tell him that they had found the Messiah (Christ). He had seen that Jesus was the “Anointed One” whom God had promised to send. He brought Simon to Jesus.

When Jesus saw Simon, he told him that he would be known in the future as the “Rock” (Hebrew: “Cephas” or Greek “Peter”). In truth, Peter would become a leader among

Believe and Live

Jesus' disciples. More important, he grew in a rocklike faith in Jesus.

Andrew teaches us by his example about how we can help others. We can bring them to Jesus.'

The other disciple here is not named. We believe that he is the author of the Gospel. We have identified him as the disciple John (not John the Baptist). He likely also went to find his brother, James, who became one of Jesus' disciples as well.

Things to remember

10. Two disciples of John the Baptist now went to follow _____.

11. One of those disciples was _____.

12. That disciple went to find his brother _____.

13. He told his brother that he had found the _____.

14. Jesus said that his brother would be called _____.

Check your answers on page 28.

Philip and Nathanael became Jesus' disciples.

(Read John 1:43-51.)

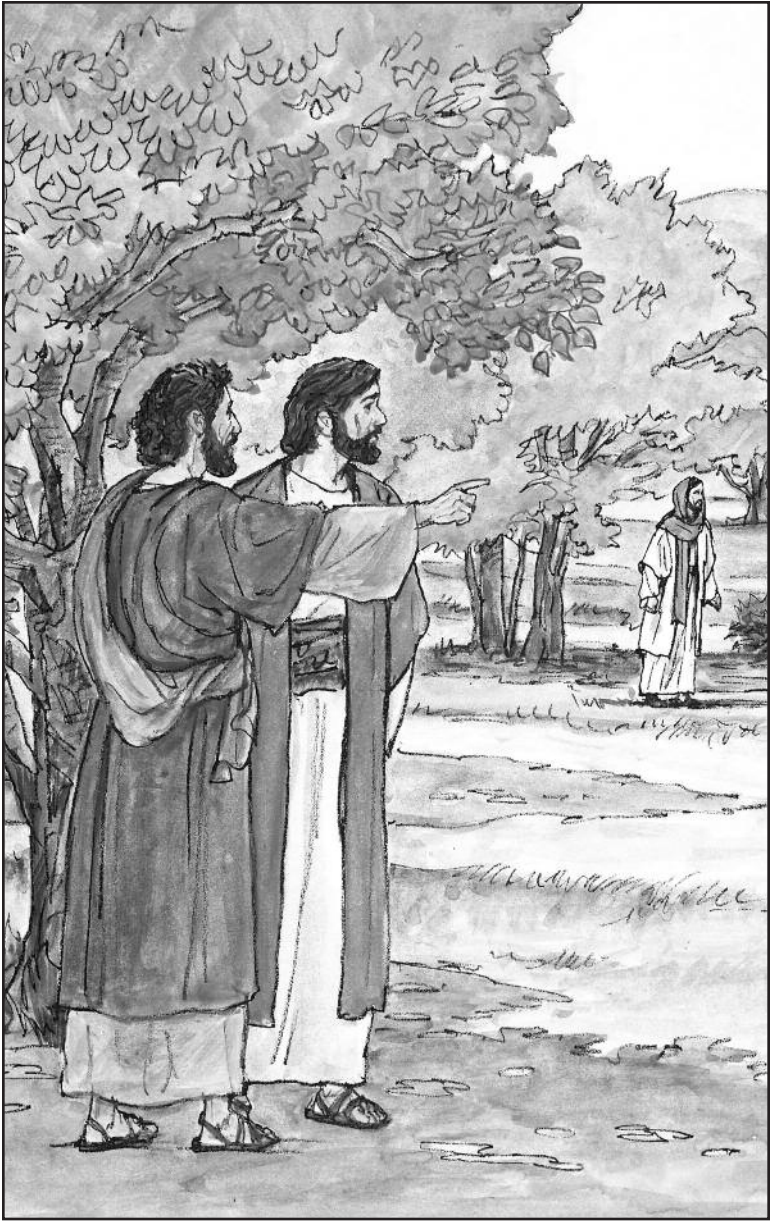
³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

Philip was from the town of Bethsaida. So were Andrew and Peter. ⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the One that Moses wrote about in the Law. The prophets also wrote about him. He is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael approaching. Here is what Jesus said about him. "He is a true Israelite. There is nothing false in him."



Andrew and Philip Learn about Jesus.

Believe and Live

⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree. I saw you there before Philip called you.”

⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.”

⁵¹ Then he said to the disciples, “What I’m about to tell you is true. You will see heaven open. You will see the angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man.”

Jesus also called Philip to follow him. Philip came from the same town as Andrew and Peter. He probably knew them. He did not keep the news of Jesus to himself. He went and told Nathanael that he had found the One that the Law of Moses and the prophets had written about. The Law and the prophets was a way of speaking of the Old Testament Scriptures. These men knew God’s Word and based their belief in Jesus on the Word.

However, when Nathanael heard that Jesus came from Nazareth, he was skeptical. The Scriptures never mentioned Nazareth. It was just a backwoods, unimportant town. He scoffed that nothing good could come from there.

Philip did not try to convince him further. He simply invited him: “Come and see.” That is the best way to show people who Jesus is. Tell them to come and see him, the way that we see him in this Gospel.

Nathanael went with Philip to see Jesus. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he called him a “true Israelite” with “nothing false” in him. That means that Nathanael was a true believer in God. It means that he really wanted to see the promised Savior. The Bible says that “true Israelites” are those who trust in God and all of his promises. That includes us today who trust in Jesus.

Nathanael was surprised that Jesus claimed to know him. “How do you know me?” he asked Jesus.

Jesus told him that he saw Nathanael while he was standing under the fig tree before Philip came to him. Nathanael had been standing alone there. Maybe he was thinking about God or praying. Jesus knew it because as true God he knew all things.

Now Nathanael believed what Philip had told him about Jesus. He confessed his faith. He called Jesus “Rabbi” or “Teacher.” He said of Jesus: “You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.”

Jesus told Nathanael that he had it right. Jesus promised him and the other disciples that they would see much more from him. He gave them a picture of what he meant. They would see “heaven open.” They would “see angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man.”

Jesus liked to call himself “the Son of Man.” He was a man as God intended man to be before sin. He came as a human being to take our place under God. He would do all of God’s will for us. He would die to pay for our sins.

So, Jesus’ picture meant that he would be the way to heaven for the disciples and for us.

Things to remember

15. Philip told Nathanael that he had found the one that the _____ of _____ and the _____ had written about.
16. When Jesus saw Nathanael he called him a _____.
17. Nathanael confessed that Jesus was the “_____ of _____” and the “_____ of _____.”
18. Jesus gave Nathanael and the disciples a picture to show them that he would be the _____ to _____ for them.

Check your answers on page 28.

TEST - Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Section 2

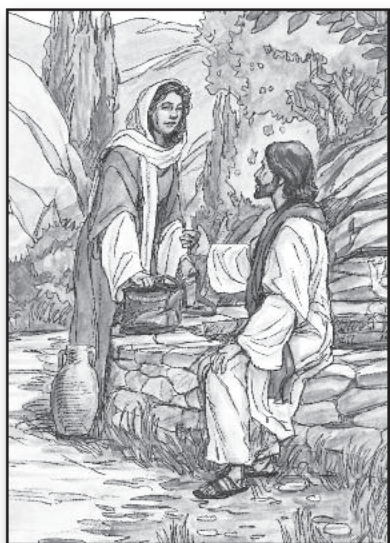
Please review the “Things to remember.”

1. John the Baptist’s ministry was to point people to _____.
2. When John saw Jesus coming, he called him the “_____ of _____” who takes away the “_____ of the _____.”
3. John knew that Jesus was the Messiah because the _____ of God had rested on Jesus.
4. Some disciples of John went to follow _____.
5. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon Peter. He told Simon that he had found the _____.
6. When Nathanael came to Jesus, he confessed that Jesus was the “_____ of _____” and the “_____ of _____.”
7. Jesus promised his disciples that he was the way to _____.

Check your answers on page 234.

Things to remember-Answers

1. Christ, Elijah, prophet, 2. Messiah, Anointed, 3. sins, Lord, faith, 4. untie, 5. Lamb, 6. sin, world, 7. forgiveness, 8. Spirit, 9. Son, 10. Jesus, 11. Andrew, 12. Simon [Peter], 13. Messiah [Christ], 14. Cephas [Rock], 15. Law, Moses, prophets, 16. true, Israelite [believer], 17. Son, God, King, Israel, 18. way, heaven.



BELIEVE AND LIVE

SECTION 3:
How Jesus Showed His Heavenly Glory

John 2:1 to John 4:54

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

SECTION THREE:

How Jesus Showed His Heavenly Glory

Jesus changed water into wine.

(Read John 2:1-11.)

¹ On the third day there was a wedding. It took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, why do you bring me into this?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do what he tells you."

⁶ Six stone water jars stood nearby. The Jews used water from that kind of jar for special washings to make themselves pure. Each jar could hold 20 to 30 gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the top.

⁸ Then he told them, "Now dip some out. Take it to the person in charge of the dinner."

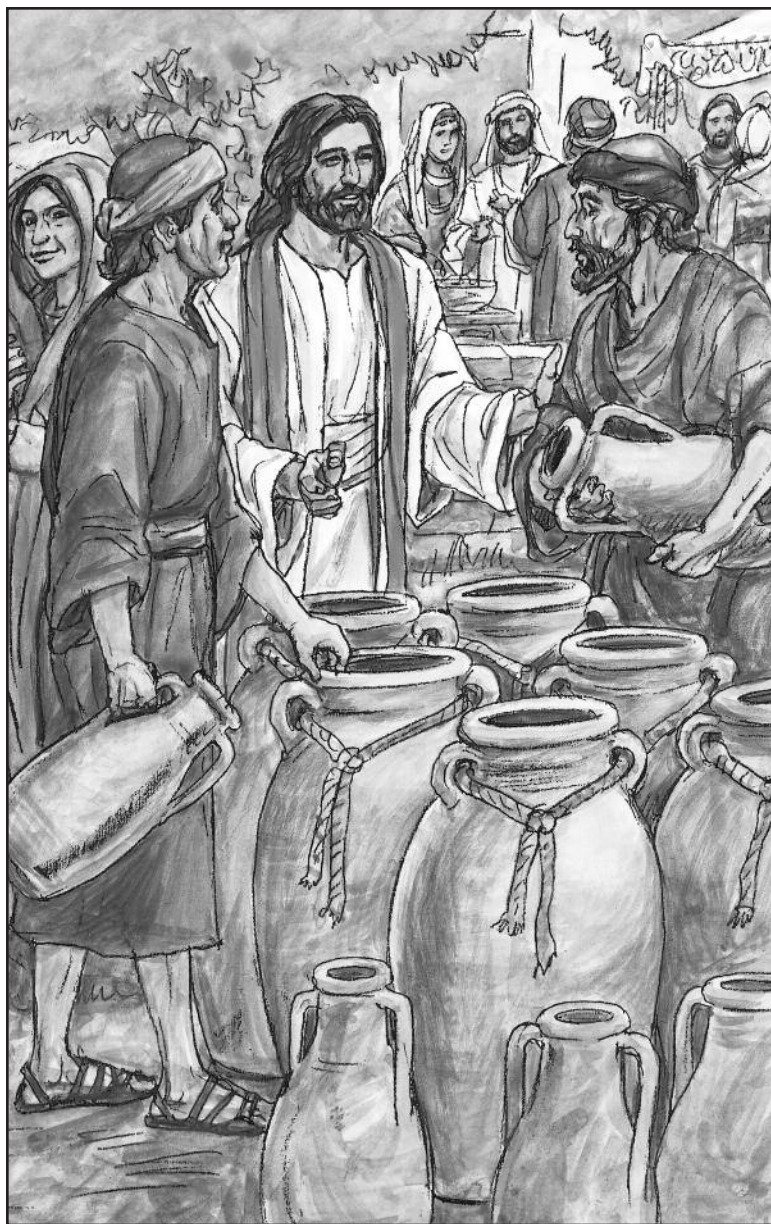
They did what he said. ⁹ The person in charge tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He didn't realize where it had come from. But the servants who had brought the water knew.

Then the person in charge called the groom to one side. ¹⁰ He said to him, "Everyone brings out the best wine first. They bring out the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink. But you have saved the best until now."

¹¹ That was the first of Jesus' miraculous signs. He did it at Cana in Galilee. Jesus showed his glory by doing it. And his disciples put their faith in him.

After Jesus gathered his new disciples, they went with him to a wedding in the small village of Cana. Jesus' mother, Mary, was also there. She was helping with the wedding feast.

Weddings in those days were much different from ours. The bride and groom were engaged for about a year. Their



The Wedding at Cana.

engagement was binding, but they did not live together yet. Then, on the day of the wedding, the groom went to the bride's home and brought her to his house. There, the families approved the marriage, and all the guests were welcomed to a feast. The feasting and celebrating lasted seven days.

An unusual thing happened at this wedding. Before the seven days were over, the wine ran out. (Possibly, the newly married couple was poor.) Jesus' mother told Jesus. It seems she expected him to work a miracle. He did not have a handy store where he could go and get more wine.

Jesus replied that she and he did not have a common interest in this matter. His time had not yet come. He meant that what she wanted as his mother had to give way for what the heavenly Father wanted. God set the exact time for Jesus to do his first public miracle. Family ties did not apply.

Mary trusted Jesus. She instructed the servants to do whatever Jesus asked of them.

Jesus then told the servants to bring the six water pots that were nearby. The Jews used pots like that for "washings to make themselves pure." Jesus told the servants to fill these pots to the top with water. All together, the pots held well over 100 gallons (nearly 400 liters) of water.

Next, the servants dipped some of the water and brought it to the man in charge of the dinner. He always tasted any new food or drink before it was served. What he tasted was no longer water. It was fine wine. Although the servants knew that Jesus had turned the water to wine, he didn't know it.

The man in charge of the feast told the groom how surprised he was. At most weddings where he worked, the best wine came first. After the guests had too much to drink, then came the poorer wine. By then the guests couldn't taste the difference. But this wedding was different. The finest wine came late into the feasting.

With this generous gift, Jesus did the first miraculous sign of his ministry. It is called a sign because it was an earthly

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act to show a heavenly fact. Those who saw the miracle saw some of Jesus' divine power and glory. The disciples' faith in Jesus grew stronger.

Things to remember

1. Jesus and his disciples went to a wedding in the village of _____.
2. The wedding celebration lasted _____ days, and the hosts ran out of _____.
3. Jesus' mother wanted Jesus to work a _____.
4. Jesus told her that he must follow his heavenly _____ in this matter.
5. Jesus had the servants fill six pots to the top with _____.
6. When the servants dipped from the pots, they brought fine _____ to the feast.
7. This was Jesus' first miracle. It is called a _____. It was an _____ act to show a _____ fact.

Check your answers on page 58.

Jesus predicted his death and resurrection.

(Read John 2:12-25.)

¹² After this, Jesus went down to Capernaum. His mother and brothers and disciples went with him. They all stayed there for a few days.

¹³ It was almost time for the Jewish Passover Feast. So Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹ In the temple courtyard he found people who were selling cattle, sheep and doves. Others were sitting at tables exchanging money.

¹⁵ So Jesus made a whip out of ropes. He chased all the sheep and cattle from the temple area. He scattered the coins of the people exchanging money. And he turned over their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling doves, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!”

¹⁷ His disciples remembered what had been written. It says, “My great love for your house will destroy me.”—(*Psalms* 69:9)

¹⁸ Then the Jews asked him, “What miraculous sign can you show us? Can you prove your authority to do all of this?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple. I will raise it up again in three days.”

²⁰ The Jews replied, “It has taken 46 years to build this temple. Are you going to raise it up in three days?”

²¹ But the temple Jesus had spoken about was his body.

²² His disciples later remembered what he had said. That was after he had been raised from the dead. Then they believed the Scriptures. They also believed the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Meanwhile, he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast. Many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing. And they believed in his name.

²⁴ But Jesus did not fully trust them. He knew what people are like. ²⁵ He didn’t need others to tell him what people are like. He already knew what was in the human heart.

Jesus then went with his family and disciples to Capernaum on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee (see map on page 236) to stay for a while. Soon it was time for the Passover Feast.

Once every year in March or early April, the Jewish people went to the temple in Jerusalem to celebrate this feast. It was a time to remember how God saved them from slavery in Egypt. On the night before they left, God sent a plague of death on the oldest male child in every house in Egypt. But their children were saved. Because they had the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, the angel of death passed over (therefore, the Passover) their houses.

At the temple people needed to buy animals for sacrifice and to change any foreign money into Jewish coin for the temple tax. When Jesus got there, he saw that the sellers were cheating the people. They overcharged for their wares and

Believe and Live

services. They turned the temple into a place more like a county fair than a place of worship.

Jesus was angry at their abuses. He found some rope to use as a whip. He drove the animals from the temple area. He turned over the money changers' tables. And he chased the sellers out. He scolded them for turning his Father's house into a market.

This was not the gentle Jesus we usually see. But he was reacting to open sin that those men were not at all sorry about. They cared only about making money. They did not really care about God and his house.

The disciples no doubt were surprised and frightened. They remembered the Scripture from Psalm 69:9 about the promised Savior: "My great love for your house will destroy me." They must have wondered about what troubles lay ahead.

Surprisingly, the Jews in charge did not arrest Jesus for his actions. They probably knew that he was right. But they challenged him to prove his authority to do this. They asked for a miraculous sign.

These Jews knew of Jesus' growing popularity and that some people were saying he might be the Messiah. But they were looking for a Messiah who would be a strong earthly leader. They were not looking for someone who would "take away the sins of the world" as John the Baptist had witnessed. So, their call for a sign was misplaced.

Still, Jesus gave them a sign. He said, "Destroy this temple. I will raise it up again in three days."

The Jews thought only in earthly terms. They thought he meant the temple building where they were standing. They must have thought he was crazy. "It has taken 46 years to build this temple," they replied. "Are you going to raise it up in three days?"

They did not know that Jesus was telling them that he would rise from the dead. He was calling his body the temple.

He was predicting that they would destroy his body. But three days later he would rise again from the dead.

Although the people listening did not understand him, Jesus' image of the temple was a good one. The temple was the place where God came to his people. But now God came to them in the person of Jesus.

Later, when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered his words here, understood them, and believed them.

Meanwhile Jesus continued to do miraculous signs in Jerusalem during the Passover celebration. Many people were amazed at his miracles and believed that Jesus was someone special. But Jesus saw into their hearts. He saw that they were not truly committed to him. Their faith in him was shallow. They didn't really trust in him as their Savior.

Things to remember

8. Jesus went to _____ for the _____ feast.
9. At the temple in Jerusalem he got upset at the sellers and money changers who were _____ the people.
10. He made a _____ of rope and drove them and the animals out of the temple.
11. The Jews in charge asked for a _____ that Jesus had authority to do this.
12. Jesus offered this sign: "Destroy this _____. I will raise it up again in _____ days.
13. Jesus was predicting that he would _____ from the dead.

Check your answers on page 58.

Jesus taught Nicodemus of the new birth and eternal life

(Read John 3:1-8.)

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is 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.”

The Pharisees were the religious leaders of the Jews. They were not usually friendly to Jesus. Earlier (see John 1:24-27) they had challenged John the Baptist. Nicodemus, however, came to Jesus with a different spirit than the other Pharisees. He came at night to talk with Jesus in private. He probably did not want the other Pharisees to know of his visit. He came sincerely seeking the truth from Jesus.

Nicodemus confessed that Jesus came from God. He saw that Jesus’ miracles were divine signs. But he didn’t know what it all meant.

Jesus told Nicodemus that to see God’s kingdom he had to be born again. God’s kingdom is where God rules. For those who believe in Jesus, God rules first in their hearts. When God rules in their hearts, he will one day take them to live where he rules in heaven. For that to happen, said Jesus, a person must be born again.

That word did not comfort Nicodemus. He thought his birth as a Jew and his position as a Pharisee put him in favor

with God. He was puzzled. He knew Jesus could not mean a second physical birth.

Jesus was again talking in spiritual terms. He stressed that his words were true. “No one can enter God’s kingdom,” he said, “without being born through water and the Holy Spirit.” Nicodemus needed a change in his heart. He needed to believe in Jesus as his Savior. He needed a washing with water in which God’s Spirit works faith. That is baptism.

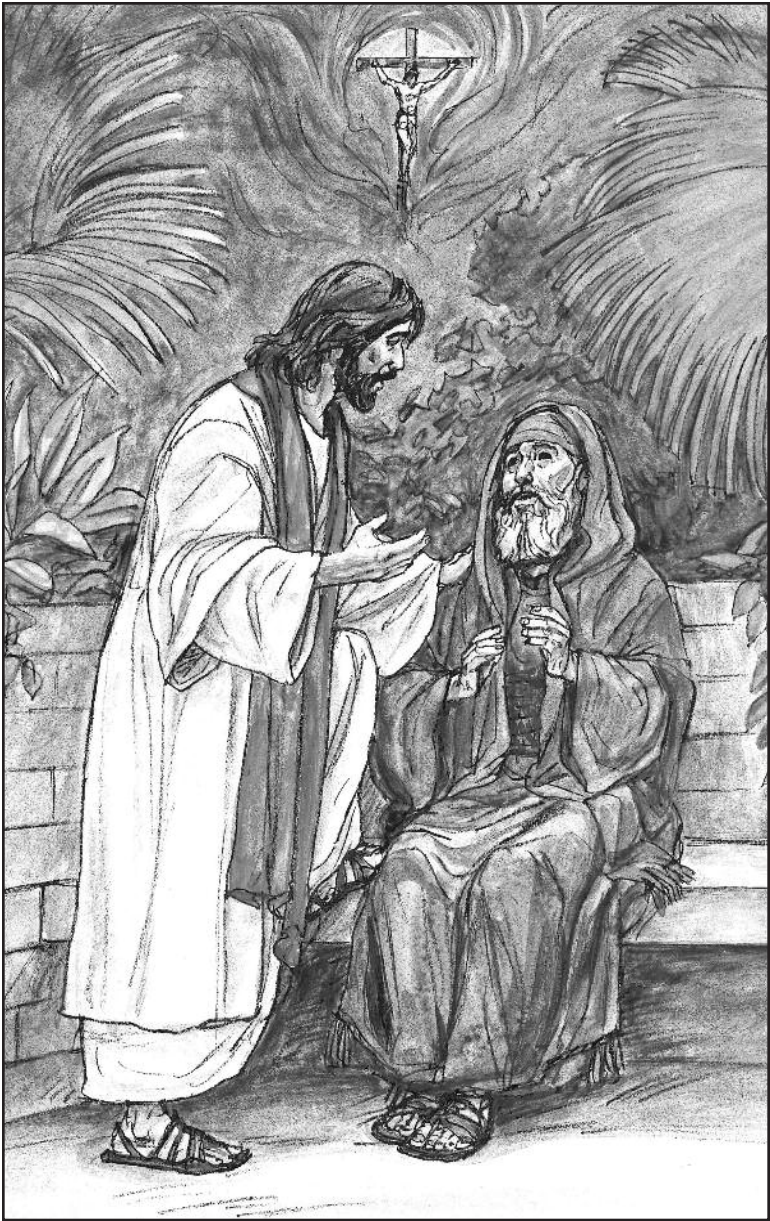
Jesus explained that our first birth was about people born of people. In actual terms, he said that “flesh” gives birth to “flesh.” That is a way of saying that we come into this life with the same sinful natures as our parents. They have sin. We are born also with sin.

But God’s Spirit gives birth to a new spirit in us, a godly spirit. He works faith in our hearts. We all need that spiritual birth. We need to believe in Jesus.

The birth by the Spirit is not something that we can see happen. It’s like trying to locate the wind. We can hear it and feel it, but we cannot see it as it starts and stops. So with the Holy Spirit: we know how he affects us, but we don’t see him work.

Things to remember

14. A man named _____ came to talk with Jesus at night. He was a _____.
15. Jesus told Nicodemus that to see God’s kingdom he had to be _____.
16. Jesus explained that we need to be born through _____ and the _____. He was referring to _____.
17. We need a new birth because we were born with _____.



Jesus Speaks with Nicodemus at Night.

18. We need God's Spirit to work _____ in our hearts.

Check your answers on page 58.

(Read John 3:9-16.)

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel's teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.

¹ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

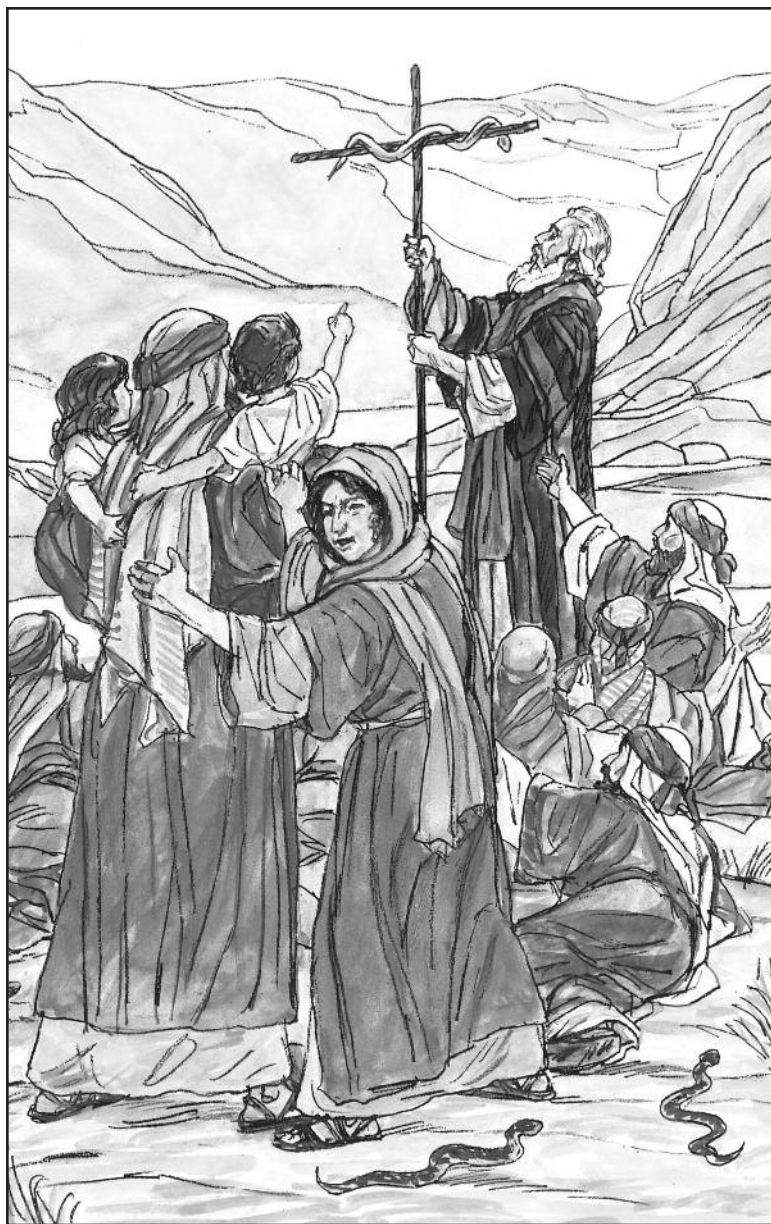
¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Nicodemus still tried to make Jesus' words fit his reason. “How can this be?” he asked. It's a question that we all ask at times.

With that, Jesus scolded him. Nicodemus was one of the leading religion teachers in Israel. Surely, he should understand.

Jesus and John the Baptist knew what they were talking about from God. But people like the Pharisees did not believe what they heard. Until now, Jesus told Nicodemus about things that happen on earth: People need a change of heart. They need to believe and to be baptized. If Nicodemus didn't believe those things, said Jesus, how would he believe when Jesus told him the things of heaven?

Jesus did not wait for an answer. He took over the conversation to teach Nicodemus. With heavenly things, Jesus was talking about God's plan of salvation. Jesus knew the plan because he came from heaven. He was with God in eternity when the plan was made. So he told Nicodemus what God's plan was.



Moses Raises the Bronze Serpent.

He started with a story that Nicodemus knew from the Old Testament Scriptures: The people of Israel had to live for a long time in the desert after they escaped from Egypt. They often complained and spoke against God. So God sent poisonous snakes where they were. People who were bitten by the snakes died. Then the people had a change of heart. They asked Moses to pray to God for help.

God told Moses to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Then, a person who was bitten by a snake could look on the bronze snake and live. By looking at the snake as God told them to do, the people showed that they trusted in God again.

Jesus used that story to tell Nicodemus what God planned now. God would have Jesus also lifted up on a pole (the cross). And everyone who would believe in him would live forever. That means that we have all been “bitten” by sin and deserve eternal death. But when Jesus died on the cross, he won forgiveness of sins for us. When we trust God and look in faith to Jesus, we have forgiveness and eternal life.

Jesus then summed up the full message for Nicodemus and for us. His words are probably the most often quoted words in the Bible. They tell us everything we need to know to be saved.

Look closely at what Jesus said:

“God loved the world so much . . .” God has a deep love for us. His love is not earned by us. But his love moved him to act in our interests anyway. He wants only what is good for us. And, look who is the object of God’s love “the world.” That includes everyone. He loves also you and me no matter what we have done.

How much did God love us and everyone in the world? “He gave his one and only Son.” He sent his Son, who, we learned earlier, was the Word with God in eternity (see John 1:1, 2). God’s Son came, and we know him as Jesus. There is no other like him. He is God sent from God. He is man

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born of a woman. God sent him to live a perfect life for us. God sent him to die on the cross for the world's sins. He came to die for our sins.

What was the result? "Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." "Anyone" tells me that I personally am included. God loves me. "Anyone who believes in him" tells us that we receive God's gift to us by faith. We need to believe. But we cannot just believe in anything or anyone. We need to believe in Jesus whom God sent to us. Believe in him and you "will not die but will have eternal life."

Believe in Jesus and you will not die. Wait a minute. Don't we see believers dying around us every day? Yes, we do. But it is not the end. This earthly body stops working, but our spirits live on with Jesus forever. And Jesus will raise our bodies on the last day of earth. We have eternal life. Heaven will be our home.

Things to remember

19. Jesus had been telling Nicodemus of things that happen on _____. Now he would tell him about things of _____.
20. Jesus told Nicodemus God's plan of _____.
21. Jesus had to be lifted up on a _____ just as God once had Moses lift up a bronze _____ on a pole.
22. God loved the whole _____.
23. God's love was so great that he gave his one-and only _____.
24. _____ who believes in him will have _____.

Check your answers on page 58.

(Read John 3:17-21.)

¹⁷ “God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Anyone who believes in him is not judged. But anyone who does not believe is judged already. He has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

¹⁹ “Here is the judgment. Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light. They loved darkness because what they did was evil.

²⁰ “Everyone who does evil things hates the light. They will not come into the light. They are afraid that what they do will be seen. ²¹ But anyone who lives by the truth comes into the light. He does this so that it will be easy to see that what he has done is with God’s help.”

We might think that God would send his Son to judge us in our sins. But God did just the opposite. God sent his Son to save us from our sins. When we believe in Jesus we are not condemned.

Still, some stand condemned. God judges them because they do not believe in his Son. That’s not Jesus’ fault. Such people love sin more than they love Jesus. Jesus uses the picture of light and darkness again. Jesus, the light, has come, but they love darkness instead of light. They don’t want their evil deeds exposed in the light. They don’t want to turn from sin and trust in Jesus.

We see that to this day. People love their sin so much that they turn their backs on Jesus in unbelief. They boast of their sin. They try to convince others that their sins are “normal” and therefore not wrong. To the contrary, those who believe in Jesus listen to his words of truth and live by them.

Things to remember

25. God sent his Son Jesus to _____ us not to _____ us.

26. Still, some stand _____ because they do not _____ in God’s Son.

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27. Such people love _____ more than they love _____.

Check your answers on page 58.

Jesus was more important than John the Baptist.

(Read John 3:22-36.)

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the countryside of Judea. There he spent some time with them. And he baptized people there.

²³ John was also baptizing. He was at Aenon near Salim, where there was plenty of water. People were coming all the time to be baptized. ² That was before John was put in prison.

²⁵ Some of John's disciples and a certain Jew began to argue. They argued about special washings to make people "clean." ²⁶ They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River is baptizing people. He is the one you gave witness about. Everyone is going to him."

²⁷ John replied, "A person can receive only what God gives him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves are witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ. I was sent ahead of him.' ²⁹ The bride belongs to the groom. The friend who helps the groom waits and listens for him. He is full of joy when he hears the groom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become more important. I must become less important.

³¹ "The One who comes from above is above everything. The one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks like someone from the earth. The One who comes from heaven is above everything. ³² He gives witness to what he has seen and heard. But no one accepts what he says.

³³ Anyone who has accepted it has said, 'Yes. God is truthful.' ³ The One whom God has sent speaks God's words. God gives the Holy Spirit without limit.

³⁵ "The Father loves the Son and has put everything into his hands. ³⁶ Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life. Anyone who says no to the Son will not have life. God's anger remains on him."

After Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem, they stayed for some time in Judea. Likely near the Jordan River (see map on page 236). People came to them and were baptized. John the Baptist also continued his baptizing farther north.

One day a certain Jew began to argue with John's followers about "washings to make people 'clean'" They must have spoken about the baptizing Jesus and his disciples were also doing. John's disciples came to him with their concerns. They complained about Jesus, "that man" that John had witnessed to earlier. Now all the people were going to Jesus.

John needed to set them straight. He explained that he was doing what God sent him to do. He reminded them that he was not the Christ. He, John, was sent ahead of the Christ as his witness.

John used the picture of a bride, a groom, and the groom's friend (we would call him "the best man"). It was a common way to speak of God's people (the bride) and God (the groom). In this case, the groom was God's Son, Jesus. John was the groom's friend.

The friend helped prepare for the groom to come and claim his bride. When the groom came, the friend filled with joy stepped aside. All attention turned to the groom.

So John had helped prepare for Christ's coming. Now that he came, John's joy was complete. John's disciples should have been glad to see the people going to Jesus. "He must become more important," John said. "I must become less important." God's plan was to give his Son to save his people. His Son had come to claim his bride.

John explained further. Jesus came from heaven. Remember, he was the Word in the beginning with God who was God (see John 1:1). John the Baptist was just a natural born child of this earth. Jesus was far above him and above everything. He was more important than John.

The one sent from God "speaks God's words." Here the Gospel writer might be speaking of Jesus, or of John the Baptist, or of himself. It doesn't change the important meaning. They all spoke God's words. And God's Holy Spirit works through those words. He works in people's hearts to

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believe in Jesus. “Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life.” We have heard these words before. They tell us the main teaching of this Gospel.

But “anyone who says no to the Son will not have life.” God still turns his anger against any person that does not believe in the Son of God. Believe in the Son and live.

Things to remember

28. Once Jesus came, John the Baptist’s _____ was complete.
29. John said, “He [Jesus] must become more _____ . I must become less _____ .”
30. The one sent from God speaks _____ words.
31. The _____ works through those words.
32. “Anyone who believes in Jesus has _____ .”

Check your answers on page 58.

Jesus taught a foreign woman about living water.

(Read John 4:1-12.)

¹ The Pharisees heard that Jesus was winning and baptizing more disciples than John. ² But in fact Jesus was not baptizing. His disciples were. ³ When the Lord found out about all this, he left Judea. He went back to Galilee again.

