

# **GOD'S LOVE, OUR LIFE**

## **PART 2**

BY JACKIE OESCH

### **THE PASSION STORY FROM THE BOOKS OF MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN**

**LESSON 1: *BEHOLD, YOUR SON* – JESUS, MY EXAMPLE**

**LESSON 2: *MY GOD, MY GOD* – FORSAKEN**

**LESSON 3: *GO AND TELL!* – HE IS RISEN!**

**LESSON 4: *AND THEIR EYES WERE OPENED* – RESURRECTION DAY**

**LESSON 5: *I AM SENDING YOU* – JESUS, MY PEACE**

**LESSON 6: *DO YOU LOVE ME?* – FEED MY SHEEP**

**LESSON 7: *GO INTO ALL THE WORLD* – JESUS' COMMAND**

**“I HAVE STORED UP YOUR WORD IN MY HEART...”**

**PSALM 119:11**

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# LESSON ONE

# BEHOLD, YOUR SON

## LUKE 23 AND JOHN 19 – JESUS, MY EXAMPLE

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## INTRODUCTION

Jesus was crucified. His body was racked with pain. He was struggling to breathe. His mouth was parched and dry. His blood-crusted body hung exposed for the world to see. But, in spite of everything He was enduring, Jesus had some unfinished business. Listen to what He says as He undergoes unimaginable torture. “Father, forgive them!” “Today you will be with Me.” “Mother, behold your son.” Jesus had told His disciples that they had seen the Father because they had seen Him (John 14:9). Consider these words of Jesus and discover the essence of His Father. So the phrase goes, “Like father, like son.”

Years before Jesus had invited twelve men to follow Him and promised to make them fishers of men. Even on the cross He taught them by giving them an example. Through Peter’s epistle (1 Peter 2) we hear His invitation and are encouraged by Peter to follow in His steps even enduring hardships and persecution. The One we are to follow asks nothing more of us than what He Himself has endured. Learn what drove Jesus to persevere through it all.

Treasure everything Jesus bore for you through His passion and death. Give thanks to Him with a grateful heart for He became the innocent criminal bearing our shame. This was the will of God that “for our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

**LESSON 1**

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** Jesus was on the cross from nine in the morning (the third hour -- Mark 15:25) until three in the afternoon (the ninth hour – Mark 15:34). The Gospel writers recorded seven times Jesus spoke while hanging on the cross. We will briefly look at these sentences that Jesus spoke. Once again, you are encouraged to come close to the cross. Jesus is weak and near death. His words may be difficult to hear but you don't want to miss anything He says.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Reread Luke 23:34a. Again, what does Jesus say? \_\_\_\_\_

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**EXERCISE:**

1. Luke records the first words Jesus spoke immediately after He had the iron spikes driven into His hands (most likely, into His wrist bones) and feet. The cross had been dropped into the placement hole which jarred His traumatized body and raked His severely torn flesh. And, the first words out of Jesus' mouth are, "Father, \_\_\_\_\_ them."
2. History teaches that in utter humiliation those crucified hung on the cross naked and exposed for all to see. We can imagine this was true for Jesus because we read that the soldiers nearby were busy dividing up His clothes by casting lots (verse 34b). Jesus had nothing left. He was literally stripped of everything yet He prayed for His enemies, "Father, \_\_\_\_\_ them for they \_\_\_\_\_ not what they \_\_\_\_\_." What were they doing? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus asked His Father to *forgive* those who had just crucified His One and only Son.

**REFLECTION:** As we reflect it would be very easy to ask ourselves the question, "What would I have done?" But is this the question to ask? One can't help but sit in silence and reflect on what Jesus did. Jesus committed no sin. Jesus did not deceive His followers, Pilate, or anyone else for that matter. He was who He said He was. Jesus didn't retaliate or make threats when everyone was hurling their insults at Him. But Jesus did "entrust Himself to Him who judges justly (1 Peter 2:22-23)." Your thoughts:

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**Part 2**

**APPLICATION:**

1. Because Jesus did what He did, what are the implications for my life? Read on in 1 Peter 2:24.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Early in His ministry Jesus taught what is known as the Sermon on the Mount. It is recorded in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. Read Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:44. "But I say to you: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What Jesus taught was the order for the new kingdom He was establishing and He gave to all of us the example that we should \_\_\_\_\_ our enemies just as He \_\_\_\_\_ His enemies and prayed for them. Jesus was the exact image of God Himself for all to see. He reflected the indiscriminate love of His Father for Jesus came as the perfect Son of God.
4. Because Jesus gave me a pattern to follow for living each day, what is a way in which God might use my life to reflect His image to those around me? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIZATION:** Jesus set an example for us. His example was like a pattern that we trace. What does Peter tell us in 1 Peter 2:20b-21? "...if when you do \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for it you \_\_\_\_\_, this is a \_\_\_\_\_ thing in the sight of \_\_\_\_\_. For to this you have been called, because \_\_\_\_\_ also suffered for \_\_\_\_\_, leaving you an \_\_\_\_\_, so that you might \_\_\_\_\_ in His steps." Write this verse on an index card and consider what it means for you...