Jesus had to go through Samaria. ⁵ He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. It was near the piece of land Jacob had given his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from the journey. So he sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to get some water. Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” ⁸ His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” She said this because Jews don’t have anything to do with Samaritans.

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “You do not know what God’s gift is. And you do not know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would have asked him. He would have given you living water.”

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you don’t have anything to get water with. The well is deep. Where can you get this living water?”

¹² “Our father Jacob gave us the well. He drank from it himself. So did his sons and his flocks and herds. Are you more important than he is?”

Most of the religious leaders of the Jews (the Pharisees) did not believe in Jesus. They heard about all the people going out to him. It appears that they wanted to make trouble for Jesus. So, when Jesus saw that trouble was brewing, he went back to Galilee.

John writes that Jesus “had to go through Samaria” on his way to Galilee. Actually, Jesus could have taken another route, a safer one. He could have gone on the other side of the Jordan River. But he “had to go” this way because he had an important mission to carry out.

When Jesus and his disciples reached the town of Sychar in Samaria, they stopped at a well just outside of town. Jacob, the early father of the Israelites, had dug that well years before. He gave it to his son Joseph.

Jesus was tired. He sat by the well while his disciples went into town to get some food.

While Jesus was alone, a woman came from the town to get some water from the well. Jesus asked her for a drink. That surprised her because she could tell from his clothing and his speech that he was a Jew. She was a Samaritan. Jews and Samaritans did not get along together very well. The Samaritans were a mixed race of former Israelites and heathen invaders. They often opposed the Jews to their south.

It was also unusual for a strange man and a woman to meet alone like this. But Jesus had a good reason to talk with this woman. He was there to bring her to faith.

Jesus answered the woman in a way that confused her at first. But he was using the moment to teach her a spiritual

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lesson. Here she was talking to God's gift to the world, the Savior. But she did not know it. Jesus told her that if she knew who he was, she would ask him for a drink. He would give her living water.

"Living water" is water that gives life. Jesus meant that by believing in him she would have eternal life. However, the woman thought that Jesus was still talking about water from the well. Jesus did not have anything that he could use to draw water. She wondered where he would "get this living water."

The water from the well was good enough for the people going all the way back to Jacob. She wondered why Jesus felt that he could give her better water than what was in the well.

Things to remember

33. Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well near Sychar. She was a _____.
34. Jesus had stopped there because he was _____.
35. Jesus referred to himself as God's _____.
36. Jesus said that he could give the woman _____ water.

Check your answers on page 58.

(Read John 4:13-15.)

¹³ Jesus answered, "All who drink this water will be thirsty again. ¹ But anyone who drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give him will become a spring of water in him. It will flow up into eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water. Then I will never be thirsty. And I won't have to keep coming here to get water."

Jesus told the woman that he was not talking about ordinary water. We drink water and we get thirsty again. When someone drinks the water Jesus gives, that person will never be thirsty again. That water is the faith that trusts in Jesus and gives eternal life. The thirst that goes away forever is the guilt and punishment of sin.

Jesus likened our faith in him to a spring of water. It flows “up into eternal life.” When you trust in Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Your faith is like a spring of water bubbling up in you. Faith affects your whole life. It keeps “flowing” in you.

The Samaritan woman didn’t understand yet, but she knew she wanted some of that water. With water like that, she thought, she wouldn’t have to come the well any more.

Things to remember

37. Jesus said that whoever drinks the water he gives will never be _____ again.
38. The water from Jesus is a way of talking about the _____ that trusts in Jesus and gives _____.
39. The thirst that Jesus takes care of is the _____ and _____ of sin.

Check your answers on page 58.

(Read John 4:16-26.)

¹⁶ He told her, “Go. Get your husband and come back.”

¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands. And the man you have now is not your husband. What you have just said is very true.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our people have worshiped on this mountain for a long time. But you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”



Jesus Asks the Samaritan Woman for a Drink.

²¹ Jesus said, “Believe me, woman. A time is coming when you will not worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know. Salvation comes from the Jews.

²³ “But a new time is coming. In fact, it is already here. True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. They are the kind of worshipers the Father is looking for.

² “God is spirit. His worshipers must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah is coming.” (He is called Christ.) “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus said, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.”

For Jesus to help the woman understand, he had to point out her thirst. He had to show the woman her sin. He told her to go and bring back her husband. She said she did not have a husband. Then Jesus told her the full details of her sinful lifestyle. The woman had gone through five husbands. Now she was living with a man outside of marriage. She was guilty of adultery.

Shocked and shamed by what Jesus knew about her, the woman declared that he had to be a prophet. Then she changed the subject. She asked about where to worship. Jesus’ words may have led her to want to get help. Her people worshiped on a mountain nearby. The Jews worshiped at the temple in Jerusalem (see map of Jerusalem on page 237).

The place where you worship is no longer important, said Jesus. Whom you worship and how are what matter. The Samaritans had lost the true worship. They no longer knew the Father in heaven. But God’s promised Savior comes from the Jews.

God is spirit and not confined to a place. True worship is worship that is based on God’s Spirit working on our spirit through the truth of God’s Word. We worship to tell God thank you for sending Jesus to save us. We worship based on the truth that God has taught us. We want to hear more of that truth, grow in our faith, and praise God. That’s what it means

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to worship “in spirit and in truth.” We can do that in many different places and in different ways.

The woman knew some of God’s truth from the Scriptures. She knew that God had promised a Messiah (Christ, Anointed One). She believed that the Messiah would explain everything to the people.

Now Jesus had led the woman to where she was ready to hear who he was. He said simply, “I, the one speaking to you, am he (the Messiah).”

Things to remember

40. Jesus needed to help the woman understand about his “living water.” First, he had to show her _____.
41. The woman was guilty of _____.
42. Jesus knew all about her. She thought he must be a _____.
43. The woman asked about worship. Jesus said that we need to worship “in _____ and in _____.”
44. Jesus told the woman that he was the promised _____.

Check your answers on page 58.

The disciples returned and the woman left.

(Read John 4:27-38.)

²⁷ Just then Jesus’ disciples returned. They were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want from her?” No one asked, “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸ The woman left her water jar and went back to the town. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come. See a man who told me everything I’ve ever done. Could this be the Christ?”

³⁰ The people came out of the town and made their way toward Jesus.

³¹ His disciples were saying to him, “Rabbi, eat something!”

³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³ Then his disciples asked each other, “Did someone bring him food?”

³ Jesus said, “My food is to do what my Father sent me to do. My food is to finish his work.

³⁵ “You say, ‘Four months more, and then it will be harvest time.’ But I tell you, open your eyes! Look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest right now. ³⁶ Those who gather the crop are already getting paid. They are already harvesting the crop for eternal life. So those who plant and those who gather can now be glad together.

³⁷ “Here is a true saying. ‘One plants and another gathers.’ ³⁸ I sent you to gather what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work. You have gathered the benefits of their work.”

Just when Jesus told the woman that he was the Christ, the disciples returned. That ended Jesus’ talk with the woman. But she had heard what she needed to hear. She did not bother drawing any water from the well. She left her water pot behind and hurried into town.

She was eager to tell the people in town about Jesus. “Come and see him,” she urged. “He told me all about myself. Do you think he might be the Christ?”

Amazed by what she said, the people started out to see Jesus.

Meanwhile, the disciples offered Jesus some of the food they had brought back from town. They were surprised when he refused the food. They knew he had to be hungry, unless he had gotten other food.

But Jesus wanted to teach them a spiritual lesson. Food nourishes us and strengthens us. “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do what my Father sent me to do.” Jesus was nourished and found strength in doing the heavenly Father’s work.

Now was the time for the disciples to learn about the work they, too, would be doing for the Father. They needed to help gather souls to believe in Jesus and be saved.

Jesus spoke of the harvest. It was four months away before the wheat would be ripe for reaping. If they looked at the wheat fields in that area, they would see early green plants.

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Once again, however, Jesus was using an earthly picture to make a spiritual point. “Open your eyes! Look at the fields!” Jesus ordered. “They are ripe for harvest right now.”

When the disciples looked, they saw the people coming from Sychar. Those people were ready for harvesting. They were coming to receive eternal life. God’s Word about the Messiah had planted the seed. Jesus had watered it. The woman told the people and invited them to come and see. Now the disciples only had to help gather the believers.

Jesus’ picture tells us how we do mission work for God. Many believers get involved. One person plants the seed tells someone about Jesus. Another person gets to tell more of the way of salvation. Another gets to bring that person to learn more of Jesus at church. Many at church get to welcome a new believer in their midst. And all share the joy of the harvest as God’s work is done.

Things to remember

45. The woman hurried to tell the people in town about _____.

46. She wondered if he was in fact the _____.

47. Jesus said that the fields were _____ for the harvest.

48. He was referring to the _____ of Sychar.

Check your answers on page 58.

Many Samaritans believed in Jesus.

(Read John 4:39-42.)

³⁹Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ¹And because of his words many more became believers.

²They 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.”

The people from town believed because of what the woman told them. So they came out to see Jesus. They wanted to learn more, and they asked Jesus to stay with them. Jesus stayed two days and taught the people. Still more people listened to Jesus. They believed in him “because of his words.”

After they heard Jesus, the people confessed that Jesus really was “the Savior of the world.” They saw him as more than an amazing man. He was more than a miracle worker. He was the Savior the Savior of the world.

We note that Jesus did not do miracles to get the people to believe in him. He taught them. His words led them to see that he was their Savior and the world’s Savior. His miracles supported his teachings. To this day the Lord still gathers believers the same way, by his Word. We believe because his words have reached our hearts.

Things to remember

49. Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of his _____.

50. They believed that Jesus was the _____ of the _____.

Check your answers on page 58.

Jesus healed a royal official’s son.

(Read John 4:43-54.)

³ After the two days, Jesus left for Galilee. He himself had pointed out that a prophet is not respected in his own country. ⁵ When he arrived in Galilee, the people living there welcomed him. They had seen everything he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast. That was because they had also been there.

⁶ Once more, Jesus visited Cana in Galilee. Cana is where he had turned

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the water into wine. A royal official was there. His son was sick in bed at Capernaum. ⁷ The official heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea. So he went to Jesus and begged him to come and heal his son. The boy was close to death.

⁸ Jesus told him, “You people will never believe unless you see miraculous signs and wonders.”

⁹ The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, “You may go. Your son will live.”

The man believed what Jesus said, and so he left. ⁵¹ While he was still on his way home, his servants met him. They gave him the news that his boy was living. ⁵² He asked what time his son got better. They said to him, “The fever left him yesterday afternoon at one o’clock.”

⁵³ Then the father realized what had happened. That was the exact time Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and all his family became believers.

⁵ This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

After the two days in Sychar, Jesus continued his trip to Galilee. He had pointed out that a prophet is not respected in his own country. Now the people in Galilee would show him such a lack of respect.

The people welcomed Jesus back to Galilee. But they didn’t receive him the way the people of Sychar did. They welcomed Jesus because they had seen some of the wonderful things he did while they were all in Jerusalem for the Passover. They wanted to see more works but were not much interested in his words.

While Jesus was visiting Cana again, a royal official came to him for help. The man’s son lay sick and dying back in Capernaum. The official begged Jesus to heal his son.

At first Jesus seemed to ignore the man’s request. In reply, he spoke to all the people around him. He scolded them because they did not believe in him as the Savior. They followed him just to see more “miraculous signs and wonders.” They probably would have followed Jesus to Capernaum just to see him heal the boy.

The official persisted. “Please come,” he begged, “before my son dies.”

Jesus answered simply: “You may go. Your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and left. On his trip home, he met his servants, who came to meet him. They had good news. His boy was alive and well. The man asked them for more details. He learned that the boy’s fever left him at the exact time that Jesus had said, “Your son will live.”

The man had trusted Jesus’ words, and Jesus’ words were true. This official and all his family believed in Jesus.

Things to remember

51. Jesus scolded the people at Cana because they just wanted to see him do _____ signs and _____.
52. The royal official trusted Jesus’ _____ about his son’s getting better.
53. The boy was healed at the exact _____ that Jesus had said, “Your son will _____.”

Check your answers on page 58.

Things to remember-Answers

1. Cana, 2. seven, wine, 3. miracle, 4. Father, 5. water, 6. wine, 7. sign, earthly, heavenly, 8. Jerusalem, Passover, 9. cheating, 10. whip, 11. sign, 12. temple, three, 13. rise, 14. Nicodemus, Pharisee, 15. born again, 16. water, Spirit, baptism, 17. sin, 18. faith, 19. earth, heaven, 20. salvation, 21. cross, snake, 22. world, 23. Son, 24. Anyone, eternal life, 25. save, judge [or condemn], 26. condemned [or judged] believe, 27. sin [or darkness], Jesus [or light], 28. joy, 29. important, important, 30. God’s, 31. Holy Spirit, 32. eternal life, 33. Samaritan, 34. tired, 35. gift, 36. living, 37. thirsty, 38. faith, eternal life, 39. guilt, punishment, 40. sin [or thirst], 41. adultery, 42. prophet, 43. spirit, truth, 44. Messiah (Christ), 45. Jesus, 46. Christ [or Messiah], 47. ripe, 48. people, 49. words, 50. Savior, world, 51. miraculous, wonders, 52. word, 53. time, live.

TEST - Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

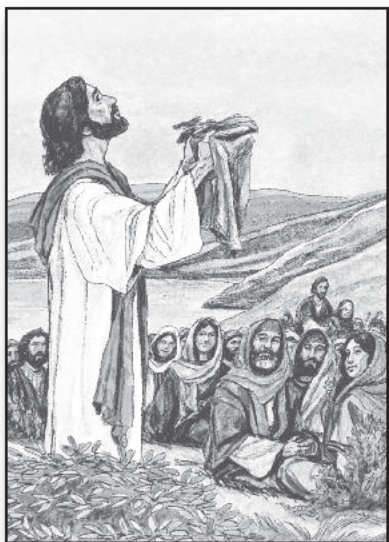
Section 3

Please review the “Things to remember.”

1. Jesus’ first miracle was to change _____ into _____.
2. Jesus worked this miracle at a wedding in _____.
3. His miracle is called a _____. It was an _____ act to show a _____ fact.
4. Shortly after this, Jesus went to _____ for the _____ feast.
5. While he was there, he got angry at the sellers and money changers because they _____ the people.
6. Jesus used the image of the _____ building to predict that he would _____ from the dead.
7. Jesus taught Nicodemus that he had to be _____ of _____ and _____.
8. We need a new birth because we were born in _____.
9. Jesus explained God’s plan of _____ to Nicodemus.
10. Jesus had to be lifted up on a _____.
11. God loved the whole _____.
12. God sent his one and only _____ to save the world.

13. Anyone who believes in Jesus will have _____
_____.
14. God sent his Son to _____ us not to
_____ us.
15. Jesus gives us _____ water.
16. People who believe in Jesus (drink the water he gives)
will never _____ again.
17. Jesus takes away the spiritual thirst caused by _____.
18. When asked about worship, Jesus said that we need to
worship in _____ and in _____.
19. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that he was the
promised _____.
20. The Samaritans from Sychar believed Jesus was the
_____ of the _____ because of his
_____.

Check your answers on page 234.



BELIEVE AND LIVE

SECTION 4:

How Jesus Faced Doubts and Opposition to His Ministry

John 5:1 to John 6:71

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

SECTION FOUR:

How Jesus Faced Doubts and Opposition to His Ministry

Some wanted to kill Jesus for his healing.

(Read John 5:1-15.)

¹ Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a Jewish feast. ² In Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate is a pool. In the Aramaic language it is called Bethesda. It is surrounded by five rows of columns with a roof over them. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie down. Among them were those who were blind, those who could not walk, and those who could hardly move.

⁵ One person who was there had been disabled for 38 years. ⁶ Jesus saw him lying there. He knew that the man had been in that condition for a long time. So he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

⁷ "Sir," the disabled man replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when an angel stirs the water up. I try to get in, but someone else always goes down ahead of me."

⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

⁹ At once the man was healed. He picked up his mat and walked.

The day this happened was a Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath. The law does not allow you to carry your mat."

¹¹ But he replied, "The one who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

¹² They asked him, "Who is this fellow? Who told you to pick it up and walk?"

¹³ The one who was healed had no idea who it was. Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

¹ Later Jesus found him at the temple. Jesus said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning, or something worse may happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away. He told the Jews it was Jesus who had made him well.

Jesus went to another feast in Jerusalem. At least one year had passed since he went to the Passover Feast (see John

Believe and Live

2:13). We need to look in the other Gospels to learn more about what he did in that time. John focuses on certain events that will help us believe in Jesus.

While in Jerusalem, Jesus went to a pool called Bethesda. Disabled people gathered there in hopes of being healed. It was something like people going to hot springs today for health benefits. Only they seemed to believe that this pool could heal them miraculously. The water bubbled up at times, which some felt an angel caused. (It may have been just an underground spring.) That was the time to get into the pool for healing.

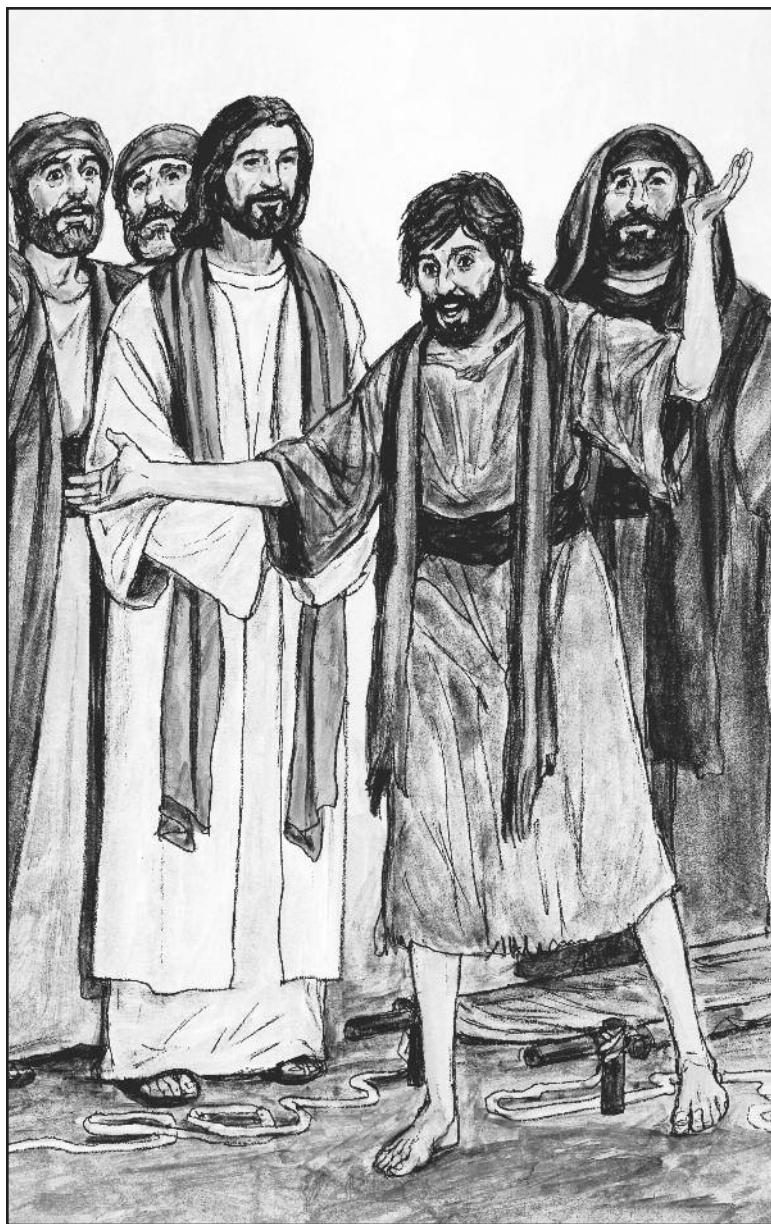
We have no word that anyone actually was healed there. But people came with hope. When Jesus arrived, he met a man there who had been disabled for 38 years. Jesus knew how long. He asked the man, “Do you want to get well?”

Although the answer might seem obvious, the crippled man may have felt that Jesus was offering to help him into the pool. He explained to Jesus that he could never get into the water at the right time.

But Jesus did not mention the pool. He was the one who could heal the man. Jesus told the man to pick up his mat and walk. At once the man was healed. He did as Jesus told him and walked away, carrying his mat. Jesus left quickly. The healed cripple did not even know who healed him.

In short order, however, some of the Jewish leaders confronted the man. It was the Sabbath, the day of rest. According to their rules, he must not carry his mat. That was doing work on the Sabbath. These Jews, many of them Pharisees, had added their own commands to God’s commandment about the Sabbath.

The Jews soon lost interest in the man carrying his mat, however. They learned that the one who healed this man told him to take his mat and walk. They wanted to know who did the healing.



The Crippled Man Gets up at Jesus' Command.

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It's likely that they thought it was Jesus, because he had gained a reputation as a healer. But the man did not know who it was.

Later Jesus found the man in the temple. He wanted the man to know him and believe in him. Jesus told the man to stop sinning or "something worse" might happen to him. Jesus was not saying that the man had been disabled because of any particular sin. He was saying that there is something far worse than being a cripple for 38 years. The worse thing is to be lost forever in hell because of unbelief. Jesus was calling for the man to repent of his sin and believe in Jesus.

Now this man knew who healed him, so he told the Jews. He probably did not know that the Jews had no good in mind for Jesus.

Things to remember

1. People believed that they would be _____ if they got into the Pool of Bethesda at the right time.
2. Jesus met a man there who had been disabled for _____ years.
3. Jesus told the man to take up his _____ and _____. And the man did.
4. Some Jewish leaders accused the man of doing _____ on the _____.
5. The thing worse than being disabled for years is to be _____ forever in _____.

Check your answers on page 86.

(Read John 5:16-30.)

¹⁶ Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath day. So the Jews began to oppose him.

¹⁷ Jesus said to them, "My Father is always doing his work. He is working right up to this very day. I am working too."

¹⁸ For this reason the Jews tried even harder to kill him. Jesus was not only breaking the Sabbath. He was even calling God his own Father. He was making himself equal with God.

¹⁹ Jesus answered, “What I’m about to tell you is true. The Son can do nothing by himself. He can do only what he sees his Father doing. What the Father does, the Son also does. ²⁰ This is because the Father loves the Son. He shows him everything he does. Yes, you will be amazed! The Father will show him even greater things than these.

²¹ “The Father raises the dead and gives them life. In the same way, the Son gives life to anyone he wants to.

²² “Also, the Father does not judge anyone. He has given the Son the task of judging. ²³ Then all people will honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Those who do not honor the Son do not honor the Father, who sent him.

² “What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He will not be found guilty. He has crossed over from death to life.

²⁵ “What I’m about to tell you is true. A time is coming for me to give life. In fact, it has already begun. The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God. Those who hear it will live.

²⁶ “The Father has life in himself. He has also allowed the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷ And the Father has given him the authority to judge. This is because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸ “Do not be amazed at this. A time is coming when all who are in the grave will hear his voice. ²⁹ They will all come out of their graves. Those who have done good will rise and live again. Those who have done evil will rise and be found guilty.

³⁰ “I can do nothing by myself. I judge only as I hear. And my judging is fair. I do not try to please myself. I try only to please the One who sent me.”

Those Jews did not like Jesus. They did not see him as the Savior sent from God. They saw him as a threat to their popularity and positions as leaders and teachers of the people. They opposed him now because he did the work of healing on the Sabbath. Jesus told them that he was doing the same things his Father in heaven does. People were healed on every day of the week, including the Sabbath.

These Jews truly hated Jesus. They wanted him out of the way. When Jesus called God his Father, they wanted all the

Believe and Live

more to kill him. They said he was making himself “equal with God.” Some people today think that Jesus never claimed to be God. His enemies who heard him thought he did. In their minds, that made him worthy of death.

Then Jesus told the Jews how he was one with the Father in every way. He did nothing by himself, but he did what the Father does. His healing the cripple was an example. He even raised the dead and gave life. Everything Jesus, the Son, did reflected how much the Father loved him.

The Father also gave the Son the authority to judge among people. Jesus came to save not to judge. But he had the power to judge. Also, Jesus claimed the honor that belongs to God. God had said that he would not share his honor and glory with any other being (see Isaiah 42:8). But Jesus not only has such honor (see Philippians 2:9-11), he must be honored as the Father is. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

Jesus left no doubt about what the Jews needed to do with him. Not what they intended. Rather, they needed to listen to his words and believe in him for eternal life. Anyone who believes in Jesus is freed from guilt. All sins are forgiven. The person who was dead in sin receives eternal life in Jesus. Jesus had already begun the work to make that a reality.

This message was basically the same one Jesus gave to Nicodemus (see John 3:16) and repeated several times since. But if the unbelieving Jews found it impossible to believe the message, just wait until the end of time. The Son of God will return and will call out to the dead. The dead will then all come out of their graves. Those who have done good will rise to live forever. Those who have done evil will pay eternally for their guilt.

We know from what Jesus just said that anyone who believes in him has eternal life. So we need to understand that those who have done good are those that have believed in Jesus. Jesus points to the good that people do out of faith in

him. Those who have done evil, then, are those that have rejected Jesus in unbelief. They still carry the guilt of their sins.

Back to the charges of the Jews against Jesus about working on the Sabbath: Jesus insisted that he tried only to please the One who sent him.

Things to remember

6. Some of the Jews _____ Jesus. They wanted to _____ him.
7. They said that Jesus made himself _____ with God.
8. Jesus told the Jews how he was _____ with the Father in every way.
9. Anyone who does not _____ the Son does not _____ the Father who sent him.
10. Any person who believes in Jesus is _____ from guilt.

Check your answers on page 86.

Jesus offered witness about himself.

(Read John 5:31-47.)

³¹ “If I give witness about myself, it doesn’t count. ³² There is someone else who gives witness in my favor. And I know that his witness about me counts.

³³ “You have sent people to John. He has given witness to the truth. ³ I do not accept human witness. I only talk about it so you can be saved. ³⁵ John was like a lamp that burned and gave light. For a while you chose to enjoy his light.

³⁶ “The witness I have is more important than John’s. I am doing the very work the Father gave me to finish. It gives witness that the Father has sent me.

³⁷ “The Father who sent me has himself given witness about me. You

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have never heard his voice. You have never seen what he really looks like. ³⁸ And his word does not live in you. This is because you do not believe the One he sent.

³⁹ “You study the Scriptures carefully. You study them because you think they will give you eternal life. The Scriptures you study give witness about me. ⁰ But you refuse to come to me and receive life.

¹ “I do not accept praise from people. ² But I know you. I know that you do not have love for God in your hearts. ³ I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me. But if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.

“You accept praise from one another. But you make no effort to receive the praise that comes from the only God. So how can you believe?

⁵ “Do not think I will bring charges against you in front of the Father. Moses is the one who does that. And he is the one you build your hopes on.

⁶ “Do you believe Moses? Then you should believe me. He wrote about me. ⁷ But you do not believe what he wrote. So how are you going to believe what I say?”

Jesus had given a strong and clear witness of himself as the Son of God. But he knew that those Jews would discount his testimony. Jesus may also have had in mind that any testimony in a court of law had to be upheld by at least two witnesses. So, he offered other testimony.

He reminded the Jews that they had listened to John the Baptist for a time. Not that Jesus needed John’s witness. But John had spoken the truth about Jesus. He taught that Jesus was the light of the world and the Lamb of God. Those Jews turned from John after a while and ignored his witness.

Nonetheless, Jesus had a much more important witness than John. First, the works that Jesus did for the Father witnessed to who he was. As an example, we might think of the miracle Jesus had just done to heal the cripple. Better yet, the work Jesus was sent to do for the world’s salvation was the best witness. He would die and rise from the dead as the Father had sent him to do for us.

Second, the Father himself witnessed about Jesus as the Savior. The trouble was that these hostile Jews did not listen

to the Father's witness. So they rejected the Son. The Jews knew where to look for the witness of the Father. They regularly searched the Scriptures to find the way of eternal life. Those same Scriptures testified about Jesus. But the Jews refused to come to Jesus and receive life.

Jesus was not looking for personal, earthly glory such as other men seek after. He came only in the Father's name, to bring glory to him. The Jews, however, were more likely to accept persons who sought self-glory.

Finally, the Jews had the witness of Moses. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. Those Jews studied the books of Moses carefully. He was the prophet on whom they depended the most.

Sad to say, Moses would witness against the unbelieving Jews before the Father in heaven. Moses had written many promises of the Savior to come. He wrote the promise that the offspring of the woman would crush the head of the snake Satan (see Genesis 3:15). He wrote of how the nations would be blessed through the offspring of Abraham (see e.g., Genesis 18:18). If they believed Moses, they should believe Jesus.

In the end, those Jews did not believe Moses. Now that the Savior was there with them, they did not believe him either.

Things to remember

11. Jesus spoke of other witnesses who identified him as the Son of God. Name three of them:

12. The Scriptures testify about _____.

13. Who would testify to the Father against the unbelieving Jews? _____

Check your answers on page 86.

Believe and Live

Some people wanted Jesus to be their earthly king.

(Read John 6:1-15.)

¹ Some time after this, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. It is also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd of people followed him. They had seen the miraculous signs he had done on those who were sick.

³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside. There he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

⁵ Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. So he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to put Philip to the test. He already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "Eight months' pay would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

⁹ He said, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. The number of men among them was about 5,000.

¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish.

¹² When all of them had enough to eat, Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Gather the leftover pieces," he said. "Don't waste anything."

¹³ So they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten.

¹ The people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did. Then they began to say, "This must be the Prophet who is supposed to come into the world."

¹⁵ But Jesus knew that they planned to come and force him to be their king. So he went away again to a mountain by himself.

Jesus had returned to Galilee for a time. One day he crossed the Sea of Galilee to the more remote opposite shore. The sea was really a very large lake, about 13 miles (22 kilometers) long and 7 ½ miles (12 kilometers) wide. It is also called the Sea of Tiberias after the Roman ruler, Tiberias Caesar.

Jesus had now spent about two years teaching the people and doing miraculous signs. Another Passover Feast was near.

Many people followed Jesus because they saw how he healed the sick. They went after him and his disciples to a mountainside that rose up from the far seashore. Jesus and his disciples watched as a large crowd came toward them.

Because they were a distance from the nearest town, Jesus decided to feed the people. But first he tested his disciples. He asked Philip where they could buy bread for the people to eat. Philip did not even think about where to go and buy food. They could not afford to feed so many people. Eight months' wages, Philip pointed out, would not buy enough bread to give each person a bite. Philip still had not learned to simply and completely trust in Jesus.

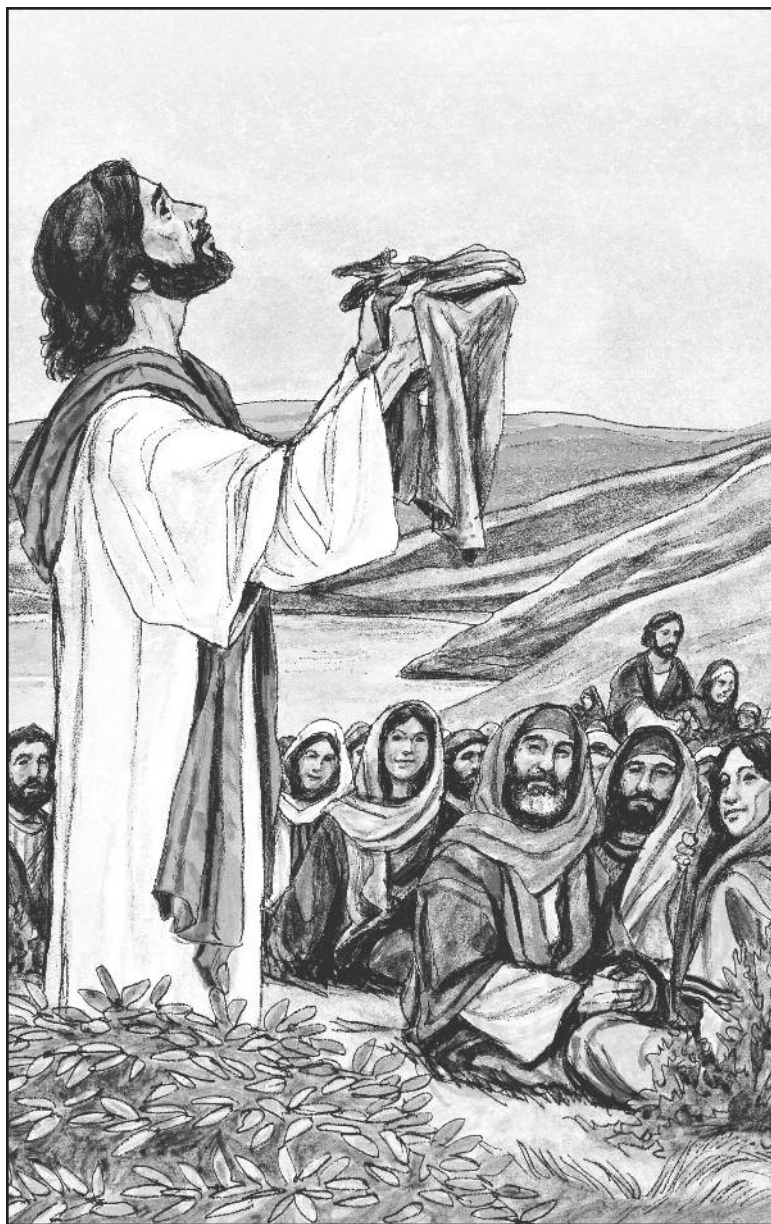
Andrew looked about and spotted a boy with five small loaves of barley bread (loaves then were flat, round sheets of bread) and two small fish. But Andrew, like Philip, was only pointing out that there was not nearly enough food on hand.

Jesus ignored their doubts. He told the disciples to have the people sit on the grassy slope. They did and there were 5,000 men, not counting women and children. He also had them buy the bread and fish from the boy.

Then Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish. First, he gave thanks, something many Christians do to this day before eating. Then, he gave pieces of the loaves and the fish to the thousands of people. Everyone got as much as he or she wanted.

When everyone had enough to eat, Jesus told the disciples to gather the leftovers into baskets. They gathered 12 baskets of pieces of the barley bread that were left. They had more left over than they had at the start.

Some people today do not believe that Jesus worked a great miracle here. They suggest that the people there just shared food they had with them when they saw Jesus sharing



Jesus Gives Thanks Feeding of the 5,000.

the barley loaves and fish. That's a nice thought, but it is not what the Bible says. Rather, from the barley loaves and the fish, Jesus gave the people as much as they wanted. Further, the 12 baskets left over came from the five loaves after all had eaten. Jesus multiplied the food before their very eyes.

The people who ate the bread and fish knew that Jesus had done a miracle. They said that Jesus must be the Prophet that God promised to Moses (see Deuteronomy 18:15). They were right, but their intentions were wrong. They wanted to force Jesus to be their earthly king. They wanted to make him their "bread" king. So Jesus went alone up into the mountain.

Things to remember

14. Jesus and his disciples crossed to the far side of the Sea of _____.
15. Jesus wanted to feed the crowd, but there were only _____ barley loaves and _____ small fish to give.
16. With so little food to start, Jesus fed _____ men, not counting women and children.
17. The people thought that Jesus must be the _____ promised by God.
18. They wanted to force Jesus to be their earthly _____.