- to suffer for doing good
- to endure suffering with patience
- to be called to suffer for righteousness
- to follow in His steps

**PRAYER:** Write your prayer reflecting on Jesus' example in 1 Peter 2:20b-24. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3**

**INTRODUCTION:** Jesus has prayed for His enemies and now Luke privileges us by letting us eavesdrop on a private conversation between Jesus and one of the criminals. In the beginning both

criminals “heaped insults on Him (Matthew 27:44).” Now in Luke 23:40 we hear one of the men rebuking the other, shouting past Jesus to him. Listen closely...

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Luke 23:41-43.

**REFLECTION:** One criminal has just told the other, “We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve.” This man confessed his guilt. He admits that he has done wrong. He does deserve his punishment, even death. He has recognized his need for forgiveness. And to Jesus he says, “Remember me...” Forgive me.

**APPLICATION:** What about me? Which criminal do I seem to identify with—the one who continued to hurl insults at Jesus believing it was His fault that he was still hanging on this cross, or the one who asked Jesus to remember him because he needed a Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

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**REFLECTION:** The one criminal has just told the other, “But this man has done nothing wrong.” Again Jesus’ innocence of any wrongdoing is recognized. Pilate found no fault in Jesus and neither does this criminal. He is innocent!

**APPLICATION:**

1. Am I eager to recognize Jesus’ innocence and profess His innocence to others? Do I want to blame Him for things that happen in my life as though He was guilty of some wrongdoing?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How does my life reflect what I believe to be true about Him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**REFLECTION:**

1. And then, the repentant criminal makes a profound statement. He says, “Remember me when you come into *Your kingdom*.” This man had his eyes wide open for he recognized Jesus to be a King. He had heard the insults and those who mocked Jesus as the King of the Jews, the King of Israel. The inscription over Jesus’ head read: “Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews (John 19:19).” In spite of everyone’s insults and mockery this man declared Jesus to be King.
2. And Jesus willingly forgives this criminal who has declared Jesus to be the Son of God, the King of Israel, the King of the Jews. For Jesus this is what gives glory to His Father, who would have

all come to know the Him through His Son, who would have all be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

**APPLICATION:** Yes, Jesus is the King of Israel. Jesus wants to be my King. Like this man do I recognize and acknowledge Jesus' innocence? Do I ask Him to remember and forgive me? Do I acknowledge His kingship and declare Jesus to be the Lord of my life? Above all, can I hear Jesus say to me, "Today you will be with Me in paradise"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** Write your own prayer reflection on the words of Jesus to the criminal, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise." \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read John 19:25-27. John is the only Gospel writer who tells us about these words. The words are for those dearest to Jesus, His mother and "the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 13:23)," namely John.

**QUESTION:** What did Jesus say to His mother? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did Jesus say to John? \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE:**

1. Who was gathered near the cross (verse 25)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who did Jesus see (verse 26)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was standing nearby (verse 26b) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Jesus makes the exchange of mother to son and son to mother. Then what are we told in verse 27b? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4**

**REFLECTION:**

1. Jesus is very near death. He is enduring excruciating pain. And then He sees His mother who quite possibly was standing very near to her dying Son. Jesus noticed that John was standing nearby. Our heart goes out to Mary. A mother would want to tenderly cradle the head of her dying son and stroke his blood encrusted face. A mother would want to soothe his flogged body



and take within herself her son's pain and torment. But Jesus is hanging there on the cross. Mary suffered deep anguish. Simeon in Luke 2:35 told Mary when she and Joseph presented Jesus at the temple that \_\_\_\_\_

2. We are told that Jesus *saw* His mother and friend. Jesus' eyes *saw* them and He was filled with compassion toward them.
  - a. In Matthew 9:36 Jesus *saw* the \_\_\_\_\_ He had \_\_\_\_\_ on them because they were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_ without a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. In Matthew 14:13-14 we learn that Jesus withdrew to a quiet, solitary place...but when He landed on the other side of the lake He *saw* the crowd and set aside His own need. His \_\_\_\_\_ for the people led Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Compassion is the essence of who God is. In Exodus 34:6 what does God say about Himself, "The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and what else does He say about Himself in Exodus 22:27b? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. From Jesus we learn that compassion flows from one's internal character and not from external circumstances. Jesus couldn't help but be compassionate. That's just who He is. Having said that, it is still an overwhelming thought that Jesus would even think about or care about His mother and friend at this moment while dying. Yet this is the example He gives to us.

**APPLICATION:** We are encouraged by St. Paul that we, too, should be compassionate people of God. What are we encouraged to do as God's dearly loved people in Colossians 3:12? \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves with...

\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**MEMORIZATION:** Colossians 3:12 is a new passage you are encouraged to memorize. We are reminded of His image in which we were created (Genesis 1:27), the image He enables us to reflect to the world. Jesus looked with compassion and saw people who were grieving and in severe pain and agony.

Looking compassionately on them He set aside His own circumstance in order to minister to them with love by granting each to the other. Again, He gives us an example that we should follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

**QUESTION:** What would my life look like if I showed compassion to others by setting aside my circumstances to care for others? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** Compassion is a characteristic of Jesus, God's only Son. Ask the Lord to empower you with compassion. Ask Him to develop within you a heart of compassion for others. Ask Him to enable you to set yourself aside for others in their moment of need. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TWO

# MY GOD, MY GOD

### READINGS FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS - FORSAKEN

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## INTRODUCTION

No suffering was greater for Jesus than the complete abandonment of His Father. God's wrath was ultimately being poured out on His Son when Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" These words provide a new depth of understanding and appreciation for God's words to the Israelites in Deuteronomy, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" and the words of Jesus to His disciples before ascending into heaven, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." What Jesus endured, He did for me! Because He did I will never be separated from the love of God which is mine in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39).

Three more hours on the cross... It's been quiet. The crowd of onlookers has started to disburse. People are making their way into Jerusalem for the Passover and those passing by the crucifixion sight cast their eyes on another notorious criminal, the spotless Lamb of God, breathing His last breaths.

Listen carefully. If you are traveling by, stop for a moment. He's asking for water. It seems as though He has something He wants to say...

**LESSON 2**

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** We are told in Mark 15:33 that around noon, the \_\_\_\_\_ hour, that there was darkness over the whole \_\_\_\_\_. This darkness lasted until the \_\_\_\_\_ hour, or three o'clock. If Jesus spoke during these hours it was not recorded in the Gospels. Although it was high noon, this was the darkest hour. What does Luke 23:45a tell us? \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Mark 15:33-34. "...and Jesus cried out in a loud voice, " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
This means, " \_\_\_\_\_."

**REFLECTION:**

1. Now it was the ninth hour. Jesus is experiencing our sins just reward, the absence of God. He is making the full payment for sin. He is going through hell for us. God the Father has forsaken Him, deserted and abandoned Him.
2. We have never been totally forsaken. Throughout the Bible there are passages reassuring us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. What does God tell us in these references?
  - a. Psalm 27:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Psalm 37:27-28b \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Jeremiah 14:9b \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Hebrews 13:5b \_\_\_\_\_
3. Life can get very difficult. For example, some may speak of marriage as "a living hell." Others may speak of life as "going through hell." Experiences that take life can be gruesome and the question gets asked, "Where was God in all of this?" The suffering some endure can be completely unjust. Sin is the only explanation for life's brutality. Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What Jesus was experiencing on the cross is difficult to comprehend for He was experiencing the wrath of God on sin. Jesus took upon Himself the sin of the whole world. No one could endure it for Him. No one could help Him as He suffered and died. No one could take His place. He alone had to bear it all for us. We can think that to be forsaken means that God didn't answer our prayers as we begged Him to do. We can think that to be forsaken of God means that our loved ones shouldn't die until we say so, and if they do die, we think God has abandoned us. We can

think that to be forsaken of God means we didn't get the job or the raise, the conception of a child, or the health we expected. When Jesus cries out, He cries out as one forsaken by the love of the Father and now endures His wrath, His anger over sin. His suffering and death are because of sin and the devil. Because sin permeated all of creation including you and me, all of creation had to die.