Check your answers on page 86.

Jesus' disciples struggled and then were comforted.

(Read John 6:16-24. Verses 16-21 are printed here.)

¹⁶ When evening came, Jesus' disciples went down to the Sea of Galilee.

¹⁷ There they got into a boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum. By now it was dark. Jesus had not yet joined them.

¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing, and the water became rough. ¹⁹ They rowed three or three and a half miles. Then they saw Jesus coming toward the boat. He was walking on the water. They were terrified.



Jesus Rebukes the Wind.

²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²¹ Then they agreed to take him into the boat. Right away the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Jesus had told his disciples to go back across the Sea of Galilee without him. So when it got dark and Jesus had not returned, they set out in their boat. As they moved into the sea, a fierce storm blew up. The Sea of Galilee lies between hills on either side. When storms blow in, it can be like a wind tunnel. You don’t want to be out on the raging waters then. But the disciples were caught. Although they rowed hard, they made little headway. They struggled in the middle of the sea.

Suddenly Jesus came toward the disciples, walking on the water. We learn from the other Gospels that the disciples thought they saw a ghost. Wind and waves were battering them. A strange figure walked on the water toward them in the darkness. They were terrified.

Then Jesus spoke: “It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

The disciples took Jesus into the boat. The storm stopped. And they were at the shore where they were headed. Jesus had come and calmed the storm and their fears.

We can all take comfort from this account. We go through many storms in our lives. Sometimes we feel sure that we cannot go on. We’ll sink. We’ll drown. But Jesus is always nearby. He says also to us: “It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Remember his words.

The next morning the crowd that had stayed behind realized that Jesus and the disciples were no longer there. Some boats came by to pick them up. They did not give up on Jesus, however. They followed him to Capernaum.

Believe and Live

Things to remember

19. The disciples left the place where Jesus fed the people and got caught in a terrible _____ in the middle of the night.
20. Jesus came to them _____ on the water.
21. The disciples were _____.
22. Jesus said to them, “It is I. Don’t be _____.

Check your answers on page 86.

Jesus’ teachings puzzle the people.

(Read John 6:25-29.)

²⁵ They found him on the other side of the lake. They asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “What I’m about to tell you is true. You are not looking for me because you saw miraculous signs. You are looking for me because you ate the loaves until you were full. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils. Work for food that lasts forever. That is the food the Son of Man will give you. God the Father has put his seal of approval on him.”

²⁸ Then they asked him, “What does God want from us? What works does he want us to do?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “God’s work is to believe in the One he has sent.”

When the crowd caught up with Jesus in Capernaum, they asked him when he got there. Jesus did not answer the question. Instead, he began to teach them. Just as he did with the woman at the well in Samaria, he used an earthly object to teach a spiritual truth. With the woman, he started with water. With this crowd, he spoke of bread.

Jesus told the people that they were following him for the wrong reason. They did not see from his miracles that he was the Messiah. They followed him because he had fed them with bread.

Then he warned them not to work for food that spoils. (In the hot climate of Israel without refrigeration, people understood about food spoiling.) But they were to work for the food that lasts forever. They needed to look beyond earthly things to eternal things. He, the Son of Man, would give them eternal food. As a human being, Jesus had followed his heavenly Father's will perfectly. The Father approved of his Son's mission.

When the people heard the word "work," they thought immediately of doing works. They thought Jesus was telling them that they had to do some works for God to earn this "food that lasts forever."

But Jesus was only saying that they needed to believe in him whom God had sent. That faith had to be worked in them by God. It was God's work for them.

Things to remember

23. Jesus knew that the people followed him only because he _____ them.
24. Jesus told them to work for the food that lasts _____.
25. The people thought that Jesus meant they had to do _____ to earn that food.
26. He actually meant that they needed to _____ in him.

Check your answers on page 86.

The people asked for a sign from Jesus.

(Read John 6:30-40.)

³⁰ So they asked him, "What miraculous sign will you give us? What will you do so we can see it and believe you?" ³¹ Long ago our people ate the

Believe and Live

manna in the desert. It is written in Scripture, ‘The Lord gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ “—(*Exodus 16:4; Nehemiah 9:15; Psalm 78:24,25*)

³² Jesus said to them, “What I’m about to tell you is true. It is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven. It is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ The bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven. He gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “give us this bread from now on.”

³⁵ Then Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever go hungry. And no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty.

³⁶ “But it is just as I told you. You have seen me, and you still do not believe. ³⁷ Everyone the Father gives me will come to me. I will never send away anyone who comes to me.

³⁸ “I have not come down from heaven to do what I want to do. I have come to do what the One who sent me wants me to do. ³⁹ The One who sent me doesn’t want me to lose anyone he has given me. He wants me to raise them up on the last day. ⁴⁰ My Father wants all who look to the Son and believe in him to have eternal life. I will raise them up on the last day.”

The people still thought of earthly bread. And they were not content with the miracle Jesus had already done to feed them. They asked him to show them more so they could believe him. They reminded Jesus that the people ate manna in the desert under Moses. That was bread from heaven.

As he did many times, Jesus stressed the solemn truth of what he was about to tell them. “The true bread from heaven,” he said, “was not the manna under Moses.” The Father gives the true bread. That bread is the One he sent from heaven. That true bread gives life to the world.

Maybe the crowd sensed that Jesus was talking about himself. But they could not get the idea of earthly bread out of their minds. “Sir” they said, “give us this bread from now on.”

Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life.” This is one of several times in John’s Gospel that Jesus identifies himself as “I am.” “I AM the bread of life.” “I AM . . .” There are more to come.

When we hear him say that we realize that he is calling himself God. When God spoke to Moses from a burning bush years earlier (see Exodus 3:1-22), God told Moses that he was the “I AM” (see Exodus 3:14, 15). “I AM” is the same name we use when we call God “Yahweh” (or “Jehovah”). That name is based on the Hebrew for “I am.”

Once again Jesus invited the people to come to him in faith. With Jesus, their spiritual hunger and thirst would be gone. He would not turn anyone away. But they did not believe. He told them again that he came to do the Father’s will. The Father wanted them to be saved. Those who would look on the Son and continue to believe in him would have eternal life. Jesus promised to raise them up on the last day.

That promise still applies for us. We believe in Jesus. He keeps us with him. We have eternal life. When Jesus comes again on the last day, he will raise our bodies to live with him in heaven.

Things to remember

27. Jesus taught the people that he was the true _____ from heaven.
28. Jesus used these two simple words that identify him with God, Yahweh: _____.
29. On the last day, Jesus will _____ up believers to live with him in heaven.

Check your answers on page 86.

The people complained and argued about Jesus’ teaching.

(Read John 6:41-59.)

¹ Then the Jews began to complain about Jesus. That was because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ² They said, “Isn’t

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this Jesus, the son of Joseph? Don't we know his father and mother? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

³ "Stop complaining among yourselves," Jesus answered. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me brings him. Then I will raise him up on the last day.

⁵ "It is written in the Prophets, 'God will teach all of them.'—(*Isaiah 54:13*) Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

⁶ "No one has seen the Father except the One who has come from God. Only he has seen the Father. ⁷ What I'm about to tell you is true. Everyone who believes has life forever.

⁸ "I am the bread of life. ⁹ Long ago your people ate the manna in the desert, and they still died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven. A person can eat it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Everyone who eats some of this bread will live forever. The bread is my body. I will give it for the life of the world."

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves. They said, "How can this man give us his body to eat?"

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "What I'm about to tell you is true. You must eat the Son of Man's body and drink his blood. If you don't, you have no life in you. ⁵ Anyone who eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life. I will raise him up on the last day.

⁵⁵ "My body is real food. My blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Anyone who eats my body and drinks my blood remains in me. And I remain in him.

⁵⁷ "The living Father sent me, and I live because of him. In the same way, those who feed on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Long ago your people ate manna and died. But those who feed on this bread will live forever."

⁵⁹ He said this while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Those Jews still could not make the connection. They knew Jesus was from Nazareth. They knew his parents, Mary and Joseph. How could he say that he came down from heaven?

Jesus told them to stop complaining. They needed to listen to the Father. They needed to see his promises in the Prophets, that is, in the Old Testament Scriptures. The Father would lead them to Jesus. He would cause them to believe through his Word. Believing in Jesus is not a work we do. It is a work God does in us.

Jesus repeated: "I am the bread of life." He said that a person could eat this bread and not die. Although told in different images, Jesus' message stayed the same: "Believe in me and have eternal life."

Then Jesus added that the bread was his body. He would give his body for the life of the world. He was foretelling his death on the cross for the sins of all people.

Once again the Jews there missed the point. They did not like the idea of eating Jesus' body. They argued among themselves about what Jesus meant.

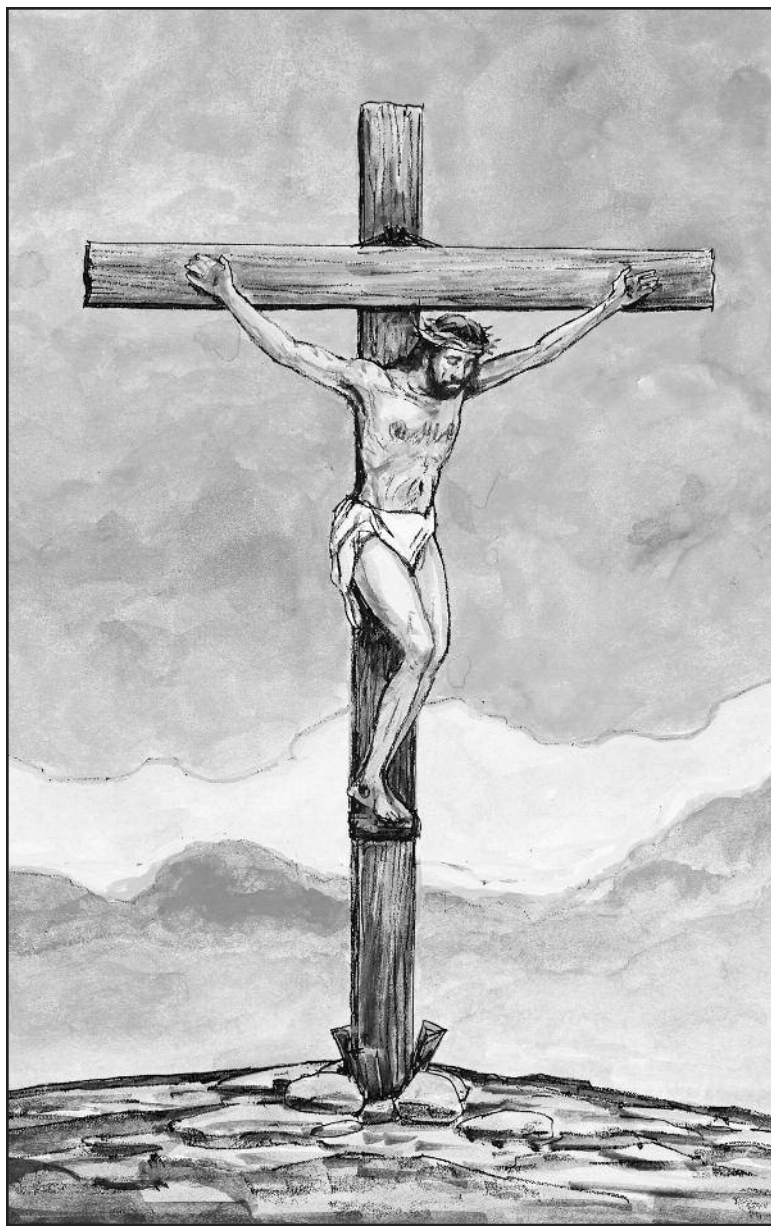
Jesus went further. They must eat his body and drink his blood to have life. Those who do will have eternal life and be raised from the dead on the last day. By eating Jesus' body and drinking his blood they become one with him. So today, when we believe in Jesus, we remain in him and he remains in us.

The picture of Jesus giving his body and blood reminds us of his death. He gave his body. He shed his blood. He mentioned his blood for good reason. Blood gives life. And blood had to be shed to save our lives. The Jews should have seen the connection with the Old Testament blood sacrifices in the temple.

Some people today think that Jesus is talking here about Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper. The imagery sounds the same. However, Jesus had not yet given them the Holy Supper. And he did not say we must eat the supper to be saved. We must, however, believe in him who gave his body and shed his blood on the cross. Believe and live.

Things to remember

30. The Jews knew Jesus was from _____. So how could he be from _____?
31. Jesus said that if they would listen to the Scriptures, the _____ would lead them to Jesus.



God Makes a Plan to Save Us.

32. Jesus said that he would give his _____ for the life of the world.
33. Eating Jesus body and drinking his blood was another way that Jesus spoke about the need to _____ in him for eternal life.

Check your answers on page 86.

Many disciples deserted Jesus.

(Read John 6:60-71.)

⁶⁰ Jesus' disciples heard this. Many of them said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

⁶¹ Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining about his teaching. So he said to them, "Does this upset you?" ⁶² What if you see the Son of Man go up to where he was before? ⁶³ The Holy Spirit gives life. The body means nothing at all. The words I have spoken to you are from the Spirit. They give life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe."

Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe. And he had known who was going to hand him over to his enemies. ⁶⁵ So he continued speaking. He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father helps him."

⁶⁶ From this time on, many of his disciples turned back. They no longer followed him.

⁶⁷ "You don't want to leave also, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, who can we go to? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

⁷⁰ Then Jesus replied, "Didn't I choose you, the 12 disciples? But one of you is a devil!" ⁷¹ He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Judas was one of the Twelve. But later he was going to hand Jesus over to his enemies.

As long as Jesus healed them and fed them, the people gladly followed him. But when he taught them the truth for their eternal life, they found that too hard to accept.

Jesus knew they were grumbling about his teachings. "Would it help," he challenged, "if he, the Son of Man, went

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up to where he was before?” He spoke of heaven, but they only cared about this earth. He explained to them that they needed the Holy Spirit to have life. Just feeding the body would not give such life. But the Spirit works through the words of Jesus. The problem was that some did not believe his words.

The Spirit still works through God’s Word. We study it so that we will continue to believe and have eternal life.

Jesus knew that many of those disciples did not believe. He knew, too, that one of the twelve original disciples would betray him. Faced with the truth, many stopped following Jesus. Then he turned to the Twelve. What about them? Would they leave too?

In reply, Peter, who often spoke for the others, gave a firm confession of faith in Jesus. “No one is like you,” he said to Jesus. “Your words give eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Because God has worked in us through his Word, we also confess the same truth today.

Still, there are some who pretend to believe but do not. Judas was one of the Twelve who actually followed the devil, not Jesus. Jesus knew Judas’s heart and warned about what Judas would do. But Jesus did not tell his name to the others or send him away.

Things to remember

34. The people grumbled about Jesus’ _____.
35. They only cared about the things of this _____.
36. The _____ works through the _____ of Jesus.
37. Peter confessed that Jesus’ words give _____.
38. Jesus knew that _____ would betray him.

Check your answers on page 86.

Things to remember-Answers

1. healed, 2. 38, 3. mat, walk, 4. work, Sabbath, 5. lost, hell, 6. hated, kill, 7. equal, 8. one, 9. honor, honor, 10. freed, 11. John the Baptist, Jesus' works, the Father, the Scriptures, or Moses, 12. Jesus, 13. Moses, 14. Galilee, 15. five, two, 16. prophet, 18. king, 19. storm, 20. walking, 21. terrified, 22. afraid, 23. fed, 24. forever, 25. works, 26. believe, 27. bread, 28. I am, 29. raise, 30. Nazareth, heaven, 31. Father, 32. body, 33. believe, 34. teachings, 35. earth [or life], 36. Spirit, words, 37. eternal life, 38. Judas.

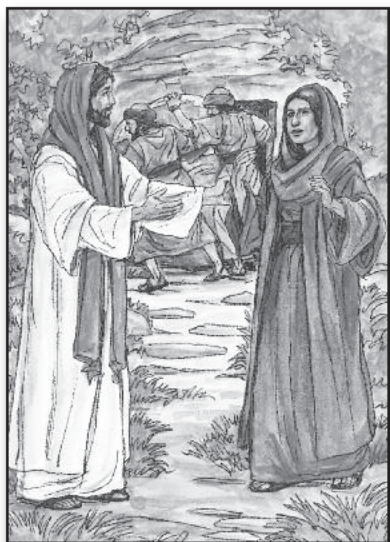
TEST - Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Section 4

Please review the “Things to remember.”

1. Some Jews wanted to _____ Jesus because he _____ a man on the Sabbath.
2. They hated him even more because he claimed to be _____ with God.
3. He told them that they should _____ the Son as they do the Father.
4. The Scriptures testify about _____.
5. On the far shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus fed over 5,000 people with _____ barley loaves and _____ small fish.
6. The people wanted to make Jesus their _____ king.
7. Jesus _____ on the water in a fierce storm.
8. Jesus told his disciples to not be _____ because it was he.
9. When the people followed Jesus in hopes of getting more to eat from him, he told them that he was the true _____ from heaven.
10. Jesus’ words, “_____,” identify him with God by his name “Yahweh.”
11. Jesus predicted that he would give up his _____ to save the world.
12. Many left Jesus because they found his _____ too hard.
13. Jesus spoke of eating and drinking his body and blood as pictures of _____ in him for _____.

Check your answers on page 234.



BELIEVE AND LIVE

SECTION 5:

How Jesus Faced Threats to His Life

John 7:1 to John 11:57

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

SECTION FIVE:

How Jesus Faced Threats to His Life

Jesus confounded the unbelievers with his teaching.

(Read John 7:1-13.)

¹ After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He stayed away from Judea on purpose. He knew that the Jews there were waiting to kill him.

² The Jewish Feast of Booths was near. ³ Jesus' brothers said to him, "You should leave here and go to Judea. Then your disciples will see the kinds of things you do. No one who wants to be well known does things in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵ Even Jesus' own brothers did not believe in him.

⁶ So Jesus told them, "The right time has not yet come for me. For you, any time is right. ⁷ The people of the world can't hate you. But they hate me. This is because I give witness that what they do is evil.

⁸ "You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast. For me, the right time has not yet come."

⁹ After he said this, he stayed in Galilee.

¹⁰ When his brothers had left for the Feast, he went also. But he went secretly, not openly. ¹¹ At the Feast the Jews were watching for him. They were asking, "Where is he?"

¹² Many people in the crowd were whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man."

Others replied, "No. He fools the people."

¹³ But no one would say anything about him openly. They were afraid of the Jews.

Jesus' life was now in danger from the Jewish leaders in Judea, especially around Jerusalem. The time that the Father had set for Jesus to give his life had not yet come. So Jesus spent another half a year in Galilee.

Then the time came to celebrate the Feast of Booths. The people usually went to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast too. It was a time to remember the 40 years God's people spent in the wilderness after they escaped from Egypt. They built

Believe and Live

makeshift huts or booths to live in for the seven days of the celebration. In that way they thought about how their people had lived in similar booths during those 40 years.

Jesus' own brothers prodded him to go to Jerusalem. He could do some of his miracles. He could make a show of power. He might become better known. He could be a leader. They made the same mistake that others had made. They thought only of earthly fame and power. They did not believe in Jesus as the Savior.

Jesus told them that the time was not right for him to go. He was following the strict time-line of his heavenly Father. But they didn't know that. They could go at any time. Jesus explained that people in Jerusalem hated him. They turned against him because he told them that their ways were evil.

A short time after his brothers left, Jesus also followed. But he went in secret.

At the Feast the people wondered about Jesus. They spoke quietly to each other about him: "Where is he?" "Will he come?" "He is a good man." "No, he misleads us." They were afraid to speak openly. They knew that the Jewish leaders opposed Jesus.

Things to remember

1. Jesus had two reasons to stay away from Jerusalem:
 - a. His life was in _____.
 - b. The time set by the _____ was not right.
2. The people at the Feast _____ about Jesus.

Check your answers on page 133.

(Read John 7:14-24.)

¹ Jesus did nothing until halfway through the Feast. Then he went up to the temple courtyard and began to teach. ¹⁵ The Jews were amazed. They asked, "How did this man learn so much without studying?"

¹⁶ Jesus answered, “What I teach is not my own. It comes from the One who sent me. ¹⁷ Anyone who chooses to do what God wants him to do will find out whether my teaching comes from God or from me. ¹⁸ Someone who speaks on his own does it to get honor for himself. But someone who works for the honor of the One who sent him is truthful. There is nothing false about him.

¹⁹ “Didn’t Moses give you the law? But not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?”

²⁰ “You are controlled by demons,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?”

²¹ Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. ²² Moses gave you circumcision, and so you circumcise a child on the Sabbath day. But circumcision did not really come from Moses. It came from Abraham.

²³ You circumcise a child on the Sabbath day. You think that if you do, you won’t break the law of Moses. Then why are you angry with me? I healed a whole man on the Sabbath!

² “Stop judging only by what you see. Judge correctly.”

Jesus laid low for half of the Feast. Then he came and began to teach in the temple courtyard. Jesus had not studied, as many of the rabbis had. Still, he amazed the Jews by how much he knew.

He told them how he knew so much. He taught what the Father in heaven gave him to teach. They would know that his teachings came from God if only they would do what God wanted them to do. They needed to believe in Jesus. God had sent him. He taught only God’s truth to honor the One who sent him.

As he did the last time he was in Jerusalem, Jesus held up Moses as a witness against them. He accused them of not keeping the teachings of Moses. Instead, they were trying to kill him.

“That,” the crowd replied, “is the talk of demons. Who is trying to kill you?”

Jesus reminded them of the miracles he had done on the Sabbath when he was last among them. He had healed the man who had been a cripple for 38 years. Then he directed them back to Moses’ writing and the circumcision that God

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had told Abraham to do. Whenever, it was necessary, they circumcised children on the Sabbath to keep the law of Moses. “How is it then,” he asked, “that you were angry with me for healing a whole man on the Sabbath?”

Jesus warned them to judge more fairly. They made quick, unsound judgments based on what they saw. They should rather make fair and sound judgments based on what was right.

Things to remember

3. Jesus amazed the Jews by how much he _____.
4. Jesus’ teachings came from _____.
5. The people would know that Jesus taught God’s _____ if they would _____ in Jesus.
6. Jesus told them to judge more _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

The people wondered whether Jesus was the Christ.

(Read John 7:25-43.)

²⁵ Then some of the people of Jerusalem began asking questions. They said, “Isn’t this the man some people are trying to kill? ²⁶ Here he is! He is speaking openly. They aren’t saying a word to him. Have the authorities really decided that he is the Christ? ²⁷ But we know where this man is from. When the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from.”

²⁸ Jesus was still teaching in the temple courtyard. He cried out, “Yes, you know me. And you know where I am from. I am not here on my own. The One who sent me is true. You do not know him. ²⁹ But I know him. I am from him, and he sent me.”

³⁰ When he said this, they tried to arrest him. But no one laid a hand on him. His time had not yet come.

³¹ Still, many people in the crowd put their faith in him. They said, “How will it be when the Christ comes? Will he do more miraculous signs than this man?”

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering things like this about him.

Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

³³ Jesus said, “I am with you for only a short time. Then I will go to the One who sent me. ³ You will look for me, but you won’t find me. You can’t come where I am going.”

³⁵ The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man plan to go? Does he think we can’t find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks? Will he go there to teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What did he mean when he said, ‘You will look for me, but you won’t find me’? And, ‘You can’t come where I am going’?”

³⁷ It was the last and most important day of the Feast. Jesus stood up and spoke in a loud voice. He said, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Does anyone believe in me? Then, just as Scripture says, streams of living water will flow from inside him.”

³⁹ When he said this, he meant the Holy Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit later. Up to that time, the Spirit had not been given. This was because Jesus had not yet received glory.

⁰ When some of the people heard his words, they said, “This man must be the Prophet we’ve been expecting.”

¹ Others said, “He is the Christ.”

Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee? ² Doesn’t Scripture say that the Christ will come from David’s family? Doesn’t it say that he will come from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”

³ So the people did not agree about who Jesus was. Some wanted to arrest him. But no one laid a hand on him.

Confusion about Jesus was growing. Some of the people knew that others wanted to kill him. Now Jesus came out in the open and taught them. But his enemies did not raise a finger to stop him. “Do you think,” they wondered, “that the authorities have decided that he is the Christ?”

They dismissed that idea because of an old Jewish myth that the Messiah must come unexpectedly. No one would know where he came from. They thought they knew where Jesus came from. He was from Nazareth. It did not seem to matter to them that such a myth went against Scripture.

Jesus knew what they were saying. He cried out from where he was teaching: “Yes, you know me. And you know where I am from.” He was not talking about coming from Nazareth. He had told them before, and he told them again

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now that he came from the One who sent him. He came from the Father in heaven. “You do not know him, but I do,” he accused them.

That did it for the Jews. They tried to arrest Jesus. But no one laid a hand on him. It seems they were powerless to act. The time had not yet come according to the Father’s plan.

Not everyone opposed Jesus. Many put their faith in him as the Christ. They reasoned that Jesus did miracles that only the Christ could do.

So it is today. Many people openly oppose Jesus and do not believe he is the Son of God. Others hear these teachings and believe.

The religious leaders the Pharisees had seen and heard enough. They and the chief priests of the temple sent the temple guards to arrest Jesus.

Jesus kept on teaching. He said he would go back to where he came from. They would look for him but not find him. They could not go where he was going.

In fact, Jesus was going to return to the Father in heaven, to the One who sent him. They would no longer be able to see him. Besides, as long as they refused to believe in him, they would be separated forever from the Father. They would not get to heaven.

The Jews thought Jesus meant he would run and hide. They made fun of him. They had people everywhere. What made him think they could not find him?

On this, the last big day of the Feast, Jesus stood up and spoke loudly for all to hear. He repeated the message he had given another time to the woman at the well in Samaria (see John 4:10-14): “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”

Once again Jesus called for them to believe in him. He added that those who believe would have “streams of living water” flow from inside them. In other words, they would tell others of him. They would spread the good news.

He was talking about the Holy Spirit working in them. But it was not just the Spirit working faith in them. He promised to send the Spirit in a special way. He was looking ahead. After he would rise from the dead and go up to heaven's glory, he would send the Holy Spirit. The Spirit would work in his followers and make them Jesus' witnesses. Jesus kept this promise on the harvest feast of Pentecost (see Acts 2) when the Spirit came on the disciples in tongues of fire.

Again the people debated among themselves about Jesus. Some thought he was the promised Prophet. Some said he was the Christ. Others said he could not be the Christ. They knew from the Scriptures that the Christ would come from Bethlehem, the city of David. They were right, but they did not know about Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. They did not agree with one another.

Some still wanted to arrest Jesus. But no one touched him.

Things to remember

7. The people wondered if Jesus' enemies had decided that Jesus was the _____.
8. The enemies of Jesus wanted to _____ him, but no one did.
9. Jesus said that he would go where his enemies could not go. He was talking about _____.
10. Jesus said that streams of _____ water would flow from those who believe in him.
11. He was promising to send the Holy _____.
12. The people did not agree whether Jesus was the _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

The Jewish leaders did not believe.

(Read John 7:45-53.)

⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees. They asked the guards, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”

⁶ “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied.

⁷ “You mean he has fooled you also?” the Pharisees asked. ⁸ “Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in him? ⁹ No! But this mob knows nothing about the law. There is a curse on them.”

⁵⁰ Then Nicodemus, a Pharisee, spoke. He was the one who had gone to Jesus earlier. He asked, ⁵¹ “Does our law find someone guilty without hearing him first? Doesn’t it want to find out what he is doing?”

⁵² They replied, “Are you from Galilee too? Look into it. You will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”

⁵³ Then each of them went home.

The temple guards came back empty-handed. They had not arrested Jesus as ordered. The chief priests and Pharisees were upset. They demanded to know why the guards had failed.

The guards replied simply, “No one ever spoke the way this man does.” Jesus’ holy words had held them back. They had listened to Jesus and marveled. They had made no move against him.

Angered, the Pharisees accused the guards of being fooled by Jesus. The people, too, they charged, were ignorant and under a curse. The Pharisees pointed out that they were not duped by Jesus. You did not see any rulers or Pharisees who believed in this him. They were not fooled because, they claimed, they knew the law. But they were too puffed up by their own importance to see the truth.

One of the Pharisees, however, did believe in Jesus. They just did not know it. Now that Pharisee, Nicodemus (who had come to Jesus at night), spoke up. He appealed to the law. Did not the law demand a fair hearing before judging someone guilty? Should they not find out more about Jesus?

In reply, the Pharisees showed their scorn for anyone from Galilee. They looked down on Galileans as not as educated and smart as they were. They asked if Nicodemus, too, were from there because he defended Jesus. They pointed out that no prophet ever came from Galilee.

In their hatred of Jesus, the Pharisees were wrong also about the prophets. The Prophet Jonah had come from the town of Gath-Hepher in Galilee.

Things to remember

13. The temple guards did not arrest Jesus because no one ever _____ the way he did.
14. The Pharisees said they did not believe Jesus because they knew the _____.
15. _____ told them that the law demanded that they give Jesus a _____ hearing.

Check your answers on page 133.

The Jewish leaders tried to trap Jesus.

(Read John 8:1-11.)

¹ But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² At sunrise he arrived in the temple courtyard again. All the people gathered around him there. He sat down to teach them.

³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman. She had been caught in adultery. They made her stand in front of the group. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught having sex with a man who was not her husband. ⁵ In the Law, Moses commanded us to kill such women by throwing stones at them. Now what do you say?" ⁶ They were trying to trap Jesus with that question. They wanted to have a reason to bring charges against him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.

⁷ They kept asking him questions. So he stood up and said to them, "Has any one of you not sinned? Then you be the first to throw a stone at her."

⁸ He bent down again and wrote on the ground.

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⁹ Those who heard what he had said began to go away. They left one at a time, the older ones first. Soon only Jesus was left. The woman was still standing there.

¹⁰ Jesus stood up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Hasn’t anyone found you guilty?”

¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then I don’t find you guilty either,” Jesus said. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

After the Feast of Booths ended, Jesus stayed nearby at the Mount of Olives. At sunrise the next day, he came to the temple again to teach.

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees presented him with a problem. They wanted to trap him into saying something against God’s law as recorded by Moses or against the Roman law of the land. They hoped to make him look bad and to bring charges against him.

They brought in a woman. She had been caught in adultery. The woman had sex with a man who was not her husband. By the laws of Moses, they were to stone such a woman to death. What, they asked, did Jesus have to say about that? Would he call for her to be killed? If he did that, he would go against the law of the Romans. Roman law did not allow them to execute anyone. Or would he go against the law of Moses and say she should be set free? Either way, they could make a case against him.

Jesus ignored the question at first. He did not even tell them how they actually were misusing Moses. The law of Moses called for death to both the man and the woman. They brought only the woman. And the death would be by stoning only if the woman had been a virgin engaged to be married. Finally, those who witnessed the crime were to be the first to cast a stone.

Jesus stayed silent, but they kept questioning him. Then he stood up. He said simply: “Has any one of you not sinned? Then you be the first to throw a stone at her.” Let the person without sin throw the first stone.

Jesus did not go against any law. He turned the problem back on them. Then he bent down and wrote again on the ground. We do not know what he wrote. But while he looked down, the accusers gradually went away. The older ones went first. They had lived long enough to know better. Jesus' words made clear how wrong they were in what they were doing.

Soon only Jesus and the woman were left. Jesus asked her where the people were who accused her. They were all gone. Then he said, "I don't find you guilty either. Go now and leave your life of sin."

It is important to see that Jesus did not say that what the woman did was right. He did not condone her sin. He forgave it. He did not condemn her. He showed her his grace. But he did tell her, "Leave your life of sin."

Jesus' message still applies for sinners today. Jesus says, "I forgive you. Stop the sinful things you do."

Things to remember

16. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees tried to get Jesus to say something against the law of _____ or the law of the _____.
17. The accused woman had committed _____.
18. Jesus told the accusers that the person without any _____ should throw the first stone.
19. Jesus told the woman that he _____ her sin.
20. Jesus told the woman to leave her life of _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

Jesus testified against the unbelievers.

(Read John 8:12-30.)

¹² Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will never walk in darkness. They will have the

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light that leads to life.”

¹³ The Pharisees argued with him. “Here you are,” they said, “appearing as your own witness. But your witness does not count.”

¹ Jesus answered, “Even if I give witness about myself, my witness does count. I know where I came from. And I know where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge by human standards. I don’t judge anyone.

¹⁶ “But if I do judge, what I decide is right. This is because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. ¹⁷ Your own Law says that the witness of two is what counts. ¹⁸ I give witness about myself. My other witness is the Father, who sent me.”

¹⁹ Then they asked him, “Where is your father?”

“You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

²⁰ He spoke these words while he was teaching in the temple area. He was near the place where the offerings were put. But no one arrested him. His time had not yet come.

²¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them. “I am going away,” he said. “You will look for me, and you will die in your sin. You can’t come where I am going.”

²² This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘You can’t come where I am going’?”

²³ But Jesus said, “You are from below. I am from heaven. You are from this world. I am not from this world. ² I told you that you would die in your sins. Do you believe that I am the one I claim to be? If you don’t, you will certainly die in your sins.”

²⁵ “Who are you?” they asked.

“Just what I have been claiming all along,” Jesus replied. ²⁶ “I have a lot to say that will judge you. But the One who sent me can be trusted. And I tell the world what I have heard from him.”

²⁷ They did not understand that Jesus was telling them about his Father.

²⁸ So Jesus said, “You will lift up the Son of Man. Then you will know that I am the one I claim to be. You will also know that I do nothing on my own. I speak just what the Father has taught me. ²⁹ The One who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him.”

³⁰ Even while Jesus was speaking, many people put their faith in him.

Another time Jesus spoke to the people. “I am the light of the world,” he said. Once more he identified himself with “I AM.” He is Yahweh God. He taught them that those who

follow him will never walk in darkness. “They will have the light that leads to life.”

His words echo thoughts we have heard before, already in John 1:4. His light replaces the darkness of sin. All who believe in him have eternal life.

The Pharisees stepped forward to argue with him. They said that his word was not true. He could not give witness to himself. Such witness does not count.

Jesus knew what they meant. He had said the same thing himself another time (see John 5:31). But now he added a thought. He said that, even though they did not see it, his witness counted because it was the truth. He knew where he came from (that is, from heaven). And he knew where he was going (that is, back to heaven). They did not know. They made all kinds of faulty human judgments about him.

Jesus, on the other hand, did not come to judge. Even so, if he did judge, he would judge right because he would have the Father on his side. Their law called for two witnesses to make a case. Jesus offered his heavenly Father as his second witness.

“Bring your father then,” they challenged.

“You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me you would know my Father.” What Jesus said would just make them want once more to arrest him. But no one did. “His time had not yet come.” Jesus was in control. He was following the Father’s plan.

Jesus spoke still more harshly to them. He told them that he was going somewhere that they could not go. They would die in their sin. He meant that he would return to heaven. They, because of their unbelief, would not get to heaven. They would not have forgiveness. They would go to hell.

Those Jews were hopelessly lost. They missed Jesus’ meaning. They wondered if Jesus was saying that he would kill himself so that they could not catch him.

Jesus spoke still more plainly. He came from heaven.

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They were from this world. They must believe he is the Savior sent from God as he told them. If not, they would die in their sins.

The Jews still questioned who Jesus was.