5. You may recall from the study *God's Plan, Our Choice*, the study of Genesis 1-11, that the devil deceived Adam and Eve into rebellion against God and His Word. This rebellion broke the relationship between God and us which we were incapable of reestablishing. This could only be accomplished by God's power. We deserved suffering and death but He wanted life and salvation for us. The work of Jesus is the act of taking into Himself what we deserved. Instead of our death God sent His Son Jesus to die for us in our place. The following passage articulates this well: "The wages of sin is \_\_\_\_\_, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is eternal life in \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 6:23)."

Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

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6. It's interesting to note that nothing more is said about the chief priests and their officials. Did they leave the site of the crucifixion? Had they done what they set out to do? Did they think that once Jesus was crucified and they had finished hurling their insults at Him that they could leave? After all, His death could take hours, even days. The only place that we hear about them again is when they complained to Pilate about what he had written on the notice that was fastened to the cross. The note informed the people of Jesus' criminal charges. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." What did the protesters insist that Pilate write (John 19:21) instead? \_\_\_\_\_

The Jewish officials wanted to distort the truth but by now Pilate must have had enough. He was probably disgusted with himself and His failure to act with power and authority at Jesus' trial.

What was Pilate's answer in response to their demand (verse 22)? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Part 2**

**INTRODUCTION:** It was the ninth hour. Jesus was about to hand over His Spirit to His Father. His work was done but Jesus had something to say before He died.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read John 19:28-30.

**EXERCISE:**

1. In John 13:1 we read that Jesus knew the time had come for Him to leave this world. What did Jesus know (verse 28a)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Everything was complete. He had done the work His Father had sent Him to do. However, the Scriptures needed to be fulfilled in their entirety. So what does Jesus say? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Undoubtedly, Jesus needed water. He had not had anything to drink for nine hours. One can hardly speak when one's mouth is dry. Jesus said, "I thirst." He had one more word to say that He wanted the whole world to hear. His parched dry mouth received the sponge soaked in wine vinegar that had been lifted to Jesus' mouth on the stalk of the hyssop plant. What did Jesus say after had received the drink (verse 30)? \_\_\_\_\_

In the Greek this sentence is translated into one word: *Tetelestai*. The verb tense indicates that it is done, completed, finished for all time and eternity. Nothing more could be done or needed to be done for the salvation of our souls. *Tetelestai!*

4. Jesus wanted everyone to hear Him say to them, "*Tetelestai!*"—not just the women, not just those gathered around the cross, not just the soldiers, but Pilate, Annas and Caiaphas, the chief priests and Jewish rulers. He wanted His disciples to hear wherever they were and the Samaritans and Gentiles everywhere. He wanted those far and near, throughout the world to hear, "*Tetelestai!*" And, He wanted you and me, our neighbors and friends, our coworkers and governments to hear Him say, "*Tetelestai!*"
5. And at that next moment we hear Him say (Luke 23:46), "\_\_\_\_\_."  
\_\_\_\_\_."
6. Jesus had been handed over to Herod, then to Pilate, the crowd and others. Now He hands Himself over to His Father with the words, "Into Your \_\_\_\_\_ I commit my spirit." And Jesus breathed His last. He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. The Gospel writers were careful not to say that Jesus died as though He was a victim of sin, death, and the devil. Rather Jesus wanted us to understand that He entrusted Himself, His spirit and all that He was, to Him who judges justly (1 Peter 2:23b). Again, "Father, into Your \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ My spirit."

**REFLECTION:** Write your reflection as you consider His words, "It is finished!" "*Tetelestai!*"

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**REFLECTION:** Write your reflection as you consider that He wanted *you* to hear Him say it:

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**Part 3**

**EXERCISE:** Some unusual and miraculous things happened at the moment Jesus died.

1. What does Matthew 27:51-52 tell us?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
2. What about the centurion and those guarding with him? What did they have to say about all that they had seen and heard (Matthew 27:54; Luke 23:47)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the response of the women (verse 55)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the response of the onlookers (Luke 23:48) \_\_\_\_\_
5. The day that Jesus died was the Day of Preparation. The next day was a special Sabbath. What was important to the Jews regarding the Sabbath (John 19:31)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Pilate demand the soldiers to do (verse 32)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did the soldiers do about Jesus' body (verse 33)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. The question of whether or not Jesus actually died has been disputed. In verse 34 we are told that when the soldier pierced Jesus' side that "a sudden flow of blood and water" was brought forth. In death the fluid around the heart separates giving the appearance of blood and water. According to verse 35, who saw this happen? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who asked for Jesus' body (verse 38)? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What are we told about Joseph (verse 38; Luke 23:50-51) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