“I am who I said I am,” Jesus replied. He could have added many things against them. Instead, he said that he told the world the things he got from the One who sent him. They could trust that One.

Still, they did not see that he spoke of God the Father. Then Jesus went so far as to say how he would die. They would lift him up on the cross. Only then would they know who he was. They rejected him. But the Father was with him, because Jesus did only what pleased the Father.

Most of the Pharisees and a number of other Jews still hated Jesus. But many people who heard Jesus believed in him.

Things to remember

21. Jesus said, “I am the _____ of the world.”
22. Jesus offered his _____ as a second witness to the truth of who he was.
23. Jesus warned the unbelieving Jews that they would _____ in their sins.
24. Jesus did only what pleased the _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

The Jews tried to defend themselves as Abraham’s children.

(Read John 8:31-41.)

³¹ Jesus spoke to the Jews who had believed him. “If you obey my teaching,” he said, “you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth. And the truth will set you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s children. We have never been slaves of anyone. So how can you say that we will be set free?”

³ Jesus replied, “What I’m about to tell you is true. Everyone who sins is a slave of sin. ³⁵ A slave has no lasting place in the family. But a son belongs to the family forever. ³⁶ So if the Son of Man sets you free, you will really be free.

³⁷ “I know you are Abraham’s children. But you are ready to kill me. You have no room for my word. ³⁸ I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. You do what you have heard from your father. “

³⁹ “Abraham is our father,” they answered.

Jesus said, “Are you really Abraham’s children? If you are, you will do the things Abraham did. ⁰ But you have decided to kill me. I am a man who has told you the truth I heard from God. Abraham didn’t do the things you want to do. ¹ You are doing the things your own father does.”

“We are not children of people who weren’t married to each other,” they objected. “The only Father we have is God himself.”

Then Jesus spoke to those who believed in him. He told them how they could truly be his disciples. They needed to obey his teachings. His actual words were “remain in my word.” In his word, they would learn the truth. And the truth would set them free.

Jesus makes the same offer to us today. But many misuse his words. They will quote Jesus, saying, “The truth will set you free.” But they do not say where to find the truth or what it is. And they do not say how it sets us free.

The message, however, is clear. To be Jesus’ disciples we need to stay in his word. We need to hear it regularly and learn it. Through the word of Jesus we learn the truth of how God sent him, his only Son, to save us. We learn how Jesus had to die on the cross as payment for our sins. We see how he rose from the dead and is alive. Through his word, then, we are set free from the guilt and punishment of our sin. We are free to call ourselves children of God. We look forward to being in heaven with Jesus.

The Jews objected to the idea that they needed to be set free. They were children of Abraham. They had never been slaves. Once again the people failed to see the spiritual

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meaning of Jesus' teaching.

Jesus explained: The person who sins becomes a slave to sin. He has no firm place in the family—in this case, in the family of God. But the son is always a part of the family. And the son can set the slave free. So, if the Son of Man, Jesus, sets you free, you are truly free. You are free from sin's curse.

Jesus agreed that they were from the line of Abraham. But they did not act like it. They wanted to kill him. They refused to listen to his word. He spoke of what he saw when he was with his Father. They did what they learned from their father. (He would soon tell them what "father" he meant.)

They insisted that Abraham was their father. But he told them again that they wanted to do things that Abraham would not do. They were doing things their real father did.

Jesus seemed to be telling them that they did not know their own father. So they insisted that their only Father was God himself.

"If that were so," said Jesus, "you would love me." Jesus came from God the Father. The Father sent him to save the world.

Jesus' words were clear, but the unbelieving Jews did not listen. Instead, they listened to their father, the devil. The devil always was a murderer. Now they wanted to murder Jesus. The devil fought against the truth. They would not accept the truth that Jesus taught. The devil was and is the father of lies. They had accepted his lies and told others lies about Jesus.

These men would not believe Jesus. They did not listen to the word of truth because they did not belong to God.

Things to remember

25. True disciples of Jesus will _____ in his
_____.

26. The truth of Jesus' word will set us free from the _____ and _____ of sin.
27. The person who sins becomes a _____ of sin.
28. _____ sets you free from that slavery.
29. Jesus told the unbelieving Jews that their real father was the _____.
30. The devil is the father of _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

Jesus said that Abraham was filled with joy for Jesus' day.

(Read John 8:48-59.)

⁸ The Jews answered Jesus, "Aren't we right when we say you are a Samaritan? Aren't you controlled by a demon?"

⁹ "I am not controlled by a demon," said Jesus. "I honor my Father. You do not honor me. ⁵⁰ I am not seeking glory for myself. But there is One who brings glory to me. He is the judge. ⁵¹ What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who obeys my word will never die."

⁵² Then the Jews cried out, "Now we know you are controlled by a demon! Abraham died. So did the prophets. But you say that anyone who obeys your word will never die. ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died. So did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

⁵ Jesus replied, "If I bring glory to myself, my glory means nothing. You claim that my Father is your God. He is the one who brings glory to me. ⁵⁵ You do not know him. But I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him. And I obey his word.

⁵⁶ "Your father Abraham was filled with joy at the thought of seeing my day. He saw it and was glad."

⁵⁷ "You are not even 50 years old," the Jews said to Jesus. "And you have seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸ "What I'm about to tell you is true," Jesus answered. "Before Abraham was born, I am!"

⁵⁹ When he said this, they picked up stones to kill him. But Jesus hid himself. He slipped away from the temple area.

In anger, the Jews shot back at Jesus. They called him a "Samaritan." That would be like someone calling you a "half-

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breed.” They accused Jesus of being controlled by a demon.

Those were serious charges. Jesus said they followed the devil. They said he had a demon. Jesus answered with the truth. Jesus honored his Father. They did not honor Jesus, who came from the Father. The Father gave glory to Jesus. He would judge between them. Furthermore, anyone who “obeys” Jesus’ word would never die. The word “obeys” used here means to guard, to listen to, to keep as one’s own.

Jesus was saying, as he did before, that whoever believes in him has eternal life. But the Jews turned on him again. “Now we know you are controlled by a demon. Abraham died. The prophets died. Do you think you are greater than father Abraham? Who do you think you are?”

Jesus replied, “It doesn’t matter who I say I am. God the Father supports me. You call him your Father, but you do not know him. If I said that I did not know him, however, I would be a liar like you.”

Then Jesus spoke again of Abraham. They had called him their father. But unlike them, Abraham was filled with joy about the promise of Jesus to come. Abraham saw the day of Jesus and was glad.

The Jews grew angrier still. Jesus talked as if he had seen Abraham. But Abraham had lived 2,000 years earlier. Jesus was not even 50 years old.

Jesus again stressed the solemn truth of what he would say next. “Before Abraham was,” he said, “I am.” It was as if he said, “I am God.” He claimed to be eternal. He identified himself with God who spoke to Moses from the burning bush. He called himself, “I AM,” Yahweh.

The Jews understood his claim. They picked up stones to kill him on the spot because they did not believe him. But Jesus escaped.

Things to remember

31. The Jews said that Jesus was controlled by a _____.
32. The Jews hated Jesus. But Jesus told them that Abraham saw his _____ and was _____.
33. Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, _____."
34. The Jews wanted to stone Jesus because he identified himself with _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

Jesus pointed out the blindness of the unbelieving Jews.

(Read John 9:1-12.)

¹ As Jesus went along, he saw a man who was blind. He had been blind since he was born. ² Jesus' disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned? Was this man born blind because he sinned? Or did his parents sin?"

³ "It isn't because this man sinned," said Jesus. "It isn't because his parents sinned. This happened so that God's work could be shown in his life. While it is still day, we must do the work of the One who sent me. Night is coming. Then no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ After he said this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud with the spit. Then he put the mud on the man's eyes.

⁷ "Go," he told him. "Wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam means Sent. So the man went and washed. And he came home able to see.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had earlier seen him begging asked questions. "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" they asked.

⁹ Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No. He only looks like him."

But the man who had been blind kept saying, "I am the man."

¹⁰ "Then how were your eyes opened?" they asked.

¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed. Then I could see."

¹² "Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

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One day Jesus saw a man who was born blind. That raised a common question among the disciples. Many people felt that if someone had something extra bad in their life, it must have happened because of some serious sin. The disciples wondered whether the sin behind this man's blindness was his own or a sin of his parents.

We know, of course, that some sinning leads to bad results. Overdrinking can destroy a person's liver. Speeding can cause a crash. Homosexual activity can bring on AIDS. Not every bad thing, however, is the result of a specific sin.

In this case, Jesus explained that this man's blindness did not happen because of anyone's sin. God had allowed it so that God's work could be shown in his life at this time. We must do God's work, Jesus taught, while we can. It is day now while we live. Jesus is the light that shines in our day and in all the world. When night of our death comes, we will no longer be able to do God's work. So now is the time.

Then Jesus went to work. He gave the man his sight. But the work wasn't all done yet, as we will see later.

Jesus did this miracle differently than some he did. He mixed some mud with his spit and placed it on the man's eyes. Then he told the man to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man did as he was told, and he gained his sight.

When the man returned to his home, the people around him could not agree that it was he. This man could see. The man they knew was a blind beggar. The man insisted, "I am the man." Then he explained how he was healed by the man Jesus.

They wanted to know where Jesus was, but the man did not know.

Things to remember

35. The disciples thought the man was born blind because of some _____.

36. Jesus' explained that this man was blind so God's _____ might be shown in his life.
37. Jesus gave the man his _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

The Pharisees looked into the matter of Jesus healing on the Sabbath.

(Read John 9:13-34.)

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹ The day Jesus made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.

"He put mud on my eyes," the man replied. "Then I washed. And now I can see."

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "Jesus has not come from God. He does not keep the Sabbath day."

But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?"

So the Pharisees did not agree with each other.

¹⁷ Finally they turned again to the blind man. "What do you have to say about him?" they asked. "It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews still did not believe that the man had been blind and now could see. So they sent for his parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered. "And we know he was born blind. ²¹ But we don't know how he can now see. And we don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him. He is an adult. He can speak for himself."

²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews. The Jews had already decided that anyone who said Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why the man's parents said, "He is an adult. Ask him."

² Again they called the man who had been blind to come to them. "Give glory to God by telling the truth!" they said. "We know that the man who healed you is a sinner."

²⁵ He replied, "I don't know if he is a sinner or not. I do know one thing. I was blind, but now I can see!"

²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

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²⁷ He answered, “I have already told you. But you didn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

²⁸ Then they began to attack him with their words. “You are this fellow’s disciple!” they said. “We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses. But we don’t even know where this fellow comes from.”

³⁰ The man answered, “That is really surprising! You don’t know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to godly people who do what he wants them to do. ³² Nobody has ever heard of anyone opening the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man had not come from God, he could do nothing.”

³ Then the Pharisees replied, “When you were born, you were already deep in sin. How dare you talk like that to us!” And they threw him out of the synagogue.

The people brought the man to the Jewish religious leaders, the Pharisees, because Jesus did this miracle also on the Sabbath.

Then the Pharisees heard the man’s story of how Jesus had healed him. They had a mixed reaction. Some insisted that Jesus could not come from God. They claimed he did not keep the Sabbath. But others argued that he wouldn’t be able to do such miraculous signs, if he were acting in sin.

They turned back to the once-blind man and asked him what he thought of this Jesus. “He is a prophet,” the man said.

The Pharisees did not believe the man’s story. They doubted that he was ever blind. So they brought in his parents and asked them what was going on.

The parents said, yes, their son was born blind. But they feared that the Jews would throw them out of the synagogue (“out of the church”) if they said that Jesus healed him. So they pretended not to know it was Christ. They said that the Jews would have to ask their son.

The Pharisees called the man back. They insisted that he tell the truth before God. They called Jesus a sinner, not a “prophet” as the man had said.

The man would not let them bully him. “I already told

you the truth,” he said. “Need I tell you again?” Then he asked them if they, too, wanted to become Jesus’ disciples.

His question had a bite in it. They lashed out against him. As they had done before, they appealed to Moses over Jesus. “You are this fellow’s disciple,” they said. “We follow Moses!” They reminded him that Moses had talked with God. They claimed to know nothing about where Jesus came from.

The man had an answer. He acted surprised at their ignorance. They needed only to look at the evidence. Jesus opened his eyes. That was not the act of someone living in sin. It was the act of someone favored by God. No one could possibly give sight to a man born blind unless that one came from God.

The Pharisees were outraged. They accused the man of living deep in sin. “How dare you talk like that to us!” they cried. And they threw him out of the synagogue.

Things to remember

38. The people brought the healed blind man to the _____.
39. Some Pharisees said that Jesus could not be from _____.
40. Others said that he would not be able to do such a miracle if he were acting in _____.
41. The healed man said that he thought Jesus was a _____.
42. The man told the Pharisees that Jesus’ miracle was the act of someone _____ by God.

Check your answers on page 133.

“The blind see and the seeing are blind.”

(Read John 9:35-41.)

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³⁵ Jesus heard that the Pharisees had thrown the man out. When he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me, so I can believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “I have come into this world to judge it. I have come so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this. They asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin. But since you claim you can see, you remain guilty.

After the man was thrown out of the synagogue, Jesus went to him. He had to finish God’s work in him. Jesus asked him if he believed in the Son of Man.

That’s how Jesus often referred to himself as the Christ. The Prophet Daniel had said the Messiah “looked like a son of man” in a vision (see Daniel 7:13). Jesus fulfilled that prophecy. He, the eternal Son of God, became a man to save the world. He was just like you and me, but without sin.

Remember that the once-blind man had not yet actually seen Jesus. He asked Jesus to show him the Son of Man, so he could believe in him. Jesus said, “You are looking at him.”

The man believed and worshiped Jesus. So today we too worship Jesus.

Then Jesus spoke in what sounds like a riddle. He said that he came into the world so the blind will see and those who see will become blind.

Some Pharisees there heard him. They asked Jesus if he was calling them blind.

Jesus’ reply added to the “riddle”: If they were blind, they would not be guilty of sin. But since they claimed to see, they were guilty.

Jesus again was teaching a spiritual lesson:

All people by nature are spiritually blind. They cannot see that Jesus is their Savior. Jesus gives them spiritual sight

in faith and they are saved. Their sins are forgiven.

Some people, however, think they are not spiritually blind and even boast that they see. But they reject Jesus. In that way they remain blind and are lost.

The blind man was one who could now see both physically and spiritually. He believed in Jesus.

Those Pharisees boasted how they could see, but really they were blind. They rejected Jesus.

The blind see and the seeing are blind.

Things to remember

43. Jesus asked the once-blind man if he believed in the _____ of _____.

44. The man said that he believed, and he _____ Jesus.

45. Jesus said that he came into the world so the _____ could _____ and those who _____ would become _____.

46. When the spiritually blind see, they _____ in Jesus.

47. Those who think they can see are really blind if they _____ Jesus.

Check your answers on page 133.

Jesus taught his followers that he was the Good Shepherd.

(Read John 10:1-10.)

¹ “What I’m about to tell you is true. What if someone does not enter the sheep pen through the gate but climbs in another way? That person is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him. The sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought all of his own sheep out, he goes on ahead of them. His sheep

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follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger. In fact, they will run away from him. They don't recognize a stranger's voice."

⁶ Jesus used this story. But the Jews who were there didn't understand what he was telling them.

⁷ So Jesus said again, "What I'm about to tell you is true. I am like a gate for the sheep. ⁸ All those who ever came before me were thieves and robbers. But the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I'm like a gate. Anyone who enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out. And he will find plenty of food. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.

Jesus now used some more picture language to show the Jews who he was. He spoke of tending sheep. They would know the images from the Old Testament Scriptures, and shepherding was common around them.

The first image is of the sheep pen. Anyone seeking to steal or harm the sheep does not go through the gate but climbs over the pen's stone walls at another place.

The shepherd, however, enters through the gate. The gatekeeper lets him in. He gathers the sheep and takes them out to pasture. They follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger's voice.

We can understand this image two different ways. The robbers in each case are those who try to take the sheep away from the shepherd. They are false teachers like the Pharisees.

The shepherd is either Jesus or those who teach the truth about Jesus. In each case, the sheep, who are the people of God, will follow Jesus. They will listen to and believe the truth. The shepherd takes a personal interest in each sheep. He calls each one by name.

It was clear that the Jews there did not understand what Jesus meant. So Jesus changed the image a bit.

He said, "I am the gate for the sheep." He did not say, "I am like a gate," as our Bible translates. His words are much stronger. He really is the gate as we will see. Once again, he

emphasizes that he is God with an “I AM” statement.

Thieves and robbers who do not use the gate come to steal, kill, and destroy. They lead the sheep into danger. Their false teachings lead the sheep away from God to destruction.

The sheep who come and go through the gate are saved. Jesus takes good care of them and feeds them well. He gives them the best possible life. Life with Jesus brings joy. It gives rest to our souls. It blossoms into eternal glory.

This figure of Jesus as the gate of the sheep pen can be confusing, since a gate is not a person. However, when you think of the gate as the way to go for eternal life, it is clear. We must go through Jesus.

Or, you can think of it another way. When the sheep were out in the countryside, the shepherd might find a protected place with a single opening for their pen. He would protect that opening with his own body. He made himself the gate. The meaning for the believer is the same. We must go through Jesus for eternal life.

Things to remember

48. Jesus said that the sheep hear the shepherd's

49. _____ teachers will try to take the sheep from the shepherd.

50. Jesus said further: “I am the _____ for the sheep.”

51. We must go through _____ for the best possible life, for eternal life.

Check your answers on page 133.

(Read John 10:11-21.)

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.

¹² The hired man is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when the hired man sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. Then

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the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired man. He does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me.

¹⁵ They know me just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I give my life for the sheep.

¹⁶ “I have other sheep that do not belong to this sheep pen. I must bring them in too. They also will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd.

¹⁷ “The reason my Father loves me is that I give up my life. But I will take it back again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me. I give it up myself. I have the authority to give it up. And I have the authority to take it back again. I received this command from my Father.”

¹⁹ After Jesus spoke these words, the Jews again could not agree with each other. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He is controlled by a demon. He has gone crazy! Why should we listen to him?”

²¹ But others said, “A person controlled by a demon does not say things like this. Can a demon open the eyes of someone who is blind?”

Next Jesus made another “I AM” statement. “I am the good shepherd,” he said and repeated. The 23^d Psalm comes immediately to mind. Called the Good Shepherd Psalm, it begins, “The LORD [Yahweh] is my shepherd.” Jesus is Yahweh (or Jehovah).

The Lord Jesus is “the good” shepherd. He is a shepherd unlike any other. He gives all things good to his sheep.

This shepherd would go so far as to give up his life for the sheep. Jesus spoke of giving his life three times in this talk. He predicted his death, which was just a few months away.

The good shepherd was not like a hired hand. A hired hand takes care of the flock for pay. He does not particularly care about the sheep. When danger comes, he thinks of himself first. He will run rather than risk his life say if a wolf attacks. Some church leaders are like that. They think of their work as a job to make money. They are not ready to make big sacrifices for the flock.

The wolf in the scene is any false teacher. Left unchecked, the false teacher will turn sheep away from the



Jesus is The Good Shepherd.

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flock. Jesus another time warned against false prophets. He called them wolves who dress to look like sheep (see Matthew 7:15). Such teachers do the work of the devil. Jesus was prepared to die to save us from the devil.

The good shepherd forms a bond with his sheep. He knows them, and they know him. It is a close bond like that between God the Father and God the Son. It is a bond of love and trust. The good shepherd will guard the sheep with his life.

The death Jesus spoke of was to be his death on the cross. He gave up his life for the whole world (see John 3:16). Many Jews thought that the Messiah would come only for their nation. But Jesus said that he had other sheep too. They would hear his voice and follow him. People all over the world who hear Jesus' word and believe in him become part of his flock.

Jesus came to do the will of his Father in heaven. The Father loved him for it. Jesus would give up his life as the Father willed. He would take it back again too. He predicted not only his death. He predicted also that he would rise from the dead. He told the Jews that he would give his life freely. No one would take it from him against his will. He had the authority as God to give his life and to take it back again. He was following the Father's plan.

Once more the Jews reacted strongly to Jesus' words. Some said he was crazy and controlled by a demon. Others said that his teachings and his deeds could not come from a demon. So they argued, but they did not believe.

Things to remember

52. Jesus said, "I am the _____ shepherd.

53. As their shepherd, Jesus would give up his _____ for his sheep.

54. Jesus said that he had _____ sheep besides the Jews.
55. Jesus predicted his death and that he would also _____ from the dead.
56. Jesus would give his life _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

Jesus barely escaped being stoned.

(Read John 10:22-42.)

²² Then came the Feast of Hanukkah at Jerusalem. It was winter. ²³ Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Porch. ² The Jews gathered around him. They said, "How long will you keep us waiting? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus answered, "I did tell you. But you do not believe. The kinds of things I do in my Father's name speak for me. ²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep.

²⁷ "My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never die. No one can steal them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than anyone. No one can steal them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

³¹ Again the Jews picked up stones to kill him.

³² But Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many miracles from the Father. Which one of these are you throwing stones at me for?"

³³ "We are not throwing stones at you for any of these," replied the Jews. "We are stoning you for saying a very evil thing. You are only a man. But you claim to be God."

³ Jesus answered them, "Didn't God say in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'?—(*Psalms* 82:6) ³⁵ We know that Scripture is always true. God spoke to some people and called them 'gods.' ³⁶ If that is true, what about the One the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why do you charge me with saying a very evil thing? Is it because I said, 'I am God's Son'?"

³⁷ "Don't believe me unless I do what my Father does. ³⁸ But what if I do it? Even if you don't believe me, believe the miracles. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

³⁹ Again they tried to arrest him. But he escaped from them.

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⁰ Then Jesus went back across the Jordan River. He went to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed. ¹ Many people came to him. They said, “John never did a miraculous sign. But everything he said about this man was true.” ² And in that place many believed in Jesus.

About two months later, the Jews were celebrating Hanukkah in Jerusalem. This feast was also called the Feast of Lights. The feast celebrated a special temple purification from about 200 years earlier. It was December, the winter before Jesus was crucified.

Jesus was there in the outer part of the temple. The Jews gathered around him. They asked him a direct question. They wanted a direct answer. “Are you the Christ?”

Many people thought Jesus might be the Christ. Now the Jews wanted him to say what he claimed. Was he the Messiah that God had promised?

They were not looking for the truth. They wanted to find reason to get rid of him. Jesus gave them a direct answer: “I did tell you. But you do not believe.” They had ignored the witness of the deeds he did in his Father’s name. They did not believe because they did not want to. They were not his sheep.

If they were his sheep, they would listen to him. Jesus’ sheep listen to his voice. They follow him. Jesus knows his sheep and gives them eternal life.

When you are Jesus’ sheep, you are safe for eternity. You are in the hands of God, the Father and the Son. They are one. They want you to be with them in heaven.

Once again those Jews picked up stones to throw at Jesus. Jesus asked them what evidence they had against him. Which of his miracles from the Father made them want to kill him? They said it was not his deeds. But in their minds he was terribly evil. He was, they said, only a man. But he claimed to be God. According to Old Testament law, that was grounds for stoning.

Some people today insist that Jesus never claimed to be God. But they are wrong. Even his enemies knew that he did.

So Jesus appealed to the Old Testament. He pointed them to Psalm 82:6. In that Psalm, men who were appointed to represent God as judges were called “gods.” Moreover, he reminded them, the Scriptures are true in every point.

Jesus argued from the lesser to the greater. God called those men “gods” because he sent them out for him. How much more is Jesus truly “God.” The Father sent him directly from heaven.

They accused Jesus of being evil because he said he was God’s Son. Jesus told them to check him out. He was reaching out to them. They should believe him if they saw that he did what the Father does. They should know that the Father was with him by his miracles.

They did not listen to Jesus. They tried to seize him. But he escaped.

Jesus continued his ministry on the other side of the Jordan River. John the Baptist had once baptized people there. Many people came to Jesus. They remembered what John had said of him. John had called him “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” Many who came there believed in Jesus.

Things to remember

57. The unbelieving Jews asked Jesus directly, “Are you the _____?”
58. Jesus replied, “I did _____ you, but you do not _____.”
59. When you are Jesus sheep, you are safe for _____.
60. The Jews wanted to stone Jesus because he claimed to be _____.

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61. Jesus said that the Scriptures are _____ in every point.

Check your answers on page 133.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

(Read John 11:1-16.)

¹ A man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived. ² Mary would later pour perfume on the Lord. She would also wipe his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was sick in bed. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus. “Lord,” they told him, “the one you love is sick.”

When Jesus heard this, he said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory. God’s Son will receive glory because of it.”

⁵ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ But after he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days.

⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

⁸ “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short time ago the Jews tried to kill you with stones. Are you still going back there?”

⁹ Jesus answered, “Aren’t there 12 hours of daylight? A person who walks during the day won’t trip and fall. He can see because of this world’s light. ¹⁰ But when he walks at night, he’ll trip and fall. He has no light.”

¹¹ After he said this, Jesus went on speaking to them. “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep,” he said. “But I am going there to wake him up.”

¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he’s sleeping, he will get better.”

¹³ Jesus had been speaking about the death of Lazarus. But his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your benefit, I am glad I was not there. Now you will believe. But let us go to him.”

¹⁶ Then Thomas, who was called Didymus, spoke to the rest of the disciples. “Let us go also,” he said. “Then we can die with Jesus.”

A brother and two sisters who lived in Bethany near Jerusalem believed in Jesus. Jesus had stayed with them in the past (see Luke 10:38-42). The brother, Lazarus, became deathly sick. The sisters, Mary and Martha, sent a message to Jesus. They knew Jesus loved their brother and believed Jesus could help him.

When Jesus heard the news, he did not react as expected. He simply said that Lazarus's sickness would not end in death. It was for God's glory. God's Son would receive glory because of it.

Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters. But he stayed where he was for two more days after he got the message. Then he told his disciples that they should be going back to Judea. The disciples asked why he would do that. The Jewish leaders there had tried to stone him. It was not safe.

Jesus' reply must have puzzled the disciples. He spoke of daylight and night, of walking and tripping. Jesus' time to die on the cross was nearing. But his Father had set the time. Now it was still daylight. He would not be harmed just yet. But if he did not go to Jerusalem now, he would falter and trip as in the night. He had to go, because the time was near.

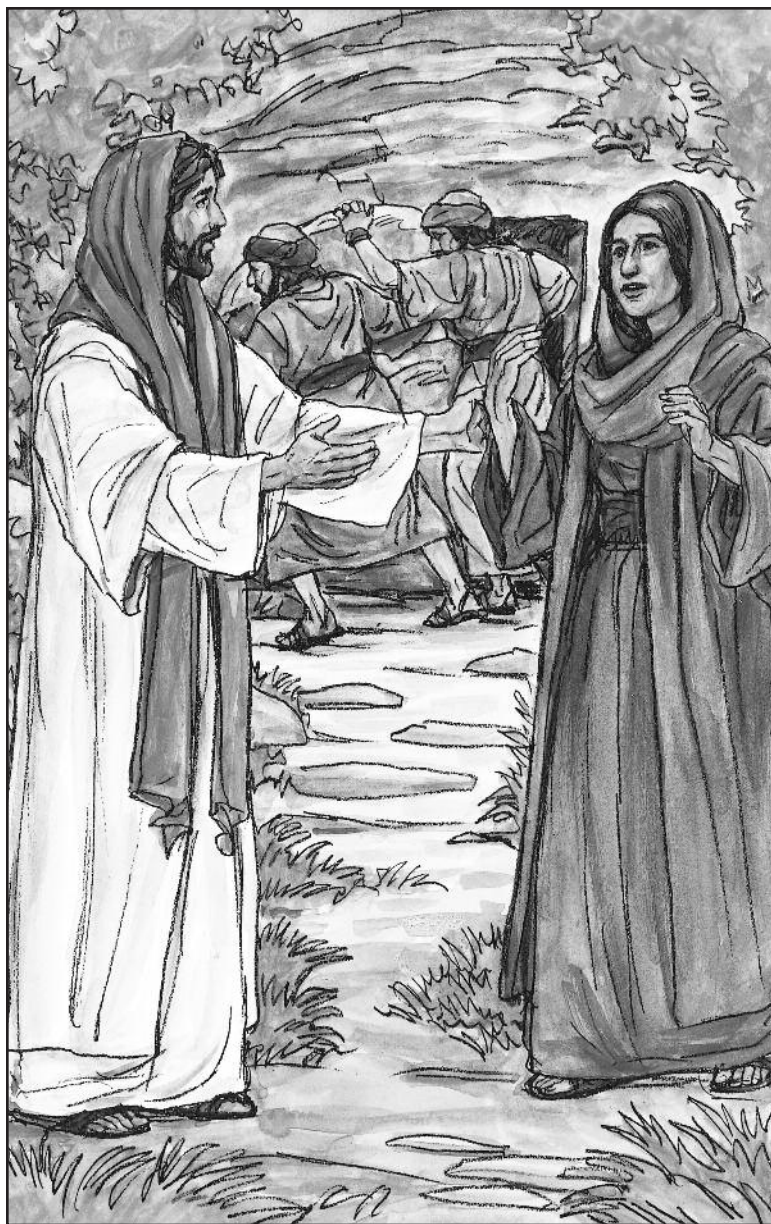
Then Jesus said that Lazarus was sleeping, and he was going there to wake him up. That, too, puzzled the disciples. Sleep, they said, would help him get better. But Jesus was talking about Lazarus's death, not a natural sleep.

Then Jesus told them directly that Lazarus was dead. (Remember that he had said two days earlier that Lazarus's sickness would not end in death.) He also said that he was glad he was not there. What would follow would strengthen them in their faith. Now they should go to Lazarus.

The disciples had questioned Jesus' decision to go. Thomas now said, "Let us go also. Then we can die with Jesus." He was not eager to die. But he was sure that trouble lay ahead.

Things to remember

62. When Jesus heard of his friend Lazarus's sickness, he said that it would not end in _____. But it was for God's _____.



Jesus and Martha at Lazarus' Tomb.

63. The disciples did not want Jesus to go back to Jerusalem in Judea because it was not _____.
64. After waiting for two days, Jesus said that Lazarus was _____. Now they should go to him.

Check your answers on page 133.

Jesus said that he was the resurrection and the life.

(Read John 11:17-37.)

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found out that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary. They had come to comfort them because their brother was dead.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. But Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from the dead on the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if he dies. ²⁶ And those who live and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God. I believe that you are the One who was supposed to come into the world.”

²⁸ After she said this, she went back home. She called her sister Mary to one side to talk to her. “The Teacher is here,” Martha said. “He is asking for you.”

²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Jesus had not yet entered the village. He was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ Some Jews had been comforting Mary in the house. They noticed how quickly she got up and went out. So they followed her. They thought she was going to the tomb to cry there.

³² Mary reached the place where Jesus was. When she saw him, she fell at his feet. She said, “Lord, I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died.”

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³³ Jesus saw her crying. He saw that the Jews who had come along with her were crying also. His spirit became very sad, and he was troubled.

³ “Where have you put him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus sobbed.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how much he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said, “He opened the eyes of the blind man. Couldn’t he have kept this man from dying?”

By the time Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had already been dead and buried for four days. It probably took at least one day for the message of Lazarus’s illness to reach Jesus. Jesus delayed for two days. Then it took at least a day for him to get to Bethany.

Many Jews were there to bring comfort to Mary and Martha. When they heard that Lazarus had died, they came out from Jerusalem, less than two miles away.

Martha heard that Jesus was coming. She ran out to meet him. Mary stayed home.

Martha showed great faith in Jesus. She was sure that if Jesus had gotten there earlier, Lazarus would not have died. Jesus would have healed him. She believed that even now Jesus could help. God would give Jesus whatever he would ask for.

From what follows, we can say that Martha did not expect that Jesus would actually raise Lazarus from the dead. She was just placing the whole matter into Jesus’ hands.

Jesus told her that her brother would rise again. Martha said she knew he would rise with all people on the last day.

She was right. But Jesus had much more for her. “I am,” he told her, “the resurrection and the life.” Jesus is the one who raises the dead. Only Jesus can give life from death. He is able to do that because he is the “I AM” God, Yahweh.

He continued: “Anyone who believes in me will live, even if he dies.” Jesus gives eternal life to all who believe (see John 3:16). Life in Jesus continues into eternity. The

person's soul lives on with Jesus, though the body may die here.

“And those who live and believe in me will never die.” What comfort! Those who trust in Jesus survive earthly death and the grave. They live on with God. We have this promise with Jesus.

“Martha,” asked Jesus, “do you believe this?”

Martha's answer was the truth that we all should confess: “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God. I believe that you are the One who was supposed to come into the world.”

Martha knew and believed the things that the religious leaders rejected:

- Jesus was the promised Messiah, the Christ.
- Jesus was the Son of God.
- Jesus was the One who was to come to save the world.

After this Martha went and told her sister Mary that Jesus wanted to see her too. Mary hurried out to where Jesus was, just outside of the village. Some of the people who were there to comfort her followed. They thought she was going to the tomb to grieve.

Mary fell at Jesus' feet and wept. She repeated what Martha had said that Jesus could have saved Lazarus from death.

Mary was crying and the people who came along with her were crying. Jesus became very sad in his spirit. He was troubled.

Then they went to the tomb. There Jesus too wept. The Jews thought he cried because he loved Lazarus so much. But some criticized him. He had healed others. Why didn't he keep Lazarus from dying?

Jesus, however, did not cry for the dead Lazarus as the others did. He knew that in moments he would call Lazarus alive from the grave. Jesus wept over the tragedy of sin that

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brings death. He cried for the people who were suffering because of sin and death. As we read the words, we can say that he cried also for us.

Things to remember

65. Lazarus was dead for _____ days.
66. Jesus told Martha, “I am the _____ and the _____.”
67. Those who live and believe in Jesus will never _____.
68. Martha confessed three things about Jesus.
- a. He was the _____.
 - b. He was the _____ of God.
 - c. He was the _____ who was to come.
69. At the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus _____.
70. Jesus cried because of the tragedy of _____ that brings _____.
71. Jesus cried for the suffering _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb.

(Read John 11:38-44.)

³⁸ Once more Jesus felt very sad. He came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone in front of the entrance.

³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad smell. Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days.”

⁰ Then Jesus said, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed, you would see God’s glory?”

¹ So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus looked up. He said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. ² I know that you always hear me. But I said this for the benefit of the people standing here. I said it so they will believe that you sent me.”

³ Then Jesus called in a loud voice. He said, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of linen. A cloth was around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the clothes he was buried in and let him go."

Jesus felt sad. He came to the tomb. It was not a grave in the ground as is common today. It was a cave with a large stone that sealed the entrance.

He asked them to remove the stone, but Martha objected. She explained that Lazarus had been dead for four days. His body would smell from decay.

Jesus' reply had to be for his disciples as well as Martha: "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see God's glory?" He had promised the disciples that God and he would be glorified in this matter. He had said that Lazarus's illness would not end in death.

They removed the stone, and Jesus prayed aloud to the Father. He thanked the Father for hearing his prayer. He said that he prayed this way so that the people would believe that the Father had sent him. Many still doubted, but here they would see the evidence that Jesus came from the Father.

In a loud voice, Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus came out still wrapped in his grave clothes. He still had a cloth over his face. Jesus instructed the people to take the grave clothes off him.

Lazarus, who had died and decayed, was back alive. Jesus, who is the Word in whom is life (see John 1:4), gave life with a word.

Things to remember

72. At the tomb, Jesus said in a loud voice, "Lazarus _____!"

73. Lazarus, who had died, came out _____.

Check your answers on page 133.

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Jesus' enemies plotted to kill him.

(Read John 11:45-57.)

⁵ Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did. So they put their faith in him.

⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees. They told the Pharisees what Jesus had done. ⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What can we do?” they asked. “This man is doing many miraculous signs. ⁸ If we let him keep on doing this, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come. They will take away our temple and our nation.”

⁹ One of them spoke up. His name was Caiaphas. He was high priest at that time. He said, “You don’t know anything at all! ⁵⁰ You don’t realize what is good for you. It is better if one man dies for the people than if the whole nation is destroyed.”

⁵¹ He did not say this on his own. But he was high priest at that time. So he told ahead of time that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation. ⁵² He also prophesied that Jesus would die for God’s children scattered everywhere. He would die to bring them together and make them one.

⁵³ So from that day on, the Jewish rulers planned to kill Jesus.

⁵ Jesus no longer moved around openly among the Jews. Instead, he went away to an area near the desert. He went to a village called Ephraim. There he stayed with his disciples.

⁵⁵ It was almost time for the Jewish Passover Feast. Many people went up from the country to Jerusalem. They went there for the special washing that would make them pure before the Passover Feast. ⁵⁶ They kept looking for Jesus as they stood in the temple area. They asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t he coming to the Feast at all?”

⁵⁷ But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders. They had commanded anyone who found out where Jesus was staying to report it. Then they could arrest him.

When they saw what Jesus did, many of the Jews there put their faith in him. Others, however, went to his enemies, the Pharisees. When the Pharisees heard what Jesus had done, they called a meeting of the Jewish ruling Council, called the Sanhedrin.

The Pharisees wanted Jesus stopped. They feared that more and more people would believe in him. They feared that

the Romans would see this as a threat. They would come in force to destroy their temple and their nation.

The high priest, Caiaphas, spoke up. He spoke to save his nation from disaster. But God used the words he spoke to foretell Jesus' death for the people. Caiaphas scolded the Council for not "getting it." "It is better if one man dies for the people," he charged, "than if the whole nation is destroyed." Jesus had to die.

Actually, Caiaphas did not "get it." Yes, Jesus would die for the Jewish nation. Jesus would die for God's children everywhere. He would die for the world. He would die as our Savior to win eternal life for all. Through his death, he would bring believers together as his church on earth.

So the Jewish rulers plotted to kill Jesus.

Jesus then stayed out of the public eye. He went to a small village called Ephraim near the desert. He stayed there with his disciples.

Soon the Passover again drew near (this was three years since the first Passover at the beginning of Jesus' ministry). Many people came to Jerusalem for special religious washings. They wanted to be pure for the Passover Feast.

Most of them were thinking about Jesus. They most likely had heard about his raising Lazarus. They knew that the rulers wanted to kill him. The chief priests and the Pharisees gave orders that anyone who knew where Jesus was should report him. They wondered if he would show up. The streets were buzzing with talk about Jesus.

Things to remember

74. When the Pharisees heard that Jesus raised Lazarus, they were afraid that the _____ might come with force against them.
75. Caiaphas told the ruling Jews that it was better that _____ man should die for the people.

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76. Actually Caiaphas foretold that Jesus would die for the _____.

77. The rulers plotted to _____ Jesus.

Check your answers on page 133.

Things to remember-Answers

1. a. danger, b. Father, 2. wondered, 3. knew, 4. God, 5. truth, believe, 6. fairly, 7. Christ, 8. arrest, 9. heaven, 10. living, 11. Spirit, 12. Christ, 13. spoke, 14. law, 15. Nicodemus, fair, 16. God [Moses], land, 17. adultery, 18. sin, 19. forgave, 20. sin, 21. light, 22. Father, 23. die, 24. Father, 25. remain, Word 26. guilt, punishment, 27. slave, 28. Jesus, 29. devil, 30. lies, 31. demon, 32. day, glad, 33. I am, 34. God, 35. sin, 36. work, 37. sight, 38. Pharisees, 39. God, 40. sin, 41. prophet, 42. favored, 43. Son, Man, 44. worshiped, 45. blind, see, see, blind, 46. believe, 47. reject, 48. voice, 49. False, 50. gate, 51. Jesus, 52. good, 53. life, 54. other, 55. rise, 56. freely, 57. Christ, 58. tell, believe, 59. eternity [ever], 60. God, 61. true, 62. death, glory, 63. safe, 64. dead, 65. four, 66. resurrection, life, 67. die, 68. a. Christ, b. Son, c. One, 69. wept, 70. sin, death, 71. people, 72. come out, 73. alive, 74. Romans, 75. one, 76. people, 77. kill.

TEST - Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Section 5

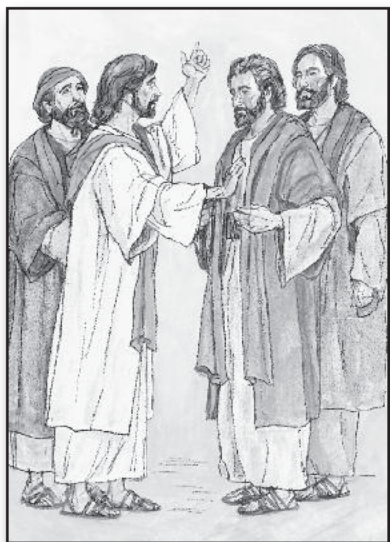
Please review the "Things to remember."

1. Jesus stayed longer in Galilee because his life was in _____.
2. Jesus' teachings came from _____.
3. Jesus said that he would go where his enemies could not go. He was talking about going to _____.
4. Jesus said that streams of _____ water would flow from those who believe in him.
5. Temple guards tried to arrest Jesus but did not because no one ever _____ the way he did.
6. When the Jews accused a woman of adultery, Jesus told them that the person without any _____ should throw the first stone.
7. Jesus forgave the woman her adultery and told her to leave her life of _____.
8. Everything Jesus did pleased the _____.
9. True disciples of Jesus will remain in his _____.
10. The person who sins becomes a _____ of sin.
11. Jesus sets us _____ from sin.
12. Jesus said, "Before Abraham was _____."
13. The Jews wanted to stone Jesus because he identified himself with _____.
14. Jesus was able to give sight to the blind man because he was _____ by God.
15. Those who believe in Jesus are not spiritually blind, but can _____.

Believe and Live

16. Those who reject Jesus think they can see but are spiritually _____.
17. Jesus said, "I am the _____ shepherd.
18. Jesus said that he would give up his _____ for his sheep.
19. Jesus keeps his sheep safe for _____.
20. Jesus said that the Scriptures are _____ in every point.
21. Speaking of the resurrection, Jesus to Martha, "I am the _____ and the _____."
22. Jesus raised Lazarus from the _____ by calling him out of the tomb.
23. The rulers plotted to _____ Jesus.

Check your answers on page 234.



BELIEVE AND LIVE

SECTION 6:

How Jesus Prepared His Followers For His Death

John 12:1 to John 17:26

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

SECTION SIX:

How Jesus Prepared His Followers For His Death

He explained the meaning of Mary's anointing him.

(Read John 12:1-11.)

¹ It was six days before the Passover Feast. Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived. Lazarus was the one Jesus had raised from the dead.

² A dinner was given at Bethany to honor Jesus. Martha served the food. Lazarus was among those at the table with Jesus.

³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard. It was an expensive perfume. She poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the sweet smell of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot didn't like what Mary did. He was one of Jesus' disciples. Later he was going to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Judas said, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold? Why wasn't the money given to poor people? It was worth a year's pay."

⁶ He didn't say this because he cared about the poor. He said it because he was a thief. Judas was in charge of the money bag. He used to help himself to what was in it.

⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "The perfume was meant for the day I am buried. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you. But you won't always have me."

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there, so they came. But they did not come only because of Jesus. They also came to see Lazarus. After all, Jesus had raised him from the dead.

¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus too. ¹¹ Because of Lazarus, many of the Jews were starting to follow Jesus. They were putting their faith in him.

Six days before the Passover Feast, Jesus came back to Bethany near Jerusalem. He went back to the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. They held a dinner in honor of Jesus. Lazarus, still very much alive, sat at the table with Jesus.

Mary took a pint (half a liter) of very expensive perfume. She poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. The smell of the perfume filled the house.

Believe and Live

One of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot, did not like what Mary did. Judas was the one who would hand Jesus over to his enemies. Judas complained about the terrible waste. That perfume was worth a year's pay. It could have been sold and given to the poor.

That was a nice thought. But Judas did not care about the poor. He no longer cared about Jesus either. He was a thief and had charge of the money for Jesus and the twelve disciples. He helped himself to the money. How he would have loved to get his hands on the money that perfume would have brought!

Jesus did not reveal Judas's evil heart. But he knew it. He simply said, "Leave her alone." Then he predicted again what was coming. "The perfume," he said, "was meant for my burial."

Mary possibly sensed that Jesus would die soon. Jesus knew it and said so. "You will always have the poor to give to," he explained. "You will not always have me."

Jesus was not saying, "Don't give to the poor." He was saying that the time to honor him like this would not come again before his death. It is always the most important to honor Jesus first above all else.

By now the word was out that Jesus was at Lazarus's house. Many Jews came to see Jesus and the man that Jesus had raised from the dead.

Jesus' enemies saw that many put their faith in Jesus because he had raised Lazarus. So they made plans to kill Lazarus too.

Things to remember

1. Mary poured _____ on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her _____.
2. Judas Iscariot complained because the money for the perfume could have been given to the _____.

3. Judas actually wanted the money because he was in charge of the money for the group, and he was a

4. _____.
Jesus said the perfume was meant for his _____.

Check your answers on page 180.

The people greeted Jesus as king.

(Read John 12: 12-19.)

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him. They shouted, “Hosanna! “

“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” —(*Psalm 118:25,26*)

“Blessed is the King of Israel!”

¹ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it. This is just as it is written in Scripture. It says,

¹⁵ “City of Zion, do not be afraid.

See, your king is coming.

He is sitting on a donkey’s colt.” —(*Zechariah 9:9*)

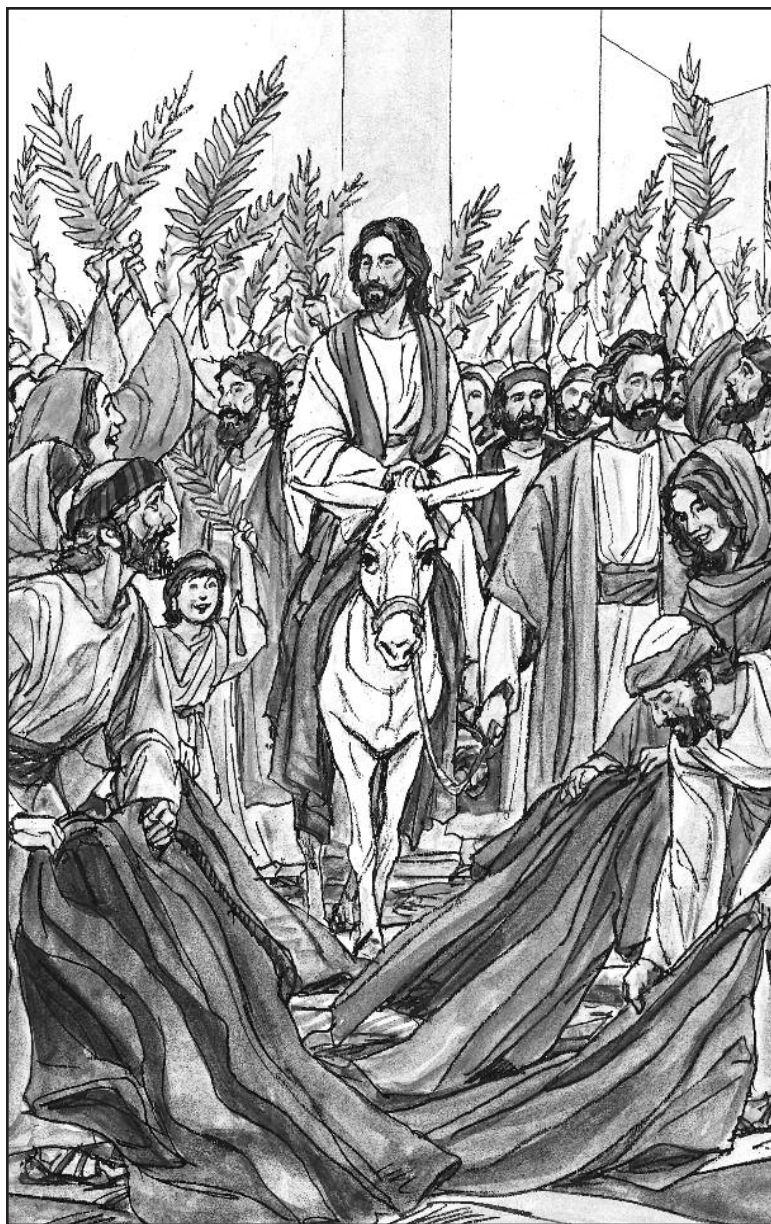
¹⁶ At first, Jesus’ disciples did not understand all this. They realized it only after he had received glory. Then they realized that these things had been written about him. They realized that the people had done these things to him.

¹⁷ A crowd had been with Jesus when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead. So they continued to tell everyone about what had happened. ¹⁸ Many people went out to meet him. They had heard that he had done this miraculous sign.

¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “This isn’t getting us anywhere. Look how the whole world is following him!”

The large crowd that gathered for the Passover Feast learned that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem the next day. They took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him.

They shouted words from Psalm 118:25, 26: “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” They hailed him as the King of Israel.



Jesus Rides into Jerusalem.

“Hosanna” means “Save, I pray.” The Psalm was part of the Psalms sung at the Passover Feast. They sang them when the Passover lambs were sacrificed. Now they sang for the Lamb of God on his way to be their sacrifice. But they sang to him as a king. They did not know that he came to Jerusalem to die.

Jesus came riding on a young donkey. He was fulfilling the words of the prophet Zechariah (9:9): “City of Zion, do not be afraid. See your king is coming. He is sitting on a donkey’s colt.” Jesus was the Messiah and the King from David’s line. He entered Jerusalem to songs of praise and glory.

Only after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven’s glory did the disciples understand this event. Believers now celebrate it as Palm Sunday.

The crowd that had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead told many others who came from other parts of the country to the Feast. So, more and more people went out to see the man who had done such a great miracle.

This praise of Jesus upset the Pharisees more than ever. “The whole world is following him!” they exclaimed.

Things to remember

5. People who came to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, took _____ branches and went out to meet Jesus.
6. They praised Jesus with words from Psalm 118:
“_____! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”
7. They hailed him as the _____ of Israel.
8. Jesus rode on a young donkey, fulfilling the words of the Prophet _____.
9. The Pharisees were so upset by Jesus’ popularity that they exclaimed, “The whole _____ is following him!”

Check your answers on page 180.

Believe and Live

Jesus again predicted his death.

(Read John 12:20-36.)

²⁰ There were some Greeks among the people who went up to worship during the Feast. ²¹ They came to ask Philip for a favor. Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee.

“Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.”

²² Philip went to tell Andrew. Then Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to receive glory.

²⁴ What I’m about to tell you is true. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only one seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

²⁵ “Anyone who loves his life will lose it. But anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it and have eternal life. ²⁶ Anyone who serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “My heart is troubled. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No. This is the very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, bring glory to your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven. It said, “I have brought glory to my name. I will bring glory to it again.”

²⁹ The crowd there heard the voice. Some said it was thunder. Others said an angel had spoken to Jesus.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now it is time for the world to be judged. Now the prince of this world will be thrown out. ³² But I am going to be lifted up from the earth. When I am, I will bring all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to show them how he was going to die.

³⁴ The crowd spoke up. “The Law tells us that the Christ will remain forever,” they said. “So how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

³⁵ Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light. Do this before darkness catches up with you. Anyone who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, put your trust in it. Then you can become sons of light.”

When Jesus had finished speaking, he left and hid from them.

Not just the Jews of Israel showed interest in Jesus. Some Greeks at the Feast asked Jesus’ disciple, Philip, for a favor.

“We would like to see Jesus,” they said. Philip told Andrew, and the two of them told Jesus.

We do not know what happened to those Greeks. Jesus used the request as another opportunity to teach. But we can learn from them. We need a spirit that says, “We want to see Jesus.”

In reply Jesus said now his time had come. He, the Son of Man, would receive glory. He would finish the work the Father sent him to do.

However, before the glory must come the grave. Jesus used the picture of a seed of grain. It must fall to the ground and die before it can sprout and grow and produce many more seeds. So Jesus must die for the sins of the world. But once he died, he would come back to life. His death and life then would produce a great harvest. Many souls would believe in him and have eternal life.

When we serve Jesus and follow him, we are always with him and he with us. The Father honors the one who serves Jesus.

As Jesus looked ahead now to the suffering he faced, he was troubled. But he did not shrink from his mission. He came there to die as planned. He spoke to God: “Father, bring glory to your name!”

God answered from heaven: “I have brought glory to my name. I will bring glory to it again.” His voice was loud like thunder. Some said it was thunder or an angel. God had spoken for the benefit of the people there. They should know that something of world-wide spiritual importance was going to take place there.

God has always been faithful to his people. He has kept all of his promises. Those who know that praise his name. Now he would bring praise to his name again through the death and resurrection of his Son.

Next Jesus spoke of how he would die and what effect his death would have. The time had come for the sinful world

Believe and Live

to be judged. First the prince of the world had to be overcome. The devil had to be crushed. Jesus, the Son of God, had to die to defeat the devil. He had to be lifted up on the cross.

Through his death on the cross, Jesus would bring all people to himself. All people will be judged by how they relate to Jesus and his death. Those who trust that he died to pay for their sins will be saved. Those who do not trust in him will be condemned. Jesus taught that truth before (see John 3:36). Now he connected it with his death on the cross.

The people at that time probably were confused by what Jesus said about the world being judged. But they knew that Jesus was saying he would die on a cross. They rejected the idea, however. They knew from Scripture that the Christ would “remain forever.” In their thinking, that did not allow that he would die. They could not yet think that Jesus might rise from the dead.

Then Jesus told them to make the most of the time he would still be with them. He was the light. They needed to walk in the light. Anyone who walks in the darkness gets lost. But if they trust in the light, they can become sons of light.

Once more, in a slightly different way, Jesus had taught the people to believe and live. Then he left and hid from them.

Things to remember

10. Some _____ at the Feast told Philip that they wanted to see Jesus.
11. Jesus used the picture of a _____ to tell that he had to die and rise.
12. Before glory for Jesus must come the _____.
13. The prince of this world is the _____.
14. When Jesus said that he had to “be lifted up,” he was talking about his death on the _____.

15. God answered Jesus' prayer with a voice that sounded like _____. He said that he would again bring _____ to his name.
16. All people will be judged by how they relate to Jesus and his _____.
17. Those who do not trust in Jesus will be _____.
18. Those who do trust in Jesus will be _____.

Check your answers on page 180.

The Jews against Jesus still did not believe.

(Read John 12:37-50.)

³⁷ Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in front of them. But they still would not believe in him. ³⁸ This happened as Isaiah the prophet had said it would. He had said,

“Lord, who has believed what we’ve been saying?

Who has seen the Lord’s saving power?” —(*Isaiah 53:1*)

³⁹ For this reason, they could not believe. As Isaiah says in another place,

⁰ “The Lord has blinded their eyes.

He has closed their minds.

So they can’t see with their eyes.

They can’t understand with their minds.

They can’t turn to the Lord. If they could, he would heal them.” —(*Isaiah 6:10*) ¹ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

² At the same time that Jesus did those miracles, many of the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees, they would not admit they believed. They were afraid they would be thrown out of the synagogue.

³ They loved praise from people more than praise from God.

Then Jesus cried out, “Anyone who believes in me does not believe in me only. He also believes in the One who sent me. ⁵ When he looks at me, he sees the One who sent me.

⁶ “I have come into the world to be a light. No one who believes in me will stay in darkness.

⁷ “I don’t judge a person who hears my words but does not obey them. I didn’t come to judge the world. I came to save it. ⁸ But there is a judge for anyone who does not accept me and my words. The very words I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

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⁹ “I did not speak on my own. The Father who sent me commanded me what to say. He also told me how to say it. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So everything I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

It is hard to understand that after Jesus did so many miracles, so many Jews refused to believe in him. But that, too, fulfilled God’s Word. The prophet Isaiah, had warned that many would not believe. They would close their minds against the Savior. Then the Lord would keep them blinded and not able to understand, because they refused to be healed by the Lord.

Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory. He prophesied about this time in Jesus’ ministry.

Still, many of the leaders believed in Jesus. But they were afraid to admit it because of the Pharisees. The Pharisees might have them thrown out of the synagogue. “They loved praise from people more than praise from God.”

Jesus was back among the Jews. He tried again to lead them to the light. He told them that anyone who believes in him believes also in the One who sent him. When we look at Jesus, we see the One who sent him. Jesus was not talking about his physical appearance. He was talking about his teachings about his great love, and about his mission to save the world. He was talking about who he really is. The Father and the Son are one.

Jesus was not there to judge those who rejected his words. His very words would judge them at the last day. He told them the eternal truth, and they turned from it. He spoke the words the Father in heaven gave him to speak. He told them the words that lead to eternal life. By rejecting his words, the Jews rejected Jesus, they rejected the Father, and they rejected eternal life.

Things to remember

19. The prophet _____ had warned that many would not believe in Christ.
20. Some who believed in Jesus would not admit it because they feared the _____.
21. They loved the praise of _____ more than the praise of God.
22. The Father and the Son are _____.
23. Jesus said that he did not have to judge the unbelievers. His _____ would do that on the Last Day.

Check your answers on page 180.

Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

(Read John 13:1-17.)

¹ It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world. It was time for him to go to the Father. Jesus loved his disciples who were in the world. So he now showed them how much he really loved them.

² The evening meal was being served. The devil had already tempted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. He had told Judas to hand Jesus over to his enemies. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under his power. He also knew he had come from God and was returning to God.

So he got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter.

"Lord," Peter said to him, "are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You don't realize now what I am doing. But later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter. "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you can't share life with me."

⁹ "Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet! Wash my hands and my head too!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs to wash only his

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feet. The rest of his body is clean. And you are clean. But not all of you are.”

¹¹ Jesus knew who was going to hand him over to his enemies. That was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes. Then he returned to his place.

“Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord.’ You are right. That is what I am. ¹ I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you.

¹⁶ “What I’m about to tell you is true. A servant is not more important than his master. And a messenger is not more important than the one who sends him. ¹⁷ Now you know these things. So you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus and his disciples prepared for the Passover dinner. The time had come for Jesus to leave this world and go to the Father in heaven. The time was right for him to show how much he loved his disciples.

Everything was in place. The devil had tempted Judas Iscariot to hand over Jesus to his enemies. Jesus knew what he had to do. He would not falter. He had come from God, and he would return to God.

Now he got up from the meal and prepared a large bowl of water. Then he began to wash his disciples’ feet. He dried them with a towel. He did the work a slave would normally do.

When he got to Peter, Peter held back. “How is it that you are going to wash my feet?” he asked. He knew that he should serve Jesus, not the other way around.

Jesus told him it was all right. He knew that Peter did not understand why Jesus wanted to wash his feet. But Jesus assured him that he would understand at a later time.

Jesus could see ahead that he would die and rise and ascend into heaven. He would send the Holy Spirit. Then his disciples would understand.

Peter refused. “You will never wash my feet,” he said.

Jesus told him that unless he washed Peter, Peter could not share life with him. Then Peter did a complete turnabout. “Not just my feet,” he said. “Wash my hands and my head too.”

Peter still did not understand the spiritual meaning behind Jesus’ words. Jesus needs to wash us clean from sin for us to have life.

Jesus turned again to the task at hand. Normally a person has taken a bath before going out. So he is clean. But when he walks about over dirt paths with sandals on, his feet get dirty. So he is clean except for his feet. That’s all that needed washing.

As to spiritual cleanness, Jesus said they were clean, but not all of them. He knew that one did not believe in him. That one was going to hand him over to his enemies.

When he finished washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus explained what they should take from his act. He had given them an example. He was their Lord and their teacher. Still he did not act like a lord over them. Instead, he served them. So they should serve others. They should be ready to wash the feet of others.

They should not think that they are any better than their master. They should not feel any more important than the one who sends them out. They should serve in the same spirit that he served them.

This lesson in humble service is one for every Christian to learn and practice.

Things to remember

24. At the Passover dinner, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to _____ this world.
25. In a show of his love, Jesus _____ the disciples’ _____.

Believe and Live

26. When Peter held back, Jesus told him that he would understand at a _____ time.
27. Jesus needs to wash us clean from _____ for us to have life.
28. Jesus' followers should be ready, also, to _____ in the same spirit as he did.

Check your answers on page 180.

Jesus predicted that Judas would betray him.

(Read John 13:18-30.)

¹⁸ “I am not talking about all of you. I know those I have chosen. But this will happen so that Scripture will come true. It says, ‘The one who shares my bread has deserted me.’—(*Psalm 41:9*)

¹⁹ “I am telling you now, before it happens. When it does happen, you will believe that I am he. ²⁰ What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who accepts someone I send accepts me. And anyone who accepts me accepts the One who sent me.”

²¹ After he had said this, Jesus’ spirit was troubled. Here is the witness he gave. “What I’m about to tell you is true,” he said. “One of you is going to hand me over to my enemies.”

²² His disciples stared at one another. They had no idea which one of them he meant. ²³ The disciple Jesus loved was next to him at the table.

² Simon Peter motioned to that disciple. He said, “Ask Jesus which one he means.”

²⁵ The disciple was leaning back against Jesus. He asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “It is the one I will give this piece of bread to. I will give it to him after I have dipped it in the dish.”

He dipped the piece of bread. Then he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. ²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

“Do quickly what you are going to do,” Jesus told him.

²⁸ But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. ²⁹ Judas was in charge of the money. So some of the disciples thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast. Others thought Jesus was talking about giving something to poor people.

³⁰ As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

During this evening, Jesus and the disciples ate their last Passover meal together. Jesus also gave them what we call the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. John passed by those details probably because the other Gospels already reported them.

Jesus used this time also to prepare his disciples for his death.

Jesus knew his disciples well. He knew what was in their hearts. The guidance and blessing he gave would not apply to one of them. He told them that the Scriptures from Psalm 41:9 would come true: "The one who shares my bread has deserted me." That Psalm told about what would happen to the coming Messiah.

By telling the disciples ahead of time, he gave them another sign to strengthen their faith. When Judas would turn against Jesus, they would know that Scripture said it must be. They would know that Jesus was the Messiah and the great "I AM."

Then Jesus spoke of the ministry that he would send them to do. Anyone, Jesus told them, who accepts someone sent by Jesus accepts Jesus. Anyone who accepts Jesus accepts the Father who sent him.

People accept you when they accept your word. When you speak the word of Jesus to them and they accept it, they are accepting God.

Jesus was already suffering as his end drew near. His spirit was troubled. He told the disciples outright that one of them would turn him over to his enemies.

The disciples could hardly believe what they heard. Who would do such a thing? Peter motioned to the disciple seated next to Jesus. "Ask Jesus which one he means," he said.

The Gospel writer John calls the disciple next to Jesus "the disciple Jesus loved." John, who never uses his own name in the Gospel, was referring to himself. He was one of the disciples very close to Jesus. He felt deeply the love of



Jesus Gives His Friends the Lord's Supper.

Jesus. He was not saying that Jesus did not love the other disciples. He was just humbly saying that Jesus loved him.

Each one of us who believes in Jesus can also say, "I am one that Jesus loves."

So John asked Jesus, "Lord who is it?"

Jesus told him he would dip a piece of bread and give it to one of them. He would be the one who would betray him. Then Jesus dipped the bread and gave it to Judas.

As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered him. Jesus told him to get on with his evil deed. Judas left quickly out into the night.

The rest of the disciples did not hear what was said. Since Judas held the money, they thought that Jesus must be sending him on an errand. Maybe Judas had to buy some food. Maybe he was to give something to the poor. They did not know.

Things to remember

29. Jesus said that anyone who accepts someone he sent also accepts _____. Anyone who accepts Jesus accepts the _____.
30. Jesus told the disciples that one of them would turn him over to his _____.
31. The Gospel writer, John, called himself "the disciple Jesus _____."
32. Jesus pointed out Judas as the one who would _____ him.
33. _____ entered Judas.
34. Most of the disciples thought that Jesus sent Judas on an _____ for him.

Check your answers on page 180.

Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him.

(Read John 13:31-38.)

³¹ After Judas was gone, Jesus spoke. He said, “Now the Son of Man receives glory. And he brings glory to God. ³² If the Son brings glory to God, God himself will bring glory to the Son. God will do it at once.

³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me. Just as I told the Jews, so I am telling you now. You can’t come where I am going.

³⁴ “I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. ³⁵ If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples.”

³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus replied, “Where I am going you can’t follow now. But you will follow me later.”

³⁷ “Lord,” Peter asked, “why can’t I follow you now? I will give my life for you.”

³⁸ Then Jesus answered, “Will you really give your life for me? What I’m about to tell you is true. Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don’t know me!

Judas was the only one of the twelve disciples who did not put his trust in Jesus. But he would not be the only disciple to disappoint Jesus.

With Judas gone, Jesus told the disciples that the time had come for him to receive glory and for him to bring glory to God. The glory of the Father is bound to the glory of the Son. The Father and the Son are one.

Jesus would receive that glory by giving himself up to death on the cross. He would die there for the world’s sins. Death on the cross, you might think, does not sound very glorious. But paying for our sins is. And Jesus afterwards would rise from the dead and ascend to heaven’s glory.

Then Jesus called the disciples his children. His love for them was great, like a father for his children. And they had to listen with a childlike faith to what Jesus was saying. He told them that he was leaving, and they could not follow. He had to die alone. They had to stay behind.

He would leave them with a new command: "Love one another." Just as Jesus loved his disciples, they should love each other. The command stands yet today. As Jesus loves us, so we should love one another. By such a show of love, people will know we are Jesus' followers.

Peter asked Jesus where he was going. Jesus answered only that the disciples could not follow now. But they would follow him later. Jesus had told the Jews, too, that they could not go where he was going. They would never get there. But for the disciples, Jesus said that they would follow later.

Peter was always quick to step forward. He insisted that he would follow Jesus now. He would give his life for Jesus.

"Will you really?" Jesus asked. "The truth is that you will say three times this night that you do not know me. The rooster will crow to mark the time."

Things to remember

35. The time had come for Jesus to receive _____.
36. He would do that by giving himself up to _____ on the cross.
37. Jesus gave the disciples a new command: "_____ one another."
38. Jesus said that the disciples could not follow him until _____.
39. Peter said that he would give his _____ for Jesus.
40. Jesus warned Peter that he would that very night say three times that he did not _____ Jesus.

Check your answers on page 180.

Jesus comforted his disciples.

(Read John 14:1-14.)

Believe and Live

¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust in me also.

² “There are many rooms in my Father’s house. If this were not true, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am.

“You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. So how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father also. From now on, you do know him. And you have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father. That will be enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus answered, “Don’t you know me, Philip? I have been among you such a long time! Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. So how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

¹⁰ “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father? Don’t you believe that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. The Father lives in me. He is the One who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say I am in the Father. Also believe that the Father is in me. Or at least believe what the miracles show about me.

¹² “What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. In fact, he will do even greater things. That is because I am going to the Father.

¹³ “And I will do anything you ask in my name. Then the Son will bring glory to the Father. ¹ You may ask me for anything in my name. I will do it.

The disciples were disturbed by what Jesus said about leaving them. So Jesus told them not to let their hearts be troubled. They needed to trust. Trust in God. Trust in him.

Where Jesus was going would be good for his followers. He spoke of heaven his Father’s house. Using the picture of a house, Jesus said it has many rooms. There is plenty of room for all. We can trust him on that.

He was going now to prepare heaven for his followers. He would do that and one day come back. He would take his disciples (then and now) to be with him in heaven. That is still the sure hope of all who believe in Jesus. We will live forever with Jesus in heaven.

When Jesus said he was going to prepare heaven for us, he was not talking about fixing up heaven. He was talking of opening the way for us to get there. He prepared heaven for us when he died for our sins. Without the forgiveness of our sins, we cannot get to heaven. Then he rose from the dead, and we know that he lives and we will live with him. He ascended into heaven, and we know he will keep his promise to return.

Then Jesus told the disciples that they knew the way to the place he was going.

But by now, the disciples did not know exactly what to think. Jesus was talking about dying and leaving them. Their young faith was being tested. They did not see the picture clearly yet.

Thomas said that they did not know where he was going. So, how could they know the way?

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life." He spoke one more "I AM" statement. He who is the I AM God, Yahweh, is the "way" to heaven. He is the source of all "truth." He is the "life." Those who believe in him will live forever in heaven. No one can get to the Father except through Jesus.

Jesus said that if the disciples really knew him, they would know the Father. And he assured them that they did know him. They had seen who Jesus really was. They had seen the Father through him.

Philip struggled to understand. "Lord, show us the Father," he said. "That will be enough for us."

In reply, Jesus asked Philip in effect, "Where have you been the last three years we were together? Don't you know me?" He sounded disappointed in Philip. He explained: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. So how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Jesus called for Philip to put his faith in him. That's how he would see the Father. He reminded Philip of what he had

Believe and Live

shown the disciples while he was with them:

- Jesus is in the Father
- The Father is in Jesus. The two are one.
- Jesus' words are from the Father.
- The Father lives in Jesus and does the work that they saw Jesus do.

“At least,” Jesus said, “believe what the miracles show about me.”

Then Jesus changed his message to what their faith would mean. He told them they would do what he had been doing. More important, they would do even greater things because he was going to the Father.

Healing the sick was one thing. And Jesus' disciples would do some of that for a time. But after Jesus died and rose from the dead, they would do much greater things. With the gospel of Jesus, they would change hearts from sin to the Savior. They would bring eternal life to the spiritually dead. They would open heaven to lost sinners.

Then, Jesus gave a promise that holds true for all who follow him. Ask him anything in his name and he will do it. Jesus is there for us. He will answer every prayer in his name and to the Father's glory.

The promise is absolute. But we must understand two things. Jesus will give us only what brings glory to God. And when we pray *in Jesus' name*, that means we trust that he knows what is best for us. When you fully trust Jesus, you know that his answers will work for your good.

Things to remember

41. Jesus told his disciples not to let their hearts be

_____.

42. Jesus described heaven as his Father's house with many

_____.

43. Jesus said that he would come _____ and take his disciples to live with him in _____.
44. Jesus prepared heaven for us when he _____ for our sins.
45. Jesus said, "I am the _____ and the _____ and the _____."
46. Anyone who has seen Jesus has seen the _____.
47. That (#46) happens when we put our _____ in Jesus.
48. Anything that Jesus' followers ask in his _____ Jesus will do.

Check your answers on page 180.

Jesus promised to send the Spirit.

(Read John 14:15-31.)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ I will ask the Father. And he will give you another Friend to help you and to be with you forever. ¹⁷ The Friend is the Spirit of truth. The world can't accept him. That is because the world does not see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you like children who don't have parents. I will come to you.

¹⁹ "Before long, the world will not see me anymore. But you will see me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father. You will know that you are in me, and I am in you.