11. Who accompanied him? What do you recall about Nicodemus' visit with Jesus late one night (John 3)? What did he ask Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What did Nicodemus bring with him (verse 39)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What did these men set out to do (verse 40)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. The men were in a rush. It was the Jewish Day of Preparation. What was the location of the tomb (verse 41-42)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. What was special about this tomb (verse 41) \_\_\_\_\_
15. What new information do you learn from Mark 15:43-45? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. Who were the ones watching from a distance? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4**

**REFLECTION:**

1. Do you wonder which one of these characters most suits you? Where do you see yourself? The centurion was awe struck by all that happened. The women watched from a distance. The disciples were nowhere to be found, except for John. Joseph of Arimathea was busy boldly asking Pilate for Jesus' body. Nicodemus helped wrap Jesus' body in grave clothes, in clean linen cloth. And Mary Magdalene grieved the loss of her friend and didn't want to leave the tomb but watched and saw how His body was laid in it and then went home and prepared spices and perfumes. Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. All of the viciousness of the crowd was gone. No one was yelling or making derogatory remarks any more. All three of the crucified men were dead now. The spectacle was over. Joseph and Nicodemus lovingly dismounted Jesus' body from the cross. His flesh was torn and shredded, caked with dried blood. It's quiet. Everyone has gone home to prepare for the Sabbath. Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In the quiet of the late afternoon Jesus' death brought peace. Everything was quiet, the ordeal was over. Not only was it quiet on the hill of crucifixion and in the tomb, but it was quiet within

the hearts and lives of His followers. Or, was it quiet and peaceful? What had just happened? No one could believe that the One they were shouting their praises to a week ago was now dead and buried in a grave. Their world had turned upside down. Their leader/teacher/master was dead. No one can believe it. Everyone was at a loss. Or, were they? The centurion and guard soldiers had second thoughts it seems. What did they say in Matthew 27:54? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Part 5**

### **EXERCISE:**

1. The chief priests and Pharisees were concerned so they took their concern to \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 27:62).
  - a. What word did they use to describe Jesus (verse 63)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What had Jesus said that concerned them (verse 63b)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What was their request (verse 64)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What were they afraid would happen (verse 64b)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Pilate's order (verse 65)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did the guards set out to do (verse 66)? \_\_\_\_\_

Everything was secure from Pilate's perspective. The chief priests and the other officials had done the best they could and were now ready for the Sabbath. The tomb was literally sealed shut! The guard was posted.

**APPLICATION:** Something to think about... Am I more secure and at rest when Jesus is sealed shut inside of a tomb than when He is alive and set free, ministering to people, teaching and inviting me to be His follower? \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIZATION:** You may consider this to be quite a challenge but you are encouraged to take time and write the seven sentences of Jesus on individual index cards and write a sentence or two that reminds you of a teaching from Lesson 5. Don't be afraid to go back and refresh your memory.

1. Father, \_\_\_\_\_
2. Today \_\_\_\_\_
3. Dear woman, \_\_\_\_\_
4. My God, \_\_\_\_\_
5. I \_\_\_\_\_
6. It \_\_\_\_\_ *Tetelestai!*
7. Father, \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** As you pray, include each of these petitions of Jesus. For example, ask your Father to forgive those who are your enemies. Ask for boldness to connect someone to Jesus so they, too, can hear the words that they will be in paradise with Jesus. Thank the Lord for those who are most dear to you and ask that He keep a hedge of protection around them. Thank Jesus for His willingness to endure aloneness believing that He has never left you or abandoned you. Thank Him for increasing your thirst and hunger for a right relationship with Him, that you might always thirst for Him, the Living Water, and for His Word of Life. Thank Him for finishing the work of salvation and for shouting "Tetelestai" from the cross loud enough so you could hear it. And, finally, rest in the arms of the Father who welcomes you home. Commit to Him the difficult parts of life, the rough relationships, the hard work environment that continually wants to deceive you. Thank Jesus for being who He said that He was, the King of Israel!

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# LESSON THREE

## GO AND TELL!

### READINGS FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS – HE IS RISEN!

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The agony of the cross has ended. Passover has ended. It was the first day of the week. The guards were on duty keeping watch over the tomb. The man who called himself the King of the Jews was dead. All the hype of the last couple of days was finally over. It was quiet in Jerusalem once again. Or, so it seemed. At least that's what Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas, and the elders thought. The one who caused such disturbances among the people was no more.

Several different themes reoccur in Lesson 3. Watch for them. Consider the invitation and the command of the angel. Listen closely to what Jesus tells the women. Discern your own responses to the resurrection of Jesus. What has His resurrection initiated in my life? What is His invitation for me? What does He offer and empower me to do?