²¹ "Anyone who has my commands and obeys them loves me. My Father will love the one who loves me. I too will love him. And I will show myself to him."

²² Then Judas spoke. "Lord," he said, "why do you plan to show yourself only to us? Why not also to the world?" The Judas who spoke those words was not Judas Iscariot.

²³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love him. We will come to him and make our home with him.

² Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. The words you hear me say are not my own. They belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "I have spoken all these things while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the

Believe and Live

Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you.

²⁷ “I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid.

²⁸ “You heard me say, ‘I am going away. And I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad I am going to the Father. The Father is greater than I am. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens. Then when it does happen, you will believe.

³⁰ “I will not speak with you much longer. The prince of this world is coming. He has no power over me. ³¹ But the world must learn that I love the Father. They must also learn that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me to do.

“Come now. Let us leave.

Meanwhile, the disciples could show their love for Jesus by obeying what he commanded. God would be with them all the way. God the Father had sent his only Son. The Son was with them but would soon be taken from them to die.

Now the Son would ask the Father to send them a new Friend. The word friend here means someone who brings help and comfort. He would send them a special coming of the Holy Spirit. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is our Friend. He is our Helper. They would have the Spirit of truth to lead them in the truth. That special coming of the Spirit happened shortly after Jesus ascended into heaven (see Acts 2:1 ff).

Jesus assured the disciples that he was not deserting them. He would not leave them like children without any parents. He would come to them. Death would not hold Jesus. He would rise. After Jesus rose, the disciples would have a new relationship with him.

Jesus comes to his followers. But he no longer comes in his earthbound body. He comes invisibly. We see him with the eyes of faith. We see him because we live in him and he in us. Because he lives, we live also. All our hope is complete because Jesus lives.

So anyone who believes in Jesus is connected with Jesus and with the Father. That person loves the Lord Jesus and obeys his commands. Jesus will show himself to that person.

Jesus spoke this truth first to the disciples that night. They could be sure Jesus would show himself to them. But did he mean only them? “Why not also to the world?” asked the second disciple named Judas (not Iscariot).

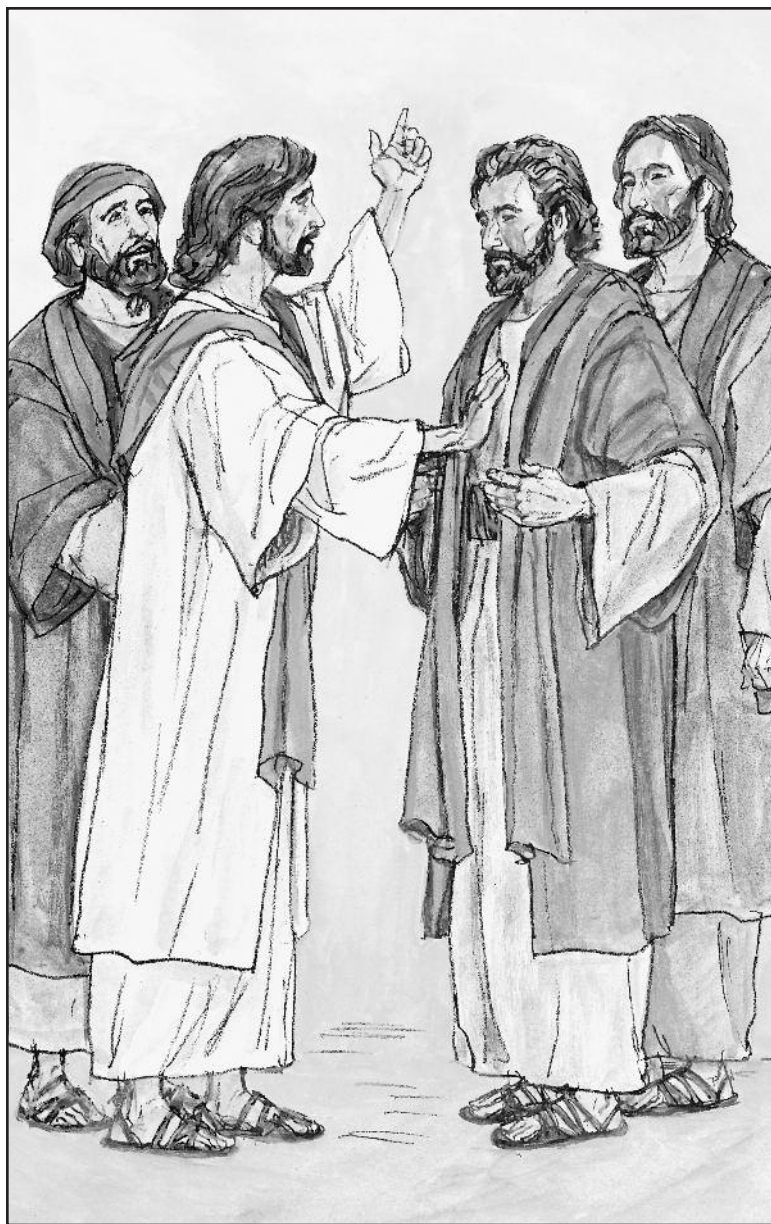
The simple answer to Judas was that anyone who believes would see Jesus. That means anyone in the world. Anyone who loves Jesus and obeys his teaching is included. The term “teaching” here is actually the term “word” in the original language. So, the Word who was in the beginning (see John 1:1) leads us by his word. The Father loves the person who loves Jesus. The Father and Jesus come to stay with that person.

Anyone who does not believe in Jesus loses out. That person does not love Jesus or obey his Word. But Jesus spoke words directly from the heavenly Father who sent him.

Jesus repeated his thoughts. He was teaching them while he was still with them. But afterwards the Father would send them another Friend in Jesus’ name. He would send them the Holy Spirit. The Spirit would teach them all things. He would remind them of everything Jesus told them. That, in truth, is why John in this Gospel could tell us everything that Jesus said.

Again Jesus told them not to let their hearts be troubled. He would come back to them. They should be glad he was going to the Father. Jesus could say in his human person that the Father was greater than he was. Jesus had humbled himself as a man. He did not make use of all his power and glory as God. He would return to full glory with the Father after his death. Meanwhile, the Father’s plan was going forward. They should be glad.

Jesus told the disciples all of this so that when they saw what would happen they would believe. The devil was



Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit to Teach His Disciples.

already putting in motion the plot to do away with Jesus. The devil is the prince of this evil world.

The devil did not have any power over Jesus. But Jesus would let the devil proceed. Jesus did so because in love he was following his Father's plan. He was giving himself to save the world.

Now Jesus told his disciples to prepare to leave the Passover dinner. But they did not leave immediately. He still had things to tell them and an important prayer to pray.

Things to remember

49. Jesus said that he would have the Father send the disciples a new _____ who would be the Holy _____.
50. Jesus comes to his followers yet today. We see him with the eyes of _____.
51. Jesus and the Father come to _____ with the person who loves Jesus.
52. The _____ was behind the plot to do away with Jesus.

Check your answers on page 180.

People joined to Jesus by faith will bear fruit.

(Read John 15:1-17.)

¹ "I am the true vine. My Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch joined to me that does not bear fruit. He trims every branch that does bear fruit. Then it will bear even more fruit.

³ "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain joined to me, and I will remain joined to you. No branch can bear fruit by itself. It must remain joined to the vine. In the same way, you can't bear fruit unless you remain joined to me.

⁵ "I am the vine. You are the branches. If anyone remains joined to me, and I to him, he will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me.

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⁶ If anyone does not remain joined to me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and dries up. Branches like those are picked up. They are thrown into the fire and burned.

⁷ “If you remain joined to me and my words remain in you, ask for anything you wish. And it will be given to you. ⁸ When you bear a lot of fruit, it brings glory to my Father. It shows that you are my disciples.

⁹ “Just as the Father has loved me, I have loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love. In the same way, I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy will be in you. I also want your joy to be complete.

¹² “Here is my command. Love each other, just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than the one who gives his life for his friends. ¹ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ “I do not call you servants anymore. Servants do not know their master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends. I have told you everything I learned from my Father.

¹⁶ “You did not choose me. Instead, I chose you. I appointed you to go and bear fruit. It is fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name.

¹⁷ “Here is my command. Love each other.

Before leaving the room, Jesus gave one last “I AM” statement: “I am the true vine.” The lesson Jesus taught here is that his followers need to stay connected with him and to bear fruit. Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. As long as we stay joined to Jesus and he to us, we will bear much fruit. We will do works pleasing to God. We get our food and energy to act from Jesus. We serve him and others around us.

The Father is the gardener. At times he will trim the branches that give fruit. He will let us go through trials. Then we will bear even more fruit. But the father will cut off the branches that don’t bear any fruit. If we do not live for Christ, it is a sign that we do not believe in Christ. We are like branches dying on the vine.

The disciples, we might say, were healthy branches. Through his word, Jesus made them clean. To stay healthy, Jesus told them, they needed to stay joined to him. Without Jesus a person can do nothing pleasing to God.

Jesus disciples stay joined to Jesus by faith. We gain many good things:

- We have his words guiding us.
- We can pray to Jesus and he will answer.
- We bring glory to God by our works.
- We do Jesus' commands and remain in his love.
- Our joy is complete.

Jesus gave his disciples one basic command to follow: "Love each other, just as I have loved you." What kind of love is that? Jesus loved the world so much that he gave his life for it. There is no greater love than that a person gives his life for his friends. Jesus counts as his friends those who follow him and his word.

Up to this point, Jesus was seen as the master. His disciples were his servants. But now Jesus had taught them what he learned from the Father. Now he called them his friends. So, too, we who have heard Jesus' words and believe are his friends.

Jesus chose his disciples. They did not choose him. Jesus also chose us. We did not choose him. He wants us all to bear fruit. We can pray in Jesus' name and the Father will give what we need.

The Father and the Son are with us. We show what that means when we "love each other."

Things to remember

53. Jesus said, "I am the true _____."
54. And he said, "You are the _____."
55. His lesson was that we should stay _____ to him and bear much _____.
56. Without Jesus a person can do _____ pleasing to God.
57. When we stay joined to Jesus, our joy is _____.

Believe and Live

58. Because Jesus has told us the truths from the Father, he calls us his _____.

59. Jesus wants his followers to _____ each other.

Check your answers on page 180.

Jesus warned of persecution to come.

(Read John 15:18-16:4.)

¹⁸ “Does the world hate you? Remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you like one of its own. But you do not belong to the world. I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

²⁰ “Remember the words I spoke to you. I said, ‘A servant is not more important than his master.’—(*John 13:16*) If people hated me and tried to hurt me, they will do the same to you. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you like that because of my name. They do not know the One who sent me.

²² “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Those who hate me hate my Father also.

² “I did miracles among them that no one else did. If I hadn’t, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen those miracles. And still they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ This has happened so that what is written in their Law would come true. It says, ‘They hated me without any reason.’—(*Psalms 35:19; 69:4*)

²⁶ “I will send the Friend to you from the Father. He is the Spirit of truth, who comes out from the Father. When the Friend comes to help you, he will give witness about me.

²⁷ “You also must give witness. This is because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:1} “I have told you all of this so that you will not go down the wrong path. ² You will be thrown out of the synagogue. In fact, a time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing God a favor. ³ They will do things like that because they do not know the Father or me.

“Why have I told you this? So that when the time comes, you will remember that I warned you. I didn’t tell you this at first because I was with you.

The way for Jesus' disciples would not be easy. The unbelieving world would hate them just as it hated Jesus.

The world hates us who follow Jesus. They hate us because we do not follow the world's ways. The world would love us if we simply accepted their sinful, unbelieving ways. But Jesus chose us out of the world.

Unbelievers hated Jesus and tried to hurt him. They will do the same to us. Those who believe in Jesus and obey his teaching will listen to what we say about Jesus. The master and his servants are treated alike. Those who treat Jesus' followers badly, do so because they do not know God.

Those who would turn against Jesus that very night had no excuse. He had talked with them. He had told them who he was. He had done outstanding miracles among them. But they chose not to believe in him. They were trapped in their sin of unbelief. They could not escape their guilt. They hated both the Son and the Father who sent him.

That unreasonable hatred by the Jewish leaders against Jesus also fulfilled the Scriptures. Two Psalms speaking of the Messiah (see Psalms 45:19; 69:4) had said, "They hated me without any reason."

Soon, with Jesus gone, the disciples would have to go out and witness to Jesus in this hostile world. Jesus had chosen them from the beginning of his ministry to be his witnesses. But first, Jesus would send the Friend from the Father. He would send the Holy Spirit, who would help them and witness to them about Jesus.

Jesus told them all of this to keep them on the right way when the going got tough. They would be thrown out of the synagogue. The established Jewish religion would not welcome them any longer. Some would believe that they were doing God a favor if they killed the disciples.

Jesus spoke this way to warn them. While he was with them, he did not need to tell them these things. He was there with them and for them.

Believe and Live

Things to remember

60. Unbelievers _____ Jesus disciples just as they _____ Jesus.
61. Those who treated Jesus badly did so because they did not know _____.
62. Some people would think that they did God a favor if they _____ the disciples.

Check your answers on page 180.

Jesus again promised to send the Holy Spirit.

(Read John 16:5-16.)

⁵ “Now I am going to the One who sent me. But none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’” ⁶ Because I have said these things, you are filled with sadness.

⁷ “But what I’m about to tell you is true. It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Friend will not come to help you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” ⁸ When he comes, he will prove that the world’s people are guilty. He will prove their guilt concerning sin and godliness and judgment.

⁹ “The world is guilty as far as sin is concerned. That is because people do not believe in me.” ¹⁰ The world is guilty as far as godliness is concerned. That is because I am going to the Father, where you can’t see me anymore. ¹¹ The world is guilty as far as judgment is concerned. That is because the devil, the prince of this world, has already been judged.

¹² “I have much more to say to you. It is more than you can handle right now.” ¹³ But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own. He will speak only what he hears. And he will tell you what is still going to happen.

¹⁴ “He will bring me glory by receiving something from me and showing it to you.” ¹⁵ Everything that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Holy Spirit will receive something from me and show it to you.

¹⁶ “In a little while, you will no longer see me. Then after a little while, you will see me.”

At this point, the disciples did not have much to say. They had trouble taking in the impact of what Jesus was saying. Sadness filled their hearts. Jesus told them again that he was going to the One who sent him.

But, he wanted them to know, it was good that he was going. In fact, he had to go. If he did not go, he would not complete his work of salvation. If he did not complete his work, everything good would end. The Holy Spirit would not come as their Friend and Helper. He would have no good news to help them.

But after Jesus completed his work, he would send the Spirit to them. The Spirit would show them how the world is guilty before God. Those who do not believe in Jesus have no forgiveness.

Jesus explained the world's guilt in three ways. The world is guilty concerning sin and godliness and judgment.

The world is **guilty concerning sin** because the people of the world do not believe in Jesus. Jesus won the forgiveness of sins for all people. But the people of the world do not believe it. So they lose it. The theme of this Gospel has been "Believe and Live." Those who do not believe will die in their guilt.

The world is **guilty concerning godliness** because Jesus has gone to the Father and they cannot see him. They don't see Jesus. They don't know him as their Savior. When they think of godliness, they think that they have to be godly. But God's Word says that they have to be as godly as God himself, without any sin. They cannot be that godly and so are lost in their sin.

Jesus, however lived a life of perfect godliness. He followed the Father's plan of salvation to the letter. He died to pay for the world's sins. He rose from the dead. And now the Father counts Jesus' godliness as if it were ours. But the unbelievers have only their own godliness to fall back on. They remain guilty in their sin.

Believe and Live

The world is **guilty concerning judgment** because the devil, the prince of the world, has already been judged. Jesus was on his way to destroy the power of the devil by dying and rising. Those who reject Jesus, however, choose the devil as their leader. They share their leader's judgment. But those who believe in Jesus live.

Jesus had much more to teach his disciples. But they already had more than they could handle. The Holy Spirit would finish what Jesus began. When Jesus would send them the Holy Spirit, the Spirit would guide them into all truth. The Spirit would bring them the words of God. He would bring them the truth of things still to happen.

The Spirit would bring glory to Jesus by showing the disciples everything about Jesus. That coming of the Spirit would happen on the day of Pentecost after Jesus had gone up into heaven. Pentecost was a harvest feast. The disciples gathered together at that time and the Spirit came to them in a special way (see Acts 2:1ff).

The Spirit brought the truth about Jesus to Jesus' disciples. The disciples wrote those truths for us in the New Testament of the Bible. They used the very words that the Spirit taught them. Now as we hear and learn those truths, the Spirit also works in us. He moves us to see the truth and to believe in Jesus.

Then Jesus told them again that in a little while they would not see him. But after a little while, they would see him.

Things to remember

63. After Jesus completed his work, he would send the _____ to his disciples.
64. Those who do not believe in Jesus have no _____.
65. God counts Jesus' _____ as if it were ours.

66. Those who reject Jesus choose the _____ as their leader.
67. The Holy Spirit would guide the disciples into all _____.

Check your answers on page 180.

The disciples' grief would turn to joy.

(Read John 16:17-33.)

¹⁷ Some of his disciples spoke to one another. They said, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while, you will no longer see me. Then after a little while, you will see me'?" And what does he mean by saying, 'I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸ They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'?" We don't understand what he is saying."

¹⁹ Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about those things. So he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant? Didn't you understand when I said, 'In a little while, you will no longer see me. Then after a little while, you will see me'?" ²⁰ What I'm about to tell you is true. You will cry and be full of sorrow while the world is full of joy. You will be sad, but your sadness will turn into joy.

²¹ "A woman giving birth to a baby has pain. This is because her time to give birth has come. But when her baby is born, she forgets the pain. She forgets because she is so happy that a baby has been born into the world.

²² "That's the way it is with you. Now it's your time to be sad. But I will see you again. Then you will be full of joy. And no one will take your joy away.

²³ "When that day comes, you will no longer ask me for anything. What I'm about to tell you is true. My Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. ² Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask, and you will receive what you ask for. Then your joy will be complete.

²⁵ "I have not been speaking to you plainly. But a time is coming when I will speak clearly. Then I will tell you plainly about my Father. ²⁶ When that day comes, you will ask for things in my name. I am not saying I will ask the Father instead of you asking him. ²⁷ No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me. He also loves you because you have believed that I came from God.

²⁸ "I came from the Father and entered the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

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²⁹ Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking plainly. You are using examples that are clear. ³⁰ Now we can see that you know everything. You don't even need anyone to ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

³¹ "At last you believe!" Jesus said. ³² "But a time is coming when you will be scattered and go to your own homes. In fact, that time is already here. You will leave me all alone. But I am not really alone. My Father is with me.

³³ "I have told you these things, so that you can have peace because of me. In this world you will have trouble. But cheer up! I have won the battle over the world."

Some of the disciples did not know what Jesus meant. They talked among themselves: "He said that in a little while we will not see him. Then he said that in a little while we will see him. What is he saying? What does he mean that he is going to the Father? What is the 'little while' he speaks of? We don't understand."

Jesus saw that the disciples were confused. So he told them more. Sorrow lay ahead. They would cry, but the unbelieving world would be full of joy. Yet, they should not despair. Their sadness would change to joy.

What the disciples would feel was like a woman bearing a child. While giving birth, she feels pain. But when she sees the newborn child, she forgets her pain. She is filled with joy over her baby.

So with the disciples, they would be sad. Jesus was talking about the pain they would feel at his death. Then Jesus would see them again. Jesus was talking about seeing them again after he rose from the dead. Then no one could take their joy away.

What joy! Jesus lives.

Jesus would not stay with them in his earthly body, however. They could not just turn to him and ask him anything face-to-face as before. Instead, they could ask the Father in Jesus' name. They would receive what they asked for. Their joy would be complete.

When we are connected to Jesus, who is alive, and through him with the Father, we have real joy.

Jesus admitted that he had spoken in words that were not as clear and direct as they wanted. He used images. They had not been ready before now for plain talk about his death. But now was the time.

Once Jesus was gone, the disciples would have a direct path to the Father in Jesus' name. The Father loves all who love Jesus. The Father loves all who believe that Jesus came from God.

The disciples had wanted to know where Jesus was going? He was going back to where he came from. He came into the world from the Father. Now he was leaving the world and going back to the Father.

This time the disciples understood Jesus better. They said that Jesus' words were clear now. His examples helped them. They saw that he knew their questions even before they asked them. They knew that Jesus came from God.

"At last," said Jesus. They believed in him, even as Jesus was about to face death. But, he warned them that in the hour of trouble, they would scatter. They would leave him all alone. But he would not be alone. The Father would be with him.

In just hours, Jesus would be arrested and the disciples would run away.

Jesus spoke this way to encourage the disciples. Because of Jesus, we who believe can have peace. He spoke a general truth for his disciples then and now. In this world we will have trouble. "But," Jesus says, "Cheer up!" We can cheer up because Jesus has overcome the world.

Things to remember

68. Jesus promised the disciples that their coming sadness would be turned to _____.

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69. What Jesus' disciples ask the Father in Jesus' _____ they will receive.
70. Jesus was now going to leave the _____ and go back to the _____.
71. Jesus warned the disciples that they would _____ in the coming hour of trouble.
72. In this world we will have _____. But Jesus tells us to _____ up.

Check your answers on page 180.

Jesus prayed for his followers.

(Read John 17:1-5.)

¹ After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed. He said, "Father, the time has come. Bring glory to your Son. Then your Son will bring glory to you. ² You gave him authority over all people. He gives eternal life to all those you have given him.

³ "And what is eternal life? It is knowing you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth. I have finished the work you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, give glory to me in heaven where your throne is. Give me the glory I had with you before the world began.

The last thing Jesus did before leaving the room was to pray. He looked up to heaven. He prayed for himself, for his disciples, and for all believers.

Jesus prayed for himself. His prayer for himself was short, and it must have helped the disciples to hear it. He asked the Father to give glory to the Son. He asked God to give him glory in heaven at God's throne. He asked for the glory he had with the Father before the world began.

We are reminded that Jesus is true God as well as true man. But in his human form, he humbled himself. He left his glory as God during the time he lived on earth.

Jesus could ask for glory in heaven because he brought

glory on earth to the Father. He finished the work God sent him to do. Jesus still had to endure death on the cross. But he would not waver. It was as good as done. And because he did the Father's will, he gave all who believe in him eternal life.

Eternal life comes by knowing God the Father and Jesus Christ whom God sent. Those who believe and have eternal life give all glory and praise to God.

Things to remember

73. Jesus asked for the _____ that he had with the Father from before the world began

74. Jesus is true _____ as well as true _____.

Check your answers on page 180.

(Read John 17:6-19.)

⁶ "I have shown you to the disciples you gave me out of the world. They were yours. You gave them to me. And they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ I gave them the words you gave me. And they accepted them. They knew for certain that I came from you. They believed that you sent me.

⁹ "I pray for them. I am not praying for the world. I am praying for those you have given me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. Glory has come to me because of my disciples.

¹¹ "I will not remain in the world any longer. But they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of your name. It is the name you gave me. Keep them safe so they can be one, just as you and I are one.

¹² "While I was with them, I guarded them. I kept them safe through the name you gave me. None of them has been lost, except the one who was sentenced to be destroyed. It happened so that Scripture would come true.

¹³ "I am coming to you now. But I say these things while I am still in the world. I say them so that those you gave me can have all my joy inside them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word. The world has hated them. This is because they are not part of the world any more than I am. ¹⁵ I do not pray that you will take them out of the world. I pray that you will keep them safe from the evil one.

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¹⁶ “They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to it. ¹⁷ Use the truth to make them holy. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ You sent me into the world. In the same way, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ I make myself holy for them so that they too can be made holy in a true sense.

Jesus prayed for his disciples. The Father gave the disciples to Jesus. Jesus taught them the words from the Father. The disciples obeyed his word. They knew that Jesus came from the Father. They believed that the Father sent him.

For them Jesus prayed. He did not pray at this time for the unbelieving world. He had a special interest in the disciples. They belonged to him and the Father. The disciples had already given glory to Jesus. They would do much more in the future.

However, the disciples would face dangers. Jesus would not be with them to keep them safe in the same way he had been. Jesus prayed that the Father would keep them safe. He prayed that they would stay together as one in their faith.

Jesus had kept all of the disciples safe except Judas Iscariot. Judas was headed for hell. That was not Jesus’ fault. Judas would hand Jesus over to his enemies just as the Scriptures had said. Everything the Old Testament Scriptures said about the Messiah came true.

Jesus prayed so his disciples could be filled with his joy. They had God’s Word from Jesus. But they faced a world that hated them just as it hated Jesus. The disciples’ time to leave the world had not yet come. They had to stay and be witnesses for Jesus. They had to fight against the devil, “the evil one.” They needed God to help them.

The disciples of Jesus do not belong to this world. That is true of his disciples for all time. We are in the world. We are not of the world.

God directs us through this world by his truth. Jesus prayed that God would make his disciples holy by his truth. God’s Word is truth. We don’t have to look any place else for it.

To be holy means to be set apart for God. Jesus prayed for the disciples to be dedicated to God and to his service. They needed to witness to God's ways and avoid the evil ways of the world.

Jesus was sending his disciples into the world just as the Father had sent him. Jesus was holy. He stayed true to the Father in every way. Because he was holy, he made the way for his disciples to be truly holy. In other words, we can serve God in truth because Jesus made it possible. So, Jesus prayed that God would keep the disciples in his truth.

Things to remember

75. Jesus taught the disciples the _____ from the Father.
76. Jesus prayed that the Father would keep the disciples _____.
77. Jesus prayed that the disciples would be filled with his _____.
78. Jesus prayed that God would make his disciples _____ by his truth.
79. God's _____ is truth.

Check your answers on page 180.

(Read John 17: 20-26.)

²⁰ "I do not pray only for them. I pray also for those who will believe in me because of their message. ²¹ Father, I pray that all of them will be one, just as you are in me and I am in you. I want them also to be in us. Then the world will believe that you have sent me.

²² "I have given them the glory you gave me. I did this so they would be one, just as we are one. ²³ I will be in them, just as you are in me. I want them to be brought together perfectly as one. This will let the world know that you sent me. It will also show the world that you have loved those you gave me, just as you have loved me.

² "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am. I

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want them to see my glory, the glory you have given me. You gave it to me because you loved me before the world was created.

²⁵ “Father, you are holy. The world does not know you, but I know you. Those you have given me know you have sent me. ²⁶ I have shown you to them. And I will continue to show you to them. Then the love you have for me will be in them. I myself will be in them.”

Jesus prayed for all believers. Sometimes people will wonder whether Jesus meant all of us when he talked to his disciples. Here he left no doubt. He prayed also for “all who will believe in me because of their message.”

God gathers his followers by his Word. He uses the disciples to tell others the word about Jesus so more will believe. Many of the first disciples wrote down the word, or message, of Jesus. The Holy Spirit guided them.

Jesus prayed that we who hear his Word would become one in faith. He wants us to work together to tell his truths to the world.

We have seen the glory of God in Jesus (see John 1:14). We share that glory by faith. All who believe in Jesus over all time form one spiritual body. That spiritual oneness comes from our connection with Jesus. Jesus is one with the Father. And Jesus dwells in us who believe. Jesus brings God’s glory into our lives. Jesus brings God’s love into our lives. Our lives of faith show God’s glory and love to the world. We are one in Christ. We will live in eternity with Christ.

The world does not know God. We do because of Jesus. And Jesus in prayer to the Father promises to be in and with us always.

Things to remember

80. God gathers his followers by his _____.

81. Jesus prayed that those who hear his word would become _____ in faith.

82. All believers in Jesus for all time form one _____ body.
83. Jesus brings God's _____ into our lives.

Check your answers on page 180.

Things to remember-Answers

1. perfume, hair, 2. poor, 3. thief, 4. burial, 5. palm, 6. Hosanna, 7. King, 8. Zechariah, 9. world, 10. Greeks, 11. seed [of grain], 12. grave, 13. devil, 14. cross, 15. thunder, glory, 16. death, 17. condemned, 18. saved, 19. Isaiah, 20. Pharisees, 21. men, 22. one, 23. words, 24. leave, 25. washed, feet, 26. later, 27. sin, 28. serve, 29. him, Father, 30. enemies, 31. loved, 32. betray, 33. Satan, 34. errand, 35. glory, 36. death, 37. Love, 38. later, 39. life, 40. know, 41. troubled, 42. rooms, 43. back, heaven, 44. died, 45. way, truth, life, 46. Father, 47. faith, 48. name, 49. Friend, Spirit, 50. faith, 51. stay, 52. devil, 53. vine, 54. branches, 55. connected [joined], fruit, 56. nothing, 57. complete, 58. friends, 59. love, 60. hate, hate, 61. God, 62. killed, 63. Spirit, 64. forgiveness, 65. godliness, 66. devil, 67. truth, 68. joy, 69. name, 70. world, Father, 71. scatter, 72. trouble, cheer, 73. glory, 74. God, man, 75. words, 76. safe, 77. joy, 78. holy, 79. Word, 80. Word, 81. one, 82. spiritual, 83. love.

TEST - Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Section 6

Please review the “Things to remember.”

1. Jesus said that Mary poured perfume on him to prepare him for his _____.
2. When Jesus came into Jerusalem for his last Passover Festival, the crowd hailed him as _____.
3. Jesus used the example of a _____ to say that he had to die and rise from the dead.
4. Jesus said that his _____ would judge the unbelievers at the last day.
5. At the Passover meal, Jesus showed his love for his disciples by _____ their _____.
6. Jesus told his disciples that one of them would turn him over to his _____.
7. The Gospel writer John called himself “the disciple Jesus _____.”
8. It was time for Jesus to receive glory. He would do that by his _____ on the cross.
9. Jesus warned Peter that on that night he would say three times that he did not _____ Jesus.
10. Jesus spoke of heaven as his Father’s house with many _____.
11. Jesus said, “I am the _____ and the _____ and the _____.”
12. Anything Jesus’ followers ask him in his _____ he will do.

13. Jesus promised that he and the Father would send them the Holy _____.
14. Jesus said, "I am the vine. You are the _____."
15. Connected to Jesus, we will bring forth much _____.
16. Those who treated Jesus badly did so because they did not know _____.
17. God counts Jesus' _____ as if it were our own.
18. The Holy Spirit would lead the disciples into all _____.
19. In this troubled world, Jesus tells us to _____ up.
20. God's _____ is truth.

Check your answers on page 234.



BELIEVE AND LIVE

SECTION 7:

How Jesus Finished His Ministry at the Cross

John 18:1 to John 19:42

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

SECTION SEVEN:

How Jesus Finished His Ministry at the Cross

Jesus was arrested and brought to Annas.

(Read John 18:1-14.)

¹ When Jesus had finished praying, he left with his disciples. They crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a grove of olive trees. Jesus and his disciples went into it.

² Judas knew the place. He was going to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Jesus had often met in that place with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the grove. He was guiding a group of soldiers and some officials. The chief priests and the Pharisees had sent them. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to him. So he went out and asked them, “Who is it that you want?”

⁵ “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said.

Judas, who was going to hand Jesus over, was standing there with them.

⁶ When Jesus said, “I am he,” they moved back. Then they fell to the ground.

⁷ He asked them again, “Who is it that you want?”

They said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁸ “I told you I am he,” Jesus answered. “If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” ⁹ This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken would come true. He had said, “I have not lost anyone God has given me.”—(*John 6:39*)

¹⁰ Simon Peter had a sword and pulled it out. He struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shouldn’t I drink the cup of suffering the Father has given me?”

¹² Then the group of soldiers, their leader and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They tied him up ¹³ and brought him first to Annas. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. ¹ Caiaphas had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Believe and Live

Jesus and the disciples left the room where they had eaten the Passover dinner. They went just a short distance through a valley outside of Jerusalem. They came to a grove of olive trees on the other side. Jesus often stayed there with his disciples.

Judas knew the place. His time had come to hand Jesus over to his enemies. He came to the grove with soldiers and some officials. The chief priests and the Pharisees had sent them. They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons.

Jesus was prepared. He knew everything that would happen to him. He did not run or resist. He was following his Father's plan. He went up to the group and asked them whom they wanted.

They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

He replied, "I am he."

Judas was there. He was prepared to kiss Jesus as a sign that they had the right man. (The other Gospels tell of his kiss.) But first something surprising happened. When Jesus said, "I am he," the armed band moved back and fell to the ground.

Why did this armed band fall to the ground when they faced the unarmed Jesus? We can only say that the power of God was at work. Jesus who is "I AM," Yahweh, was actually in control. They could not take him unless he let them do so.

Jesus asked again whom they wanted. And they said again, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said, "I told you I am he." Then he told them to take him but let his disciples go. Just as he had said before (see John 6:39), Jesus would not lose anyone God had given him.

Simon Peter was the disciple who was always quick to act. He pulled out a sword he had brought with him. He cut off the ear of the high priest's servant, Malchus.

But Jesus would have no fighting. He told Peter to put his sword away. The other Gospel writers tell us that he also healed Malchus's ear. Then he told Peter that the Father had

sent him to suffer. If he opposed the armed band, he would go against his Father's will.

The group was not taking Jesus against his will. He gave himself up to them. Jesus was on his way to die for the world's sins.

They brought Jesus to Annas the former high priest. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the ruling high priest. It was late at night. Caiaphas would need time to get the ruling Council together.

The trial would be illegal. They were not supposed to hold court at night. It was also illegal to try and convict a man on the same day of his arrest. But Caiaphas did not care. He had already decided that Jesus should die. He needed a trial for a show of justice. So they tied Jesus up and brought him first to Annas.

Things to remember

1. Jesus and his disciples went to a grove of _____ trees.
2. Soldiers and Jewish officials came to arrest Jesus. They were carrying torches, lanterns, and _____.
3. When Jesus told the armed band, "I am he," (the one they wanted), they _____ to the ground.
4. _____ cut off the ear of the high priest's servant with a sword.
5. Jesus stopped Peter and told him that he was not being taken against his _____.
6. The band tied up Jesus and took him to _____.
7. The night time trial was _____.

Check your answers on page 205.

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Peter said he was not Jesus' disciple.

(Read John 18:15-27.)

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. The high priest knew the other disciple. So that disciple went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. ¹⁶ But Peter had to wait outside by the door.

The other disciple came back. He was the one the high priest knew. He spoke to the woman who was on duty there. Then he brought Peter in.

¹⁷ The woman at the door spoke to Peter. "You are not one of Jesus' disciples, are you?" she asked him.

"I am not," he replied.

¹⁸ It was cold. The servants and officials stood around a fire. They had made it to keep warm. Peter was also standing with them. He was warming himself.

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus. He asked him about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰ "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I didn't say anything in secret. ²¹ Why question me? Ask the people who heard me. They certainly know what I said."

²² When Jesus said that, one of the officials nearby hit him in the face. "Is this any way to answer the high priest?" he asked.

²³ "Have I said something wrong?" Jesus replied. "If I have, give witness to it. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?"

² While Jesus was still tied up, Annas sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest.

²⁵ Simon Peter stood there. He was warming himself. Then someone asked him, "You aren't one of Jesus' disciples, are you?"

He said, "I am not."

²⁶ One of the high priest's servants was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off. He said to Peter, "Didn't I see you with Jesus in the olive grove?"

²⁷ Again Peter said no.

At that very moment a rooster began to crow.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed the group to Annas's house. The other disciple was undoubtedly John. He never names himself. The disciple followed Jesus into the courtyard. He was known there. But Peter had to wait outside at the door.