Quickly, go and tell! He is risen, just as He said!

**LESSON 3**

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** The Sabbath Day came. For the Jews this day of the week was for worship and rest. We can only imagine that the conversations of the day centered on what had happened the day before in Jerusalem. Jesus crucified and dead! For some it was hard to believe and their grief overcame them. For some it was a relief that the one who called Himself the King of the Jews and the Son of God was finally dead and done away with. And some who were Jesus' closest friends and companions, because they were afraid they would be the next to die, hid themselves behind locked doors (John 20:19).

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Matthew 28:1-10. Additional accounts of this story are written in Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-10, and John 20:1-9. You are encouraged to read all four accounts. Each has a different emphasis.

**EXERCISE:** Matthew 28:1-10

1. What day of the week is it (verse 1)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What time of the day was it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who had come to the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

All four Gospel writers mention that Mary Magdalene came. Two mention Mary the mother of James and one makes reference to the other Mary. One mentions Salome and one mentions Joanna. Except for Mary Magdalene we know very little about the other women. We do know that these women followed Jesus and cared for His needs and were with Him when He died (Matthew 27:55-56). Now it was daybreak and they brought \_\_\_\_\_ so they might \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' body (Mark 16:1).

4. What does Mark tell us is the big question on their minds (verse 3)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. As these women approached the tomb what happened according to Matthew 28:2a?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did the angel do (verse 2b)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Verse 3 tells what the angel looked like: \_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened to the guards (verse 4)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did the angel say to the women?

- a. Verse 5a: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Verse 5b: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Verse 6a: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Verse 6b: \_\_\_\_\_
10. What were they instructed to do in verse 7a? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What was the message for the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How were the women feeling as they hurried away from the tomb (verse 8)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What two words in verse 8 give you a sense of their excitement and urgency?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
14. And who do they meet along the way (verse 9)? \_\_\_\_\_
15. “\_\_\_\_\_,” He said. They \_\_\_\_\_ to Him, and took  
hold of His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.”
16. What did Jesus tell them (verse 10)?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 28:16)

**Part 2**

**REFLECTION:**

1. What is one observation you made about the resurrection story? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
What about your observation captured your attention? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The Sabbath Day must have been difficult for the women. No work was permitted on this day which meant that they had to wait until the first day of the week to give Jesus a proper burial. Jesus’ burial had been done in haste in order to complete the work by six that evening for this was when the Sabbath began. One can envision these women consumed with grief. Some had followed Him all the way from Galilee in the north to Jerusalem. One minute He was eating the Passover meal with His disciples and the next minute, it seemed, the unbelievable happened. He was dead on a cross. What had He done wrong? What caused this sudden frenzied madness? Everyone was yelling and shouting. The crowd was out of control. Then suddenly it was over.



He died. That was when unusual things began to happen. The temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life (Matthew 27:51-52). If you had been there and seen Jesus die and now you were in your home and the Sabbath was over, what do you think you would be doing? Your reflections: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Suddenly God initiates the event that forever changed history! Nature announced the resurrection! A violent earthquake shook the ground! Matthew is the only writer to speak of the earthquake, the angel coming, going to the tomb, and rolling back the stone. Who felt the earthquake? What do the other writers say?
- a. Mark 16:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Luke 24:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. John 20:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew even described the appearance of the angel. And when all of this happened we are told that the guards were so afraid that they shook “and became like dead men (verse 4).” Your reflections: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Part 3**

#### **REFLECTION** (continued):

4. The angel sat on the stone. Some fun thoughts might cross your mind when you consider this. The angel must have anticipated visitors coming to the tomb. He held the best news ever and must have been so excited and felt so privileged to announce to the world that Jesus had risen just as He said He would. One wonders if the angel smiled as the guards shook and fell to the ground like dead men. Weren't these the men who were sent to secure the tomb from robbers, namely Jesus' disciples? A violent shake, the angel appeared, the stone rolled away and they are powerless to guard and hold anything secure while lying on the ground as though dead. The tomb was open, exposed, empty, and on display ready for visitors!
5. The first words of the angel to the women were, “\_\_\_\_\_.” He knew that the women came looking for the dead body of their crucified Lord. After all, that's all they had been thinking about since they saw Him placed in the tomb by Joseph and Nicodemus. Now they encounter a dazzling light, clothes as white as snow, and a voice that says, “Do not be afraid.” And then the angel goes on to say that the body they are looking for is not here. What

would be your immediate reaction? Maybe it would be, “Well then, who took it?” The angel tells them the Good News: “He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.”