Soon the other disciple came back. He talked to a woman on duty, and she let Peter in. When the woman spoke with Peter, she guessed that he was a disciple of Jesus. She asked if he was.

“I am not,” he answered. It was happening just as Jesus said it would. Peter said he did not know Jesus.

Then Peter joined a group of servants and officials around a fire. The night was cold. He stood there warming himself.

Meanwhile, Annas questioned Jesus. He asked about Jesus’ disciples and his teachings. He probably hoped to hear something to use against Jesus at his trial.

But Jesus answered that all of those things were public knowledge. He had spoken openly in the synagogues and the temple. He did nothing in secret. They could ask the people who heard him. Why ask him? If he had said things he should not have said, they should have no trouble finding witnesses.

One of the officials did not like Jesus’ answer. He hit Jesus in the face. He warned him that he should not talk that way to the high priest.

But Jesus asked the official what he had said wrong. “If I spoke the truth,” he said, “why did you hit me?”

Then Annas sent Jesus, still tied up, to Caiaphas. As the acting high priest, Caiaphas would conduct the trial.

During this time Peter stood by the fire warming himself. Someone asked him again if he was a disciple of Jesus. They could tell by how he talked that he probably came from Galilee. But Peter said, “I am not.”

One of the servants, who was a relative of the man whose ear Peter cut off, now questioned Peter. This servant had been at the olive grove when Jesus was arrested. “Didn’t I see you with Jesus in the olive grove?” he asked.

For the third time, Peter said, “No,” that he did not know Jesus. Then he heard a rooster crowing just as Jesus had said.

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Things to remember

8. Peter said three times that he did not _____ Jesus.
9. Jesus told Annas that everything he did was _____ knowledge.
10. Next they brought Jesus to the acting high priest, _____.

Check your answers on page 205.

Pilate judged Jesus innocent.

(Read John 18:28-40.)

²⁸ Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning. The Jews did not want to be made “unclean.” They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal. So they did not enter the palace.

²⁹ Pilate came out to them. He asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

³⁰ “He has committed crimes,” they replied. “If he hadn’t, we would not have handed him over to you.”

³¹ Pilate said, “Take him yourselves. Judge him by your own law.”

“But we don’t have the right to put anyone to death,” the Jews complained. ³² This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken about how he was going to die would come true.

³³ Then Pilate went back inside the palace. He ordered Jesus to be brought to him. Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³ “Is that your own idea?” Jesus asked. “Or did others talk to you about me?”

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What have you done?”

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not part of this world. If it were, those who serve me would fight. They would try to keep the Jews from arresting me. My kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷ “So you are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You are right to say I am a king. In fact, that’s the reason I was born. I came into the world to give witness to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth listens to me.”

³⁸ “What is truth?” Pilate asked.

Then Pilate went out again to the Jews. He said, "I find no basis for any charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your practice for me to set one prisoner free for you at Passover time. Do you want me to set 'the king of the Jews' free?"

⁰ They shouted back, "No! Not him! Give us Barabbas!" Barabbas had taken part in an armed struggle against the country's rulers.

Jesus' trial before Caiaphas is reported in the other Gospels. It was an unfair trial. They declared Jesus guilty of calling himself the Son of God. Under their law that meant that he must die. They did not believe that he really was the Son of God. However, they were under the control of the Romans. They could not carry out the death penalty. The Romans had to do that.

So the Jews took Jesus from their trial to the palace of the Roman governor. They had just unjustly tried Jesus and sentenced him to death. But they would not actually go into the governor's palace. They did not want to be "unclean" for the rest of the seven-day Passover.

The governor, Pilate, came out ready to conduct a trial. He wanted to know what the charges were. The Jews simply replied that Jesus was guilty of crimes or they would not have brought him there.

Pilate tried to dismiss the case right then. He told them to judge Jesus themselves.

Only then did the Jews tell Pilate the real reason they came to him. They wanted Jesus put to death. By coming to Pilate, they determined also how Jesus would die. If the Jews could have carried out the sentence themselves, they would have stoned Jesus to death. The Romans would hang him on a cross until dead. That's how Jesus had said he would die (see John 12:32, 33).

Pilate then decided to question Jesus in private. He had Jesus brought to him. He would not be much interested in the Jews' charges on spiritual matters. But there was something about Jesus being called the king of the Jews. If Jesus was

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somehow opposing the rule of the Roman Emperor, Pilate would consider that a serious crime. So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied with a question of his own. He asked where Pilate got that idea from. Was it his own? Or did others tell him? Pilate did not realize it, but Jesus was about to witness to him in a spiritual way.

Pilate scoffed at Jesus’ question. He was not a Jew who might think of Jesus as a king. But Jewish leaders had brought Jesus to him. “What have you done?” he asked back.

Pilate was not prepared for Jesus’ reply. “My kingdom,” Jesus explained, “is not part of this world.” If Jesus were the kind of king that would be a threat to the Romans, then he and his followers would have fought against the Jews who arrested him. But his kingdom was from another place.

Jesus was talking about his spiritual kingdom. His rule came from heaven. He would rule in peoples’ hearts on earth. Then they would join him in his rule as King in heaven. The unbelieving Jews had not understood this. Now, the heathen Pilate faced it.

“So you are a king then,” he said.

Jesus answered “Yes!” that he was born to be king. But he explained again that his kingdom was different from earthly kingdoms. Jesus came to tell us the truth. Everyone who joins his kingdom is on the side of truth.

Pilate rejected the idea. “What is truth?” he asked, as if no one can know for sure. He fell to a common error of unbelievers. They refuse to see that there is an absolute truth. We find that truth in Jesus.

Pilate did not see any reason to punish Jesus. He didn’t realize either how much the Jewish leaders hated Jesus. He told the Jews that he found no fault with Jesus.

In an effort to please the Jews, he then offered them a choice. It was a custom to set one prisoner free at the Passover time. He offered Jesus, “the king of the Jews,” or

Barabbas, a really bad man. Barabbas was like a terrorist today. He had fought against the rulers.

Surely, Pilate must have thought, they would choose to set the harmless Jesus free. Imagine his surprise when they shouted back at him, ‘No! Not this man! Give us Barabbas!’ They chose the hardened criminal instead of Jesus.

Things to remember

11. Only the _____ could carry out the death penalty against Jesus.
12. The Jews took Jesus to the Roman governor whose name was _____.
13. If Jesus was put to death by the Romans, he would die on a _____.
14. The governor asked Jesus if he was a _____.
15. Jesus said that his rule was not a part of this _____.
16. His was a _____ kingdom.
17. Jesus’ followers are on the side of _____.
18. Pilate asked, “What is _____?”
19. The Jews asked to have the bad man _____ set free instead of Jesus.

Check your answers on page 205.

Pilate had Jesus crucified.

(Read John 19:1-16a.)

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. ² The soldiers twisted thorns together to make a crown. They put it on Jesus’ head. Then they put a purple robe on him. ³ They went up to him again and again. They kept saying, “We honor you, king of the Jews!” And they hit him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out. He said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing Jesus out to you. I want to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”



Pilate Presents Jesus to an Angry Crowd.

⁵ Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Then Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. I myself find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷ The Jews replied, “We have a law. That law says he must die. He claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸ When Pilate heard that, he was even more afraid. ⁹ He went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus.

But Jesus did not answer him.

¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you understand? I have the power to set you free or to nail you to a cross.”

¹¹ Jesus answered, “You were given power from heaven. If you weren’t, you would have no power over me. So the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are not Caesar’s friend! Anyone who claims to be a king is against Caesar!”

¹³ When Pilate heard that, he brought Jesus out. Pilate sat down on the judge’s seat. It was at a place called The Stone Walkway. In the Aramaic language it was called Gabbatha. ¹ It was about noon on Preparation Day in Passover Week.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, “Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!”

“Should I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

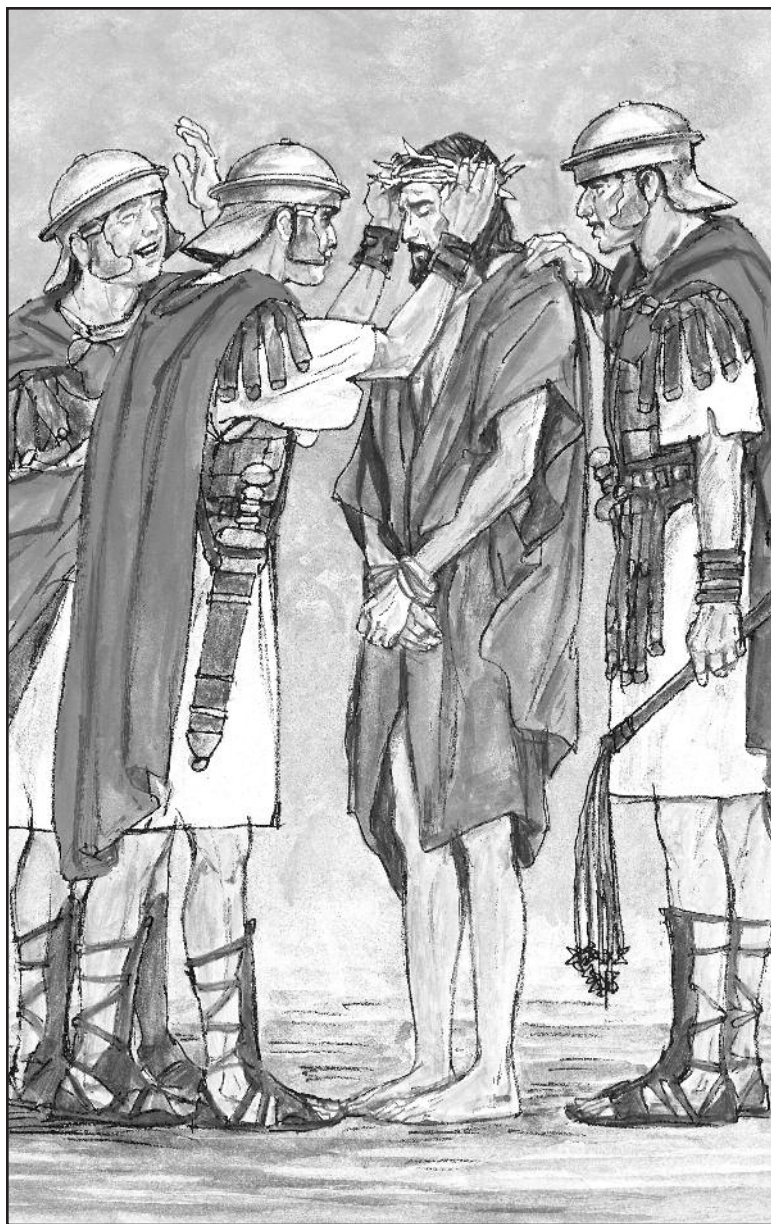
“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be nailed to a cross.

Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent of any crime. But he felt he had to win over the Jews. He gave Jesus over to the soldiers to be whipped. The lashes of the whip had pieces of bone or lead attached that tore the skin.

Then the soldiers mocked Jesus. They put a crown of thorns on his head. They put a purple robe on him. Purple was a kingly color. Then they pretended to honor him as king. “Hail, king of the Jews,” they cried. Then they struck him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out and told the people that he found no fault in Jesus. He had Jesus brought out wearing the



Jesus is Mocked by the Soldiers.

crown of thorns and the purple robe. "Here is the man," he said. He still hoped to win some sympathy for Jesus.

But when the Jewish leaders saw Jesus, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Pilate told them to crucify him themselves. He had found no reason to punish him like that.

The Jews replied that according to their law Jesus must die. He must die because "he claimed to be the Son of God."

That scared Pilate even more than he already was. Who was this innocent man that the Jews wanted dead? Who was this who claimed a kingdom not of this world and who called himself the Son of God? He brought Jesus back into the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked.

Jesus did not answer.

Pilate warned him: "Don't you know your life is in my hands? I have the power to set you free or to nail you to a cross."

Actually, Pilate was powerless on his own. Jesus told him that the power he had came from heaven. Otherwise he would have no power over Jesus. But the greater guilt in this unjust trial lay with Caiaphas and the Jewish leaders. They had God's Word and did not listen to it. They acted against God and his Son. Pilate did not know what they knew.

Then Pilate still tried to get Jesus set free. But he did not want the Jews to turn against him. So he did not simply free Jesus as he said he had the power to do.

The Jews threatened Pilate. They kept saying that if he let Jesus go, he was not Caesar's friend. Caesar was Rome's ruler. If word got back to him that Pilate did not defend him as he should, Pilate could lose his position as governor.

So Pilate gave in to the Jews. He brought Jesus out. Pilate sat on the judge's seat. He said to the Jews who had gathered there, "Here is your king."

By this time the Jewish leaders had stirred up a whole crowd of people against Jesus. They shouted back at Pilate,

Believe and Live

“Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!”

Pilate was trying to remove any blame from himself. ‘Should I crucify your king?’ he asked.

The chief priests shouted back, “We have no king but Caesar.” The reader should know that actually the chief priests hated Caesar. He had conquered and taken over their country. But this show was all about getting Jesus put to death.

Their effort worked. Pilate handed Jesus over to be nailed to a cross until dead.

Things to remember

20. The soldiers mocked Jesus by putting a crown of _____ on his head.
21. They pretended to honor him as a _____.
22. When Pilate brought Jesus out and said he was innocent, the Jewish leaders shouted, “_____ him!”
23. Pilate got more scared because the Jews told him that Jesus claimed to be the _____ of _____.
24. Jesus told Pilate that his (Pilate’s) power came from _____.
25. Pilate still wanted to free Jesus, but the crowd that had gathered shouted, “_____ him, _____ him!”
26. Pilate gave in partly because he feared that word would get to _____ that Pilate had not defended him as he should.

Check your answers on page 205.

Jesus was nailed to the cross.

(Read John 19:16b-27.)

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ He had to carry his own cross. He went out to a place called The Skull. In the Aramaic language it was called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they nailed Jesus to the cross. Two other men were crucified with him. One was on each side of him. Jesus was in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared. It was fastened to the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰ Many of the Jews read the sign. The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The sign was written in the Aramaic, Latin and Greek languages.

²¹ The chief priests of the Jews argued with Pilate. They said, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews.’ Write that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

²² Pilate answered, “I have written what I have written.”

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes. They divided them into four parts. Each soldier got one part. Jesus’ long, inner robe was left. It did not have any seams. It was made out of one piece of cloth from top to bottom.

²⁴ “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s cast lots to see who will get it.”

This happened so that Scripture would come true. It says, “They divided up my clothes among them.

They cast lots for what I was wearing.” —(*Psalm 22:18*)
So that is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Jesus’ mother stood near his cross. So did his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶ Jesus saw his mother there. He also saw the disciple he loved standing nearby. Jesus said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son.” ²⁷ He said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, the disciple took her into his home.

The soldiers then led Jesus to a place called “The Skull.” It was apparently a rocky hill that looked like a skull. That is where they would crucify Jesus. It was just outside of Jerusalem.

Jesus had to carry his own cross (probably the beam that forms the “T” with the pole). The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and lifted him up between two criminals who were also crucified that day.

Pilate had one last word for the Jews. He had a notice fastened to Jesus’ cross. It read, “JESUS OF NAZARETH,

Believe and Live

THE KING OF THE JEWS.” It was written in three languages: Aramaic, Latin, and Greek so all could read it. Many Jews saw it because the cross was so close to the city.

The notice upset the chief priests of the Jews. They argued with Pilate to change it. They wanted it to say only that Jesus “claimed to be king of the Jews.”

But what Pilate wrote he would not change. Actually, Pilate’s words were correct, just as Jesus had told him. But neither he nor the chief priests understood why.

The soldiers who were guarding the cross divided Jesus’ clothing into four parts. His inner robe was left. It was woven in one piece. They decided not to tear it. Instead they cast lots to see who would get it. They probably marked one stone (“lot”) and put it in a container with three other stones. The one to whom the marked stone fell would get the robe.

This happened so that the Scriptures would come true. Psalm 22:18 had foretold that others would divide up the Messiah’s clothes and cast lots for what he was wearing. Everything that had been foretold of the Messiah came true. John reported more as we will see.

Jesus’ mother, Mary, was standing near the cross with two other women who believed in Jesus. Jesus saw her, and he saw the disciple he loved (John) nearby. There, while suffering terribly on the cross, Jesus made sure that his mother would be cared for. He honored her to his death.

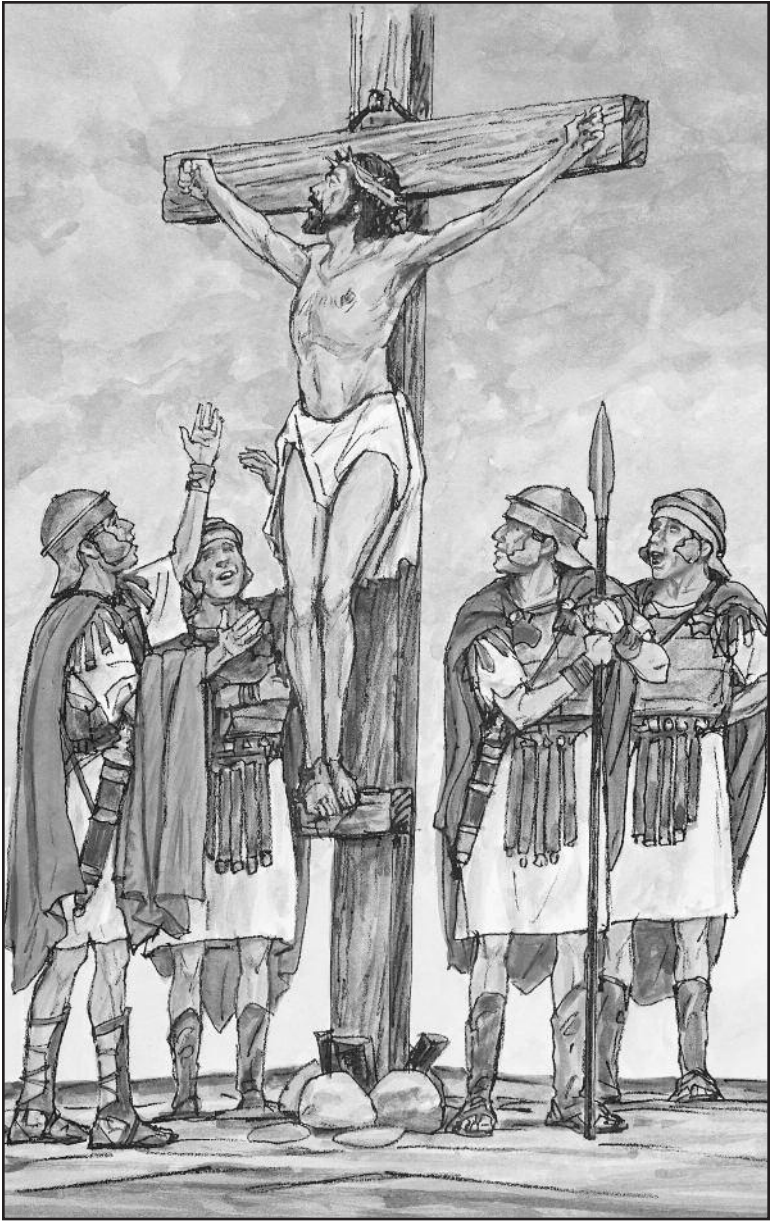
Jesus told his mother to think of John as her son. To John he said, “Here is your mother.” From that time, John took her into his home.

Things to remember

27. Jesus was crucified on a hill called “The _____.”

28. He was nailed to a cross and lifted up between two

_____.



Jesus Dies on the Cross for our Sins.

Believe and Live

29. Pilate had a sign nailed to the cross that read, “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE _____ OF THE JEWS.”
30. The soldiers at the cross cast _____ for Jesus’ inner robe.
31. All that the Scriptures had said about the Messiah’s suffering and death came _____.
32. Jesus told _____ to take care of his mother.

Check your answers on page 205.

Jesus died on the cross.

(Read John 19:28-37.)

²⁸ Later Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” He knew that everything was now finished. He knew that what Scripture said must come true. ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there. So they soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on a stem of the hyssop plant. Then they lifted it up to Jesus’ lips.

³⁰ After Jesus drank he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and died.

³¹ It was Preparation Day. The next day would be a special Sabbath. The Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath. So they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus. Then they broke the legs of the other man.

³³ But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. So they did not break his legs. ³ Instead, one of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus’ side. Right away, blood and water flowed out. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given witness. And his witness is true. He knows that he tells the truth. He gives witness so that you also can believe.

³⁶ These things happened in order that Scripture would come true. It says, “Not one of his bones will be broken.”—(*Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20*) ³⁷ Scripture also says, “They will look to the one they have pierced.”—(*Zechariah 12:10*)

Jesus reached the moment that he would die. He knew he had done everything the Father asked of him. He said, “I am thirsty.”

We can hardly imagine how thirsty Jesus was. Anyone

dying on a cross suffered intense thirst. But Jesus did not speak only because he was thirsty. What took place was again a truth from God's Word (see Psalm 69:21; 22:15). Jesus received wine vinegar as Scripture foretold.

After Jesus drank he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.

Jesus had finished what God the Father sent him to do. He had lived a life without sin. He did God's will in all things. As a human being, he became a substitute for all human beings. God, therefore, counted Jesus' perfect life for us. Now in his death, Jesus, the Son of God, died for the world's sins. God accepted Jesus' death as the payment we human beings owe for sin.

The day was Friday of the Passover week. It was the day the Jews prepared for the Passover Sabbath Day to follow. They did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath. That would go against their religious laws. So they asked to have the legs of the men on the crosses broken.

With their legs broken, the men could not hold themselves up. The full weight of their bodies would sag and cause them to be unable to breathe. They would die quickly and could be taken down from their crosses.

So the soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals on each side of Jesus. but when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. They did not break Jesus' legs. But to make sure Jesus was dead, one soldier pushed a spear into his side. Blood and water flowed out.

We do not know any special meaning of the blood and water. But we do know for sure that Jesus died. Not only was John inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this. But he was an eyewitness. We can be sure it is true. He wrote so we might believe.

Another striking truth is that once again the Scriptures came true at Jesus' death. Not one of his bones was broken. God had commanded that no bones should be broken on the

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lamb for the Passover Feast. That lamb was an image of the Passover Lamb to come, the Messiah (see Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20). Also, as Zechariah had foretold (see Zechariah 12:10), they looked to the one they pierced.

Things to remember

33. Just before Jesus died, he said, “I am _____.”
34. Jesus had done _____ that the Father asked of him.
35. Finally, Jesus said “It is _____,” and died.
36. Bodies could not be left on the cross on the _____.
37. The soldiers broke the crucified men’s legs so they would _____ more quickly.
38. Because Jesus was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one soldier pushed a _____ into his side.
39. The Gospel writer, John, was an _____ of Jesus’ death.
40. Once again the Scriptures came _____ at Jesus’ death.

Check your answers on page 205.

Jesus was buried.

(Read John 19:38-42.)

³⁸ Later Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus’ body. Joseph was from the town of Arimathea. He was a follower of Jesus. But he followed Jesus secretly because he was afraid of the Jews. After Pilate gave him permission, Joseph came and took the body away.

³⁹ Nicodemus went with Joseph. He was the man who had earlier visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought some mixed spices, about 75 pounds.

⁰ The two men took Jesus’ body. They wrapped it in strips of linen cloth, along with the spices. That was the way the Jews buried people’s bodies.

¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. A new

tomb was there. No one had ever been put in it before. ² That day was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was nearby. So they placed Jesus there.

The bodies were taken down from the crosses. If no one had claimed them, the soldiers would likely have thrown them into a common burial pit. But a man from Arimathea, (see map on page 236) named Joseph, asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Joseph was a secret follower of Jesus. He feared the Jewish leaders who opposed Jesus. We learn from the other Gospels that he was also a rich man and a member of the Jewish Council. He had not agreed to the Council's decision to have Jesus put to death.

Joseph no longer followed Jesus in secret. He took Jesus' body for burial. Nicodemus, whom we met earlier (see John 3:1-21 and 7:50), joined Joseph. The two men wrapped Jesus' body in spices, strips of linen, and a shroud. That was the Jewish burial custom. Then, because time was short (the Sabbath began at sundown), they quickly buried him in a nearby tomb. It was a new tomb in a garden. Joseph had gotten it for himself (see Matthew 27:60).

Things to remember

41. A man named _____ from Arimathea got Jesus' body for burial.
42. He had been a _____ follower of Jesus.
43. _____ joined Joseph.
44. They buried Jesus in a new _____.
45. They wrapped his body in _____ of linen and a _____.

Check your answers on page 205.

Things to remember-Answers

1. olive, 2. weapons, 3. fell, 4. Peter, 5. will, 6. Annas, 7. illegal, 8. know, 9. public, 10. Caiaphas, 11. Romans, 12. Pilate, 13. cross, 14. king, 15. world, 16. spiritual, 17. truth, 18. truth, 19. Barabbas, 20. thorns, 21. king, 22. Crucify, 23. Son, God, 24. heaven [above], 25. Kill, Crucify, 26. Caesar, 27. Skull, 28. criminals, 29. KING, 30. lots, 31. true, 32. John, 33. thirsty, 34. everything, 35. finished, 36. Sabbath, 37. die, 38. spear, 39. eyewitness, 40. true, 41. Joseph, 42. secret, 43. Nicodemus, 44. tomb, 45. strips, shroud.

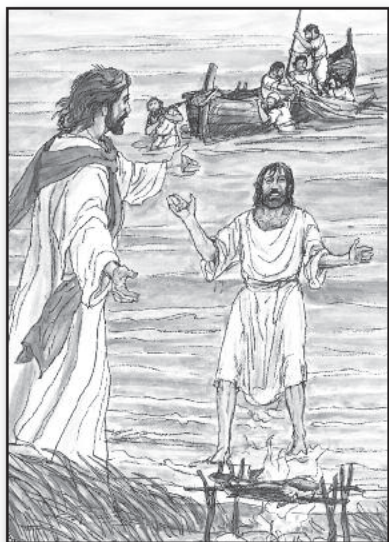
TEST - Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Section 7

Please review the “Things to remember.”

1. Jesus was arrested in a grove of _____ trees.
2. Jesus was not taken against his _____.
3. The armed band tied Jesus up and took him first to _____.
4. At Annas’s house Peter said three times that he did not _____ Jesus.
5. Next they brought Jesus to the acting high priest, _____.
6. The Jews wanted Jesus to die, but only the _____ could carry out the death penalty.
7. They brought Jesus to the Roman governor, named _____.
8. Jesus told Pilate that his rule as king was not of this _____.
9. Jesus told Pilate that his followers were on the side of _____.
10. Jesus was crucified on a hill called “The _____.”
11. The soldiers cast _____ for Jesus’ inner robe.
12. Jesus told _____ to take care of his mother.
13. In the end, Jesus said, “It is _____,” and died.
14. To make sure Jesus was dead, a soldier pushed a _____ into his side.
15. Jesus was buried by _____ of Arimathea and _____.

Check your answers on page 234.



BELIEVE AND LIVE

SECTION 8:

How Jesus Rose from the Dead and Showed Himself Alive

John 20:1 to John 21:25

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

SECTION EIGHT:

How Jesus Rose from the Dead and Showed Himself Alive

Jesus rose from the tomb.

(Read John 20:1-9.)

¹ Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. It was still dark. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance. ² So she ran to Simon Peter and another disciple, the one Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb! We don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. Both of them were running. The other disciple ran faster than Peter. He reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there. But he did not go in.

⁶ Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived. He went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there. ⁷ He also saw the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself. It was separate from the linen.

⁸ The disciple who had reached the tomb first also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Jesus died on Friday. Early Sunday morning just before the sun came up some women who believed in Jesus went to his tomb (see Mark 16:1 and Luke 24:10). Mary Magdalene was one of them. She saw that the stone was rolled back from the entrance of the tomb.

Mary quickly left the others and went to find Peter and John (“the one Jesus loved”). She thought Jesus’ body had been stolen. She told them that someone had taken Jesus. She and the others did not know where they put him.

So Peter and John started running to the tomb. John got there first. The other women had already left. John bent over and looked in. He saw the linen strips lying where Jesus’ body had lain. But he did not go in.

Believe and Live

Peter came close behind and went straight into the tomb. Peter, too, saw the linen strips. He also saw the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. It was folded and lay separate from the other cloths.

John followed Peter into the tomb. He saw the signs that Jesus had risen from the dead. He believed. But at that time neither of them connected what they saw with another Scripture that had come true. Psalm 16:10 promised of the Messiah: "You [God] will not leave me in the grave. You will not let your faithful one rot away."

Things to remember

1. The first people to come to Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning were some _____ who believed in Jesus.
2. They saw that the stone to the tomb had been _____ back from the entrance.
3. _____ left the others and went to find Peter and John.
4. She thought that Jesus' body had been _____.
5. When Peter and John got to the tomb, it was empty except they saw the _____ where Jesus' body had lain, and the burial cloth that had been around his _____.

Check your answers on page 226.

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene.

(Read John 20:10-18.)

¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she cried, she bent over to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white. They were seated where Jesus' body had been. One of them was where Jesus' head had been laid. The other sat where his feet had been placed.



An Angel Tells the Women that Jesus has Risen.

Believe and Live

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said. “I don’t know where they have put him.”

¹ Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ “Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

She thought he was the gardener. So she said, “Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him. Then she cried out in the Aramaic language, “Rabboni!” Rabboni means Teacher.

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me. I have not yet returned to the Father. Instead, go to those who believe in me. Tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news. She said, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Peter and John went back to their homes. But Mary Magdalene came back to the tomb and stood by it, crying hard. She still thought Jesus was dead. But his body was gone. When she bent over to look into the tomb, she saw something that Peter and John did not see. Two angels in white sat there. One sat at the foot and one at the head where Jesus’ body had lain.

The angels asked Mary why she was crying so.

Through her sobs Mary said, “They have taken my Lord away. I don’t know where they have put him.” But then, before she could talk more with the angels, she turned and saw Jesus standing nearby.

Mary did not recognize Jesus. She thought he was the gardener who kept up the site.

We wonder why she did not know it was Jesus. There could have been several reasons:

- Her eyes were probably blurred from crying.
- She did not expect to see Jesus alive.
- Maybe Jesus looked different than before.
- Jesus may have kept her from recognizing him at first.

Just as the angels did, Jesus asked Mary why she was crying. Who was she looking for?

Mary replied by asking Jesus if he could show her where Jesus' body was. She would get it and see that it was properly buried again. She had no idea he was or even could be Jesus talking to her.

Then Jesus let her recognize him by speaking a single word. He called her by name: "Mary."

Then she knew him. She turned to him with joy and cried out in Aramaic, "My teacher!"

Jesus calls to us yet today in a similar way. His good news is personal. When it reaches your heart when you see him alive through the Word of God and you believe it is as if he has called you, too, by name.

Mary wanted to welcome Jesus back to stay as before. She probably wanted to give him a big hug. But Jesus had to tell her not to cling to him like that. Now that he rose from the dead, their relationship would change. He would no longer walk and talk with her and the disciples each day in his bodily form. He would rise up to the Father in heaven. He would be with them in a spiritual form.

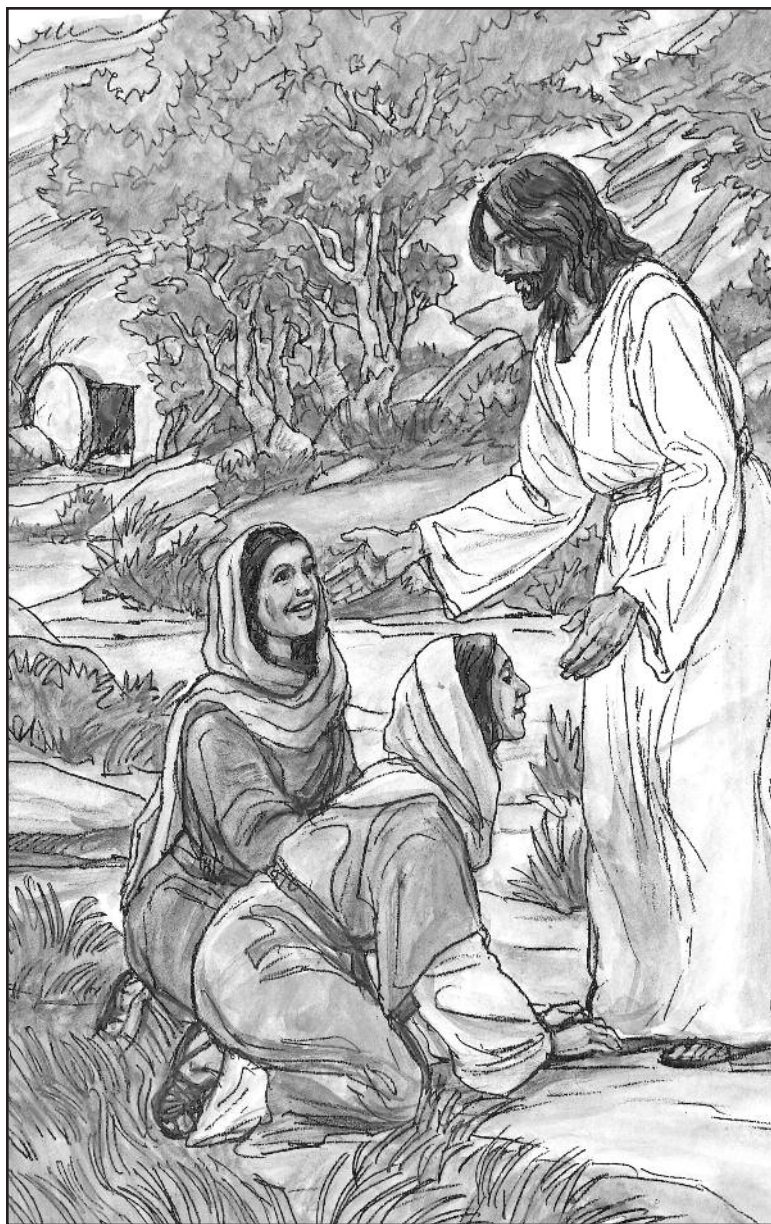
Jesus told Mary to tell the disciples what she had seen and what Jesus had told her. "I am returning," he said, "to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

Mary did as Jesus told her. How excited she must have been! "I have seen the Lord!" she said to them. She told them all that had happened.

To this day, people who see the Lord and believe will want to go like Mary and tell others: "I have seen the Lord!"

Things to remember

6. When Mary came back to the tomb, she saw two _____.
7. Mary was _____.



Jesus Greets the Two Marys Returning from the Tomb.

8. Then she turned and saw _____.
9. Mary thought that she was talking to the _____.
10. She knew it was Jesus when he called her by _____.
11. Jesus told Mary that he had to return to his heavenly _____.
12. Mary went to the disciples and said to them, "I have seen the _____."

Check your answers on page 226.

Jesus appeared to his disciples.

(Read John 20:19-23.)

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jews.

Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" ²⁰ Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "May peace be with you! The Father has sent me. So now I am sending you." ²² He then breathed on them. He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

That evening the disciples gathered, all except Thomas. They locked the doors of the house. They feared what the Jews who had Jesus crucified would do now.

Imagine their excitement and yet their doubts. Was Jesus really alive?

Then Jesus came in and stood among them. The locked doors did not hold him back in his risen body. "May peace be with you!" he said to them.

The peace that Jesus wishes for his followers is a special peace. It is the peace that comes from knowing that Jesus is alive and is near. It is the peace that comes because with Jesus we are at one with God. It is the confident hope of eternal life with Jesus.

Believe and Live

Jesus showed them his wounds from on the cross: where the nails had pierced his hands and the spear his side. The disciples were happy now. Jesus was there, alive!

Jesus again said, “May peace be with you!” Then Jesus charged them to go out with his gospel. The Father had sent him. Now he was sending them. With his charge, Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit. And he gave them the authority to forgive sins and to hold back forgiveness.

Jesus was preparing his disciples to go out and gather followers for his church. Those who would see their sins and turn to Jesus in faith would receive forgiveness. Those who would not see their sins and would think they did not need Jesus would not receive forgiveness.

Things to remember

13. That night Jesus came to the disciples who were behind _____ doors.
14. Jesus said to them, “May _____ be with you.”
15. Jesus gives us a _____ peace with him.
16. Jesus said that as the Father had sent him, so he now was _____ them.
17. He gave them the authority to _____ sins and to hold back _____.
18. Those who see their _____ and turn to Jesus in _____ receive forgiveness.

Check your answers on page 226.

Jesus appeared to Thomas.

(Read John 20:24-31.)

² Thomas was one of the Twelve. He was called Didymus. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So they told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe what you say.”

²⁶ A week later, Jesus’ disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them.

He said, “May peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs in front of his disciples. They are not written down in this book. ³¹ But these are written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to him.

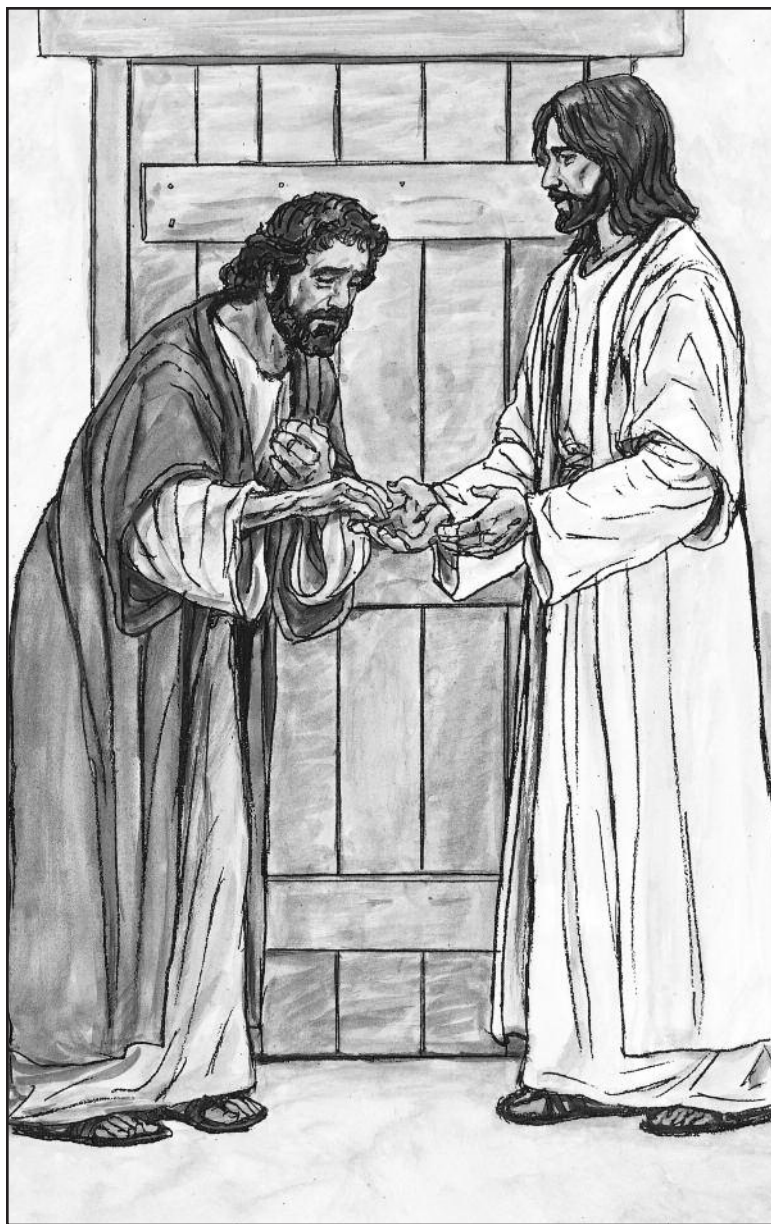
The disciple Thomas, called Didymus, was not with the others when Jesus appeared. “Didymus” means “The Twin.” The other disciples were eager to tell him that they had seen the Lord.

But Thomas thought that the news was too good to be true. He wasn’t sure that the others didn’t just see something because they wanted to see it. He had doubts. Thomas wanted solid proof. He said that he had to see the nail marks in Jesus’ hands and the spear mark in his side before he would believe them. More than that, he said he had to actually touch those marks first.

The next week the disciples were again together behind locked doors. Thomas was with them. Jesus came again and stood among them. He said, “May peace be with you!”

Then he turned to Thomas. He knew what Thomas had said. “Here I am, Thomas,” he said. “Reach out and touch the nail marks. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas must have felt some shame for doubting as he did. But in joy he did not touch Jesus. Instead, he exclaimed, “My Lord and my God!”



Jesus and Thomas after the Resurrection.

Jesus is in truth our Lord and our God. And he said to Thomas, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.” He was talking about people like us. We do not see Jesus physically, the way the disciples did. But God’s Word shows Jesus to us as God and Lord. And God’s Spirit works in us to believe.

John is nearing the end of his Gospel. He tells us that he and the other disciples had seen many more miraculous signs than the ones he has reported. The important thing is that what he has written can help us. John wrote so that we might “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” He wrote because when we believe that truth we will have life with Jesus. We will be Jesus’ disciples.

Things to remember

19. The disciple named _____ was not with the disciples the first time Jesus appeared to them.
20. When the disciples told him that they had seen the Lord, he had _____.
21. He wanted to see and touch the _____ marks in Jesus’ hands and put his hand in the _____ in his side.
22. When Thomas saw Jesus the next week and saw his wounds, he exclaimed, “My _____ and my _____.”
23. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not _____ me but still have _____.”
24. The Gospel writer says that all of these things were written about Jesus so that we might “believe that Jesus is the _____, the _____ of God.”

Check your answers on page 226.

Believe and Live

Jesus appeared to his followers at the seashore.

(Read John 21:1-14.)

¹ After this, Jesus appeared to his disciples again. It was by the Sea of Galilee. Here is what happened.

² Simon Peter and Thomas, who was called Didymus, were there together. Nathanael from Cana in Galilee and the sons of Zebedee were with them. So were two other disciples.

³ “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them. They said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat. That night they didn’t catch anything.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, don’t you have any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish.”

When they did, they could not pull the net into the boat. There were too many fish in it.

⁷ Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Simon Peter, “It is the Lord!”

As soon as Peter heard that, he put his coat on. He had taken it off earlier. Then he jumped into the water.

⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat. They were towing the net full of fish. The shore was only about 100 yards away. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals. There were fish on it. There was also some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.”

¹¹ Simon Peter climbed into the boat. He dragged the net to shore. It was full of large fish. There were 153 of them. But even with that many fish the net was not torn.

¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.”

None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord.

¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same thing with the fish. ¹ This was the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared several times to his followers before he went up to heaven. The next time Jesus appeared to his disciples was by the Sea of Galilee.

Several of the disciples were together. They included Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, and the sons of Zebedee (James and John). John is the same man who wrote this Gospel.

Peter told the others that he was going fishing. They all decided to go with him. They fished through the night, but they did not catch a thing.

Early in the morning, they saw a man on the shore. It was Jesus, but they didn't realize it. He called out to them and asked if they had caught any fish. When they said no, he told them to throw out their net on the right side of the boat. "You will find fish there," he said.

They did as told and found all kinds of fish. The net was so full that they could not pull it into the boat. That's when they realized that it was Jesus on the shore. John said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

Peter, always quick to act, grabbed his outer coat and tied it around him. Then he jumped in the water and swam ahead of the boat to where Jesus was.

The others towed the net full of fish to the shore. They had been about 100 yards (30 meters) away. When they arrived, they saw that Jesus had started breakfast for them. He had a fire with some fish cooking and some bread. He told them to bring some of the fish they had caught.

Peter pulled the net full of fish onto the shore. They counted 153 large fish. It was amazing that the net did not tear from the weight.

Jesus invited the disciples to eat breakfast. This was only the third time Jesus had appeared to them. They must have still wondered whether he was really alive. But they knew.

Things to remember

25. One day after Jesus' last appearance Peter and several of the disciples decided to go _____.

Believe and Live

26. They did not catch any fish all night. Early in the morning, _____ appeared on the shore.
27. He called out to the disciples to let down their net on the right side of the boat and they would find _____.
28. They caught 153 large fish. Then they realized it was the Lord. _____ jumped out of the boat and swam to shore.
29. Jesus prepared _____ for them.

Check your answers on page 226.

Jesus prepared Peter to continue to serve him.

(Read John 21:15-25.)

¹⁵ When Jesus and the disciples had finished eating, Jesus spoke to Simon Peter. He asked, “Simon, son of John, do you really love me more than these others do?”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered. “You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶ Again Jesus asked, “Simon, son of John, do you really love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷ Jesus spoke to him a third time. He asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He answered, “Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” ¹⁸ What I’m about to tell you is true. When you were younger, you dressed yourself. You went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands. Someone else will dress you. Someone else will lead you where you do not want to go.”

¹⁹ Jesus said this to point out how Peter would die. His death would bring glory to God.

Then Jesus said to him, “Follow me!”

²⁰ Peter turned around. He saw that the disciple Jesus loved was following them. He was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper. He had said, “Lord, who is going to hand you over to your enemies?” ²¹ When Peter saw that disciple, he asked, “Lord, what will happen to him?”

²² Jesus answered, “Suppose I want him to remain alive until I return. What does that matter to you? You must follow me.”

²³ Because of what Jesus said, a false report spread among the believers. The story was told that the disciple Jesus loved wouldn’t die. But Jesus did not say he would not die. He only said, “Suppose I want him to remain alive until I return. What does that matter to you?”

² This is the disciple who gives witness to these things. He also wrote them down. We know that his witness is true.

²⁵ Jesus also did many other things. What if every one of them were written down? I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

After breakfast, Jesus spoke directly to Peter. The reader will remember that Peter had sworn three times on the night Jesus was arrested that he did not know Jesus.

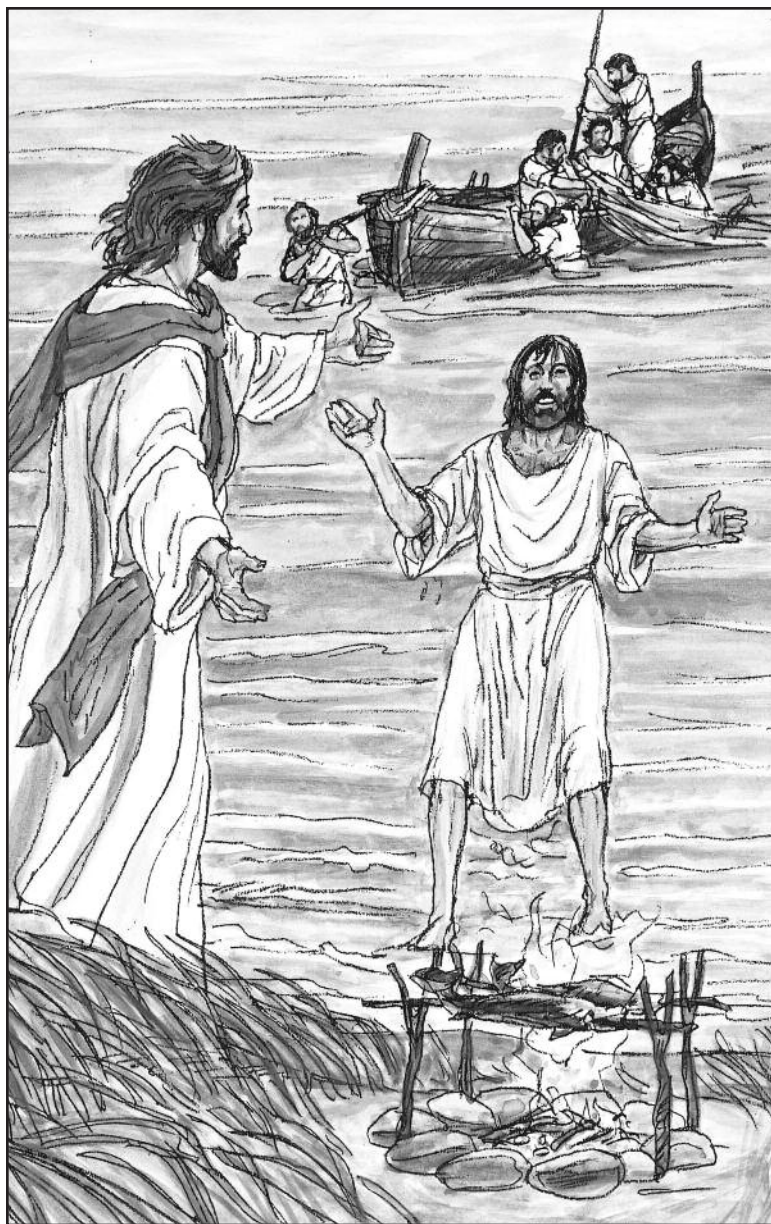
Now Jesus wanted Peter to be a leader in telling his message to others. Jesus wanted Peter to know that he had forgiven Peter and had work for him to do.

Jesus asked Peter, “Simon, do you love me more than these others do?”

Peter had boasted in the past about how great his love for Jesus was (see John 13:37; Luke 22:33; Matthew 26:33; Mark 14:29). He had said that even if everyone else left Jesus, he would stay true to him. He would die for Jesus. But he had failed when he was tested.

Now Peter faced a new test. Jesus wanted to know if Peter truly loved him and was ready to give himself to Jesus’ service. Peter did not boast this time. He answered, “Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.” He did not promise any more than he could give. With the word “love” (a different word in the original language than Jesus used), Peter said simply, “I hold you as a dear and trusted friend.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” His words had a spiritual meaning. Lambs would be either children or even all believers, particularly new believers. Feeding them meant to give them what they needed to make their faith in Jesus grow. Jesus wanted Peter to teach his gospel.



Jesus Reinstates Peter after the Resurrection.

Jesus asked a second time, “Simon, do you really love me?”

Peter answered as he did the first time. He said that Jesus surely knew that Peter loved him.

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” If lambs meant children, then sheep meant grown-ups. Or else sheep meant all of Jesus’ flock. This time he told Peter to “take care of” the flock. Peter should not only feed the flock, but also watch over them.

Still a third time Jesus asked, “Simon, do you love me?” That was the same number of times that Peter had said he did not know Jesus.

Peter felt bad that Jesus asked again. He probably felt bad because he knew that Jesus knew already that he did. Jesus knew all things. Maybe Peter felt bad, too, because he remembered what he had done and was sorry for it. In any case, Peter again said that Jesus knew he loved him.

A final time Jesus told Peter, “Feed my sheep.”

Now Jesus had Peter ready to be a leader in his church. He continued to tell him what his future would bring. Peter would live to an older age. But the freedom he enjoyed while young would go away. He would be taken captive. Others would control him. They would stretch out his hands as they did with Jesus to nail him to a cross. Peter would die for Jesus, and “his death would bring glory to God.”

As far as we know, Peter did die on a cross because he was a follower of Jesus and leader of Jesus’ followers. It is said that he was crucified upside down.

Peter was walking with Jesus. He turned to see “the disciple Jesus loved” following them. As we have noted, this was John who wrote this Gospel. Peter had just learned that he would one day die for the gospel. John was Peter’s good friend. Peter asked Jesus, “What will happen to him?”

Jesus’ answer was that Peter should not concern himself about how long John would live or how he would die. Peter

Believe and Live

needed to take care of the ministry Jesus was giving him. He needed to stay true to Jesus and his Word. He needed to tell the good news of Jesus to all he could reach. And he needed to die for it and enter heaven with Jesus.

When the people heard about what Jesus said to John, they misunderstood his words. Jesus had said, “Suppose I want him to remain alive until I return.” Some thought he meant that John would not die. But Jesus had only said, “Suppose I” do that. As it turned out, John was blessed with a long life, and he died of natural causes.

It appears that the last part of the Gospel (possibly the last chapter) was added by someone other than John. In verse 24, it sounds like others, “we,” are saying that the words John wrote are true. However, it is possible that John slipped into a way of writing where the writer actually speaks of himself as “we.”

The Gospel closes with two important truths. The one is that we can depend on what is written here. The Holy Spirit guided John in what to write, and he and others were eyewitnesses of what happened.

Also, many more things that Jesus did could have been written. But, as John said earlier (see John 20:31), what was written is all that we need for faith and life. We believe and live.

Things to remember

30. Jesus prepared Peter to be leader of his people by asking him three times, “Peter, son of John, do you _____ me?”
31. Peter told Jesus that he surely _____ that Peter loved him.
32. Jesus told Peter that one day when he was older he would _____ for Jesus.

33. This Gospel tells us all that we need for _____ and _____.

Check your answers on page 226.

Things to remember-Answers

1. women, 2. rolled, 3. Mary Magdalene, 4. stolen, 5. linen strips, head, 6. crying, 7. angels, 8. Jesus, 9. gardener, 10. name, 11. Father, 12. Lord, 13. locked, 14. peace, 15. special, 16. sending, 17. forgive, forgiveness, 18. sins, faith, 19. Thomas, 20. doubts, 21. nail, wound, 22. Lord, God, 23. seen, believed, 24. Christ, Son, 25. fishing, 26. Jesus, 27. fish, 28. Peter, 29. breakfast, 30. love, 31. knew, 32. die, 33. faith, life.

TEST - Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Section 8

Please review the “Things to remember.”

1. When Mary Magdalene saw the stone rolled from Jesus' tomb, she thought the body was _____.
2. She went to find _____ and _____.
3. Peter and John saw an empty tomb with burial _____ still there.
4. Later Mary saw two _____ in the tomb.
5. Then Jesus appeared to Mary. She recognized him when he called her by _____.
6. Jesus appeared to the disciples behind _____ doors.
7. He said, “May _____ be with you.”
8. Jesus gave his disciples authority to _____ sins and to hold back _____.
9. Thomas had _____ whether Jesus was alive.
10. When Thomas actually saw Jesus, he exclaimed, “My _____ and my _____.”
11. The words of this Gospel were written so that we might “believe that Jesus is the _____, the _____ of God.”
12. The third time Jesus saw the disciples after he rose, he gave them a miracle catch of _____.
13. Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter _____ him.
14. This Gospel tells us all that we need for _____ and _____.

Check your answers on page 234.

GLOSSARY

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Adultery – The act of having sex with someone other than one’s husband or wife. God forbids adultery.

Anointed – See Messiah.

Ascend – Go up. Used of Jesus when he went up (ascended) to heaven 40 days after he rose from the dead.

Brilliant – Full of light, shining.

Caesar – The leader (emperor) of the Roman Empire.

Chief priests – The priests were those who served in the sanctuary of the temple and carried out the sacrifices. The chief priests were all those along with the present high priest that had at one time served as high priests. The high priest was the head priest of the temple.

Christ – See Messiah.

Circumcision – In the days before Christ came, God commanded his people to have the skin of a male baby’s penis cut on the eighth day after his birth. This was a way that the child was received into God’s family.

Crucify – Put someone to death by nailing him on a cross.

Devil – A former angel of God who rebelled against God. He is evil and works against God to spread evil and unbelief in the world.

Disciple – Someone who follows someone else, learns from that person, accepts that person’s teachings, and tells others about that person. Jesus had 12 original followers, often called “The Twelve Disciples” or simply “The Twelve.”

Divine – Godly.

Essence – Something that belongs to someone or something by its very nature.

Eternity, eternal – Without beginning and without end. Thought of also as something from our eternal God that for us has no end, such as eternal life.

Feast of Booths - A yearly celebration to remember the 40 years God's people spent in the wilderness after they escaped from Egypt. They built makeshift huts or booths to live in for the seven days of the celebration. In that way they thought about how their people had lived in similar booths during those 40 years.

Feast of Lights – See Hanukkah.

Flesh – Used to speak of how we were born as human beings after Adam and Eve sinned. We had a sinful nature. Born in the flesh, means born with sin as a part of our being. Only Jesus came in the flesh without sin.

Fruit – A word used for the good things that believers do in faith because they are joined to Jesus Christ.

Glory - Honor, praise, fame. Praiseworthy—often associated with bright light.

Gospel – Good news, the good news of Jesus Christ. With a capital “G,” Gospel, it refers to any of the first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—that tell of the life, teachings, and saving work of Jesus.

Grace – Love for the unlovable. Undeserved love. The love that God shows to sinners through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Half-breed – The child of a mixed marriage between people of different races.

Hanukkah – Also called the Feast of Lights. This feast celebrated a special temple purification from about 200 years before Christ.

High Priest – See chief priests.

Holy – Kept separate for God.

Holy Communion – The meal in which Jesus gives his body and blood in connection with the bread and wine. He started it on the night that he

Believe and Live

was to be arrested, before he was crucified. It is taught in the other Gospels, not in John (but it is mentioned in this book).

I AM – One way that Jesus identified himself as God. God had told Moses from a burning bush that he was “I AM” or “Yahweh” (see Exodus 3:14, 15). The name is based on the Hebrew word for “I am.” In most English translations of the Bible it appears as LORD in all capital letters.

Jewish Council – This group were the officials that ruled the Jews in Israel. But they were under the control of the Romans. The Council was also called the Sanhedrin.

Kingdom of God – Also kingdom of heaven or Jesus’ kingdom. It is where God and his Son Jesus rule. They rule in our hearts here on earth now. In eternity, they rule in the glory of heaven, where we will be taken.

Law – The teaching of God’s commands for us. He expects us to follow them perfectly. Because we do not do them perfectly, we know we need the Savior. In the Savior we have forgiveness and eternal life. That is the good news, or gospel. The law was given through Moses. The gospel came with Jesus Christ.

Lots – Similar to today’s dice. Often stones with one marked to determine something by chance.

Messiah – From the Hebrew, meaning “The Anointed.” When persons were anointed, oil or some other liquid was put on their heads. This was done as a sign that they were set aside for an important office. From the Greek, the word is “Christ.” It identifies the One that God promised to send to save the world from sin. He was set aside for that purpose.

Nourish – Give food and other things necessary to live and grow.

Palm Sunday – The Sunday before Jesus died on the cross. On that Sunday the crowds in Jerusalem greeted Jesus as a king and place palm branches for him to ride over.

Passover – A feast to remember how God saved his people from Egypt. On the night before they left Egypt, God sent a plague of death on the oldest male child in every house in Egypt. But the children of God’s people were saved. Because they had the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, the angel of death passed over (therefore, The Passover) their

houses. The celebration lasted seven days. It took place in March or April.

Pharisee – One of the religious leaders of the Jews. Most of the Pharisees (but not all) opposed Jesus.

Pentecost – A wheat harvest feast of the Jews that was celebrated 50 days (Pentecost means 50) after the Passover was finished. At that celebration after Jesus went up to heaven, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the form of tongues of fire.

Pool of Siloam – One of the pools in Jerusalem that was used to collect water for the people.

Sabbath – The seventh day of the week. The word means “rest.” God made it a day of rest for his people until the promised Savior came.

Rabbi – An Aramaic word that means “teacher.”

Resurrection – Rising from the dead.

Samaritans – A mixed race of former Israelites and heathen invaders. They often opposed the Jews to the south.

Sanhedrin – See Jewish Council.

The Scriptures – The Bible, also God’s Word. The Old Testament of the Scriptures was written before Jesus was born. The New Testament of the Scriptures was written after Jesus returned to the Father in heaven.

Sea of Galilee – A large inland “sea” (really a big lake) in northern Israel, the part called Galilee in Jesus’ day. It is about 13 miles (22 kilometers) long and 7 ½ miles (12 kilometers) wide. It was also called the Sea of Tiberias after Tiberias Caesar, the emperor of Rome.

Sign – A miracle of Jesus that showed his divine power. An earthly act to show a heavenly fact.

The Skull – The skull-shaped hill on which Jesus was crucified. Also called “Golgotha” or “Calvary.”

The Son of Man – Identifies Jesus, who was born without sin, as man (human beings) was meant to be. As the perfect man, he became our

Believe and Live

substitute. Jesus often used this term of himself.

Spiritual – Having to do with things we cannot see or touch. Having to do with things about God and his Son and the Holy Spirit. Things that affect our spirits.

Synagogue – A place where the Jews would meet and worship when they were away from the temple in Jerusalem. It was like a church.

Temple – The central place of worship in Jerusalem where the sacrifices to God were given and the important religious feasts were celebrated. God made his presence known in the innermost part of the temple.

Tomb – A place of burial. In Jesus' day, it was often a cave-like room sealed with a stone.

Triune – Three-in-one. A word that describes God. He is one God but three persons—three-in-one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Witness – Tell about something important that a person knows and others need to know.

Word – Used by John as a name for the Son of God who is God and by whom all things were made. It also is used to identify Jesus' teachings and the Bible.

ANSWERS to Section Tests

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Introduction and Section 1:

1. disciple, 2. God, man, 3. believe, eternal life, 4. Word, beginning, 5. made, 6. life, light, 7. flesh [a man], 8. Sin, 9. believed, children, 10. glory, grace, truth, 11. grace [love], 12. undeserved love.

Section 2:

1. Jesus [the Lord], 2. Lamb, God, sin, world, 3. Spirit, 4. Jesus, 5. Messiah [Christ], 6. Son, God, King, Israel, 7. heaven.

Section 3:

1. water, wine, 2. Cana, 3. sign, earthly, heavenly, 4. Jerusalem, Passover, 5. cheated, 6. temple, rise, 7. born again, water, Spirit, 8. sin, 9. salvation, 10. cross, 11. world, 12. Son, 13. eternal life, 14. save, judge [or condemn], 15. living, 16. thirst, 17. sin, 18. spirit, truth, 19. Messiah [Christ], 20. Savior, world, words.

Section 4:

1. kill, healed, 2. equal, 3. honor, 4. Jesus, 5. five, two, 6. earthly [or bread], 7. walked, 8. afraid, 9. bread, 10. "I am," 11. body, 12. teachings, 13. believing, eternal life.

Section 5:

1. danger, 2. God, 3. heaven, 4. living, 5. spoke, 6. sin, 7. sin, 8. Father, 9. Word [teachings], 10. slave, 11. free, 12. I am, 13. God, 14. favored, 15. see., 16. blind, 17. good, 18. life, 19. eternity [ever], 20. true, 21. resurrection, life, 22. dead, 23. kill.

Section 6:

1. burial, 2. King, 3. seed [of grain], 4. words, 5. washing, feet, 6. enemies, 7. loved, 8. death, 9. know, 10. rooms, 11. way, truth, life, 12. name, 13. Spirit, 14. branches, 15. fruit, 16. God, 17. godliness, 18. truth, 19. cheer, 20. Word.

Believe and Live

Section 7:

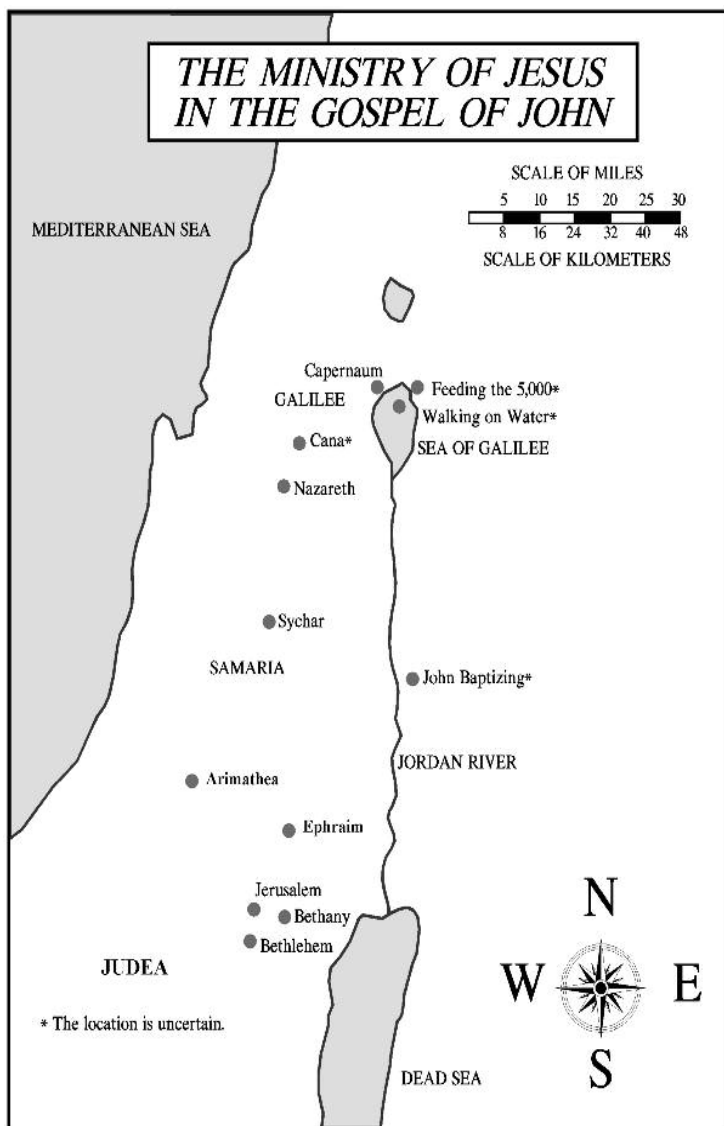
1. olive, 2. will, 3. Annas, 4. know, 5. Caiaphas, 6. Romans, 7. Pilate, 8. world, 9. truth, 10. Skull, 11. lots, 12. John, 13. finished, 14. spear, 15. Joseph, Nicodemus.

Section 8:

1. stolen, 2. Peter and John, 3. cloths [strips], 4. angels, 5. name, 6. locked, 7. peace, 8. forgive, forgiveness, 9. doubts, 10. Lord, God, 11. Christ, Son, 12. fish, 13. loved, 14. faith, life.

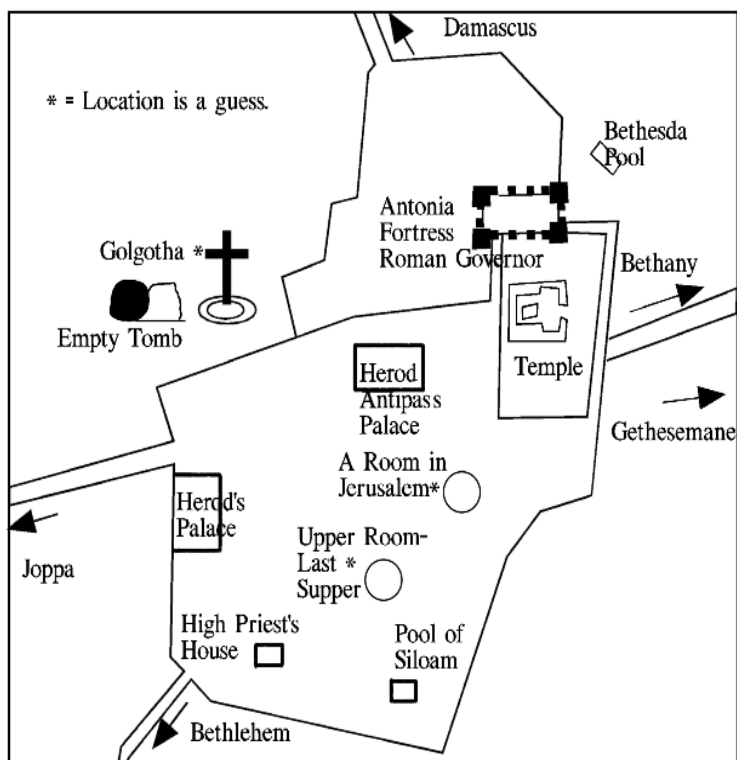
MAP

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John



MAP

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John



FINAL TEST

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Go back through the book and review any mistakes you made in the section tests. Then complete the final test without looking at the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book or mail the test to the place listed on the back of this book.

Words needed to complete each question are listed at the end of the test.

Believe and Live

1. The John who wrote this Gospel was a _____ of Jesus.
2. This Gospel shows that Jesus is both _____ and _____.
3. This Gospel was written so that we might _____ and have _____.
4. Grace means “_____.”
5. When John saw Jesus coming, he called him the “_____ of _____” who takes away the “_____ of the _____.”
6. His miracle is called a _____. It was an _____ act to show a _____ fact.
7. Jesus taught Nicodemus that he had to be _____ of _____ and _____.
8. Jesus explained God’s plan of _____ to Nicodemus.
9. Jesus had to be lifted up on a _____.
10. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that he was the promised _____.
11. On the far shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus fed over 5,000 people with _____ barley loaves and _____ small fish.

12. Jesus _____ on the water in a fierce storm.
13. When the people followed Jesus in hopes of getting more to eat from him, he told them that he was the true _____ from heaven.
14. Jesus' words, " _____," identify him with God by his name "Yahweh."
15. Jesus spoke of eating and drinking his body and blood as pictures of _____ in him for _____.
16. Jesus' teachings came from _____.
17. Jesus said that streams of _____ water would flow from those who believe in him.
18. Everything Jesus did pleased the _____.
19. True disciples of Jesus will remain in his _____.
20. Jesus sets us _____ from sin.
21. The Jews wanted to stone Jesus because he identified himself with _____.
22. Those who reject Jesus think they can see but are spiritually _____.
23. Jesus said, "I am the _____ shepherd.

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24. Speaking of the resurrection, Jesus said to Martha, “I am the _____ and the _____.”
25. Jesus used the example of a _____ to say that he had to die and rise from the dead.
26. At the Passover meal, Jesus showed his love for his disciples by _____ their _____.
27. It was time for Jesus to receive glory. He would do that by his _____ on the cross.
28. Jesus said, “I am the _____ and the _____ and the _____.”
29. Jesus promised that he and the Father would send them the Holy _____.
30. Jesus said, “I am the vine. You are the _____.”
31. At Annas’s house Peter said three times that he did not _____ Jesus.
32. The Jews wanted Jesus to die, but only the _____ could carry out the death penalty.
33. Jesus told Pilate that his rule as king was not of this _____.
34. Jesus was crucified on a hill called “The _____.”
35. Jesus told _____ to take care of his mother.
36. In the end, Jesus said, “It is _____,” and died.

37. To make sure Jesus was dead, a soldier pushed a _____ into his side.
38. When Thomas actually saw Jesus, he exclaimed, “My _____ and my _____.”
39. Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter _____ him.
40. This Gospel tells us all that we need for _____ and _____.

FINAL TEST

Believe and Live: A Study of the Gospel of John

Answers needed to complete the final test.

"I am"	life
believe	life
believing	life
blind	life
born again	living
branches	Lord
bread	loved
cross	man
death	Messiah [Christ]
disciple	resurrection
earthly	Romans
eternal life	salvation
eternal life	seed [of grain]
faith	sign
Father	sin
feet	Skull
finished	spear
five	spirit
free	Spirit
God	truth
God	two
God	undeserved love
God	walked
God	washing
good	water
heavenly	way
John	Word [teachings]
know	world
Lamb	world

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