6. The angel didn't leave the women standing outside but invited them to come in and see the place where he lay. And then he gave the women a directive. What were they to do (verse 7)?

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7. What was the message for the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

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Although the disciples were not the first to the tomb, the concern was that they knew of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. “Go quickly and tell His disciples.” There was an urgency that they find out this Good News!

8. So the women hurried off with this mix of emotions. Although they remained somewhat afraid, their joy compelled them to run and tell the disciples. And on the way, who did they meet but the risen Lord Jesus Himself. They took hold of His feet. They needed to touch Him to know that He was not a ghost but had flesh and blood. And then they responded like all those who have experienced the risen Lord in their lives. They worshipped Him! Jesus reiterated what they heard the angel say, “Do not be afraid.” And the directive was the same, “Go and tell my brothers...” Jesus confirmed what they were told by the angel, what they observed in the tomb, and now what they saw with their own eyes and touched with their own hands. Jesus was alive and risen from the dead!

#### **Part 4**

**APPLICATION:** But what makes this more than an historical event that happened over two thousand years ago? What offers any application for me and my life today? Let's take a look at a couple of things:

1. Jesus' resurrection validates everything He said about Himself and about the relationship that God wants with me a lost and condemned person. He made the heart of the Father visible to us for greater love has no one than this, than someone lay down His life for His friends (John 15:13). Absolutely everything that Jesus said is truth. Everything that Jesus said offers life and salvation. Everyone who believes in Him will have everlasting life. Jesus had said to His disciples in John 14:6, “I am the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. No one \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ except by \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - a. If the resurrection validates everything, what does it mean for me as I consider what He says about Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. If the resurrection validates everything, what does it mean for me as I consider His relationship with me, my relationship with Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. God manifested His divine power in the resurrection.

a. He *initiated* the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The earthquake is almost like a divine stamp of God’s approval on Jesus’ work of redemption. It’s the stamp that reads “PARDONED.” It truly was finished. There was no longer anything needed for salvation. I am no longer a slave to sin. What does God’s stamp of approval on what Jesus did initiate for me in my life? What does His pardon grant me?

i. John 8:32, 36 \_\_\_\_\_

ii. Romans 8:1, 2 \_\_\_\_\_

iii. 2 Corinthians 3:17 \_\_\_\_\_

iv. Galatians 5:1, 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Your thoughts as you consider life as a slave vs. life as one set free: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. He not only initiated the resurrection but He *invites* me to come in and experience it with Him. The angel said, “Come and see...” He shows me the place where His lifeless body was laid to rest. He shows me the place that would have been the final resting place of my dead body had He not died for me. Romans 6:6 says, “For we know that our old \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ with Him...” Verse 8 goes on to say, “Now if we have \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_ that we will also \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.”

c. Christ’s resurrection also proves that we have a Living God as Jesus had said, “He is not the God of the dead but of the living (Matthew 22:32).” All other religions of the world believe that God is either an almighty but unapproachable force, “divine power,” or God is only a philosophy—thus, a dead god. As a Christian, Christ’s resurrection validates God as an intimate, loving God who desires a personal relationship with every human being—thus, the Living God. He offers to you and me a close intimate and loving relationship with Him.

d. There is even more Good News. God made me alive having invited me to participate with Jesus in His death and resurrection. He *ignites* me with His power as He lives in me and works through me. The command of the angel was to go quickly and tell. The

command of Jesus was to go and tell. The command has not changed. I am to go quickly and tell others that He has risen from the dead! His Word is true. He is who He said He is. He has told us the truth. He invites me into His mission to tell everyone what He has done. He invites me and empowers me thus igniting His Word with power and might. After all, John 10:10 tells us that He came in order that we may have \_\_\_\_\_ and have it to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**PRAYER:** As you reflect on God as the one who *initiates* His ultimate grace through Jesus' death and resurrection, as the one who *invites* you into His mission so that all may know of this redeeming grace and as the one who *ignites* you with His powerful love, not leaving you to do the work on your own power but empowered by His Spirit, offer your prayer of praise and thanksgiving. \_\_\_\_\_

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## LESSON FOUR

# AND THEIR EYES WERE OPENED

**MATTHEW 28 AND LUKE 24 – RESURRECTION DAY**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

What a day for Jesus' disciples and the women who cared for them! It started with an earthquake early in the morning and ended with the men returning from Emmaus to report that they had been with Jesus. So much excitement and consternation mixed with their fear of the Jews kept them confined behind locked doors. One moment He's dead and the next He's alive. One moment there's a missing body and the next minute Jesus appears as their Living Lord. One moment they are told to "come and see" and the next moment they are told to "go and tell."

And meanwhile, the chief priests and elders are dealing with guards who reported that an earthquake caused the stone to be rolled away from the tomb and now the dead man's body is missing. What were they going to do with that report?

Eyes were being opened all day long. The guards, chief priests and elders, the women, Peter and John and all the other disciples and followers were beginning to see Truth revealed as never before. As you study become aware of the condition of the eyes of your own heart. Let God's Spirit reveal to you your risen Lord and Savior.

**LESSON 4**

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** Like Pilate, the chief priests and elders had thought they wouldn't have to deal with Jesus any longer. From their point of view, He was dead and sealed up in the grave. There was no way He was going to escape. Let's look at what Matthew tells us in just a few short verses.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Matthew 28:11-15.

**EXERCISE:**

1. Where did the women go? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did the guards go (verse 11)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did they have to report? What had happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Everything had not gone according to plan. Now there's a major glitch for the chief priests and elders to solve. What was the plan they devised (verses 12b-14)?
  - a. They gave the soldiers \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The soldiers were to say \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. And if the governor finds out \_\_\_\_\_
5. Verse 15: "So they took the \_\_\_\_\_ and did as they were \_\_\_\_\_.  
And this \_\_\_\_\_ has been widely \_\_\_\_\_ among the \_\_\_\_\_  
to this very day."

**REFLECTION:**

1. First, money was paid to Judas to betray Jesus. This time money is used to buy lies and deceit. It's interesting that the chief priests and Pharisees referred to Jesus as a deceiver and declared that what He said about His resurrection was deception (Matthew 27:63-64). Who are the ones the devil is using as his disguise for keeping the truth from being told? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. For some it is easier to accept the lies of the soldiers and officials than to believe that God raised His Son from the dead. We can understand the possibility of someone stealing Jesus' body but imagining that He was brought from death to life demands faith. Scripture teaches in Hebrews 11:6 that "without \_\_\_\_\_ it is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

God. And St. Paul says in Romans 1:17c, “The \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_  
by \_\_\_\_\_.”

**APPLICATION:**

1. The religious community made up lies and deceived the people about Jesus’ body. Their actions cause one to wonder just who can one trust. Are you a truth teller? Are you one whom people can come to and trust you will tell the truth? Do they know that with you there will be no attempt to cover-up some wrongdoing? Or, maybe you find it difficult to tell the truth. How would you describe your relationship with the One who is the Truth? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The religious leaders were held prisoners by their lies. Would the soldiers ever reveal what really happened? Would they demand more hush money? They lived in fear that the governor (Pilate) would find out. What would they say that would satisfy him? Their lies and deceit would constantly demand more lies and deceit. This was not what God wanted. The angel said “Go quickly and tell His disciples.” Let the Truth be told. He is risen! The women hurried away from the tomb, maybe even before the soldiers had a chance to revive themselves. They were afraid yet filled with joy. They ran to tell! Jesus met them and to eradicate their fear said, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell!” Their courage to go and tell the disciples gives to us the truth of His resurrection from the dead. You have heard the story from the women. You know what happened early that morning. Are you running, filled with joy, to tell others? Who do you want to tell? Who does Jesus want to know that He is their Living Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** O Lord, You are my Living Lord. Your body was raised from the dead. The angel said, “He is not here. He is risen just as He said.” The grave clothes were left behind. No longer do I need to live in fear; I am released to go and tell others. Give me the courage to tell others that none of us need fear death or the grave any longer. Just as You were raised from the dead, so shall all of us be raised. What joy and comfort I have knowing that my Redeemer lives. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2**

**INTRODUCTION:** Needless to say, this first day of the week was different than any other and never again would there be another one like it. The range of emotions kept everything in commotion. First, the



grief of knowing that Jesus was dead brought the women to the tomb (Mark 16:1). Then the fear that His body had been taken brought Peter and John running to the tomb (John 20:3-8). Jesus' appearance to the women brought confidence (Matthew 28:10) to go and tell the disciples what they had seen and heard. Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene (John 20:10-18), as the resurrected Lord, gave her a new life of joy and comfort.

Peter was wondering to himself what had happened (Luke 24:12). Everything seemed to be happening so fast. He must have been feeling as though every time he turned around someone was bringing more news. Let's look at another story that happened as two of the disciples were walking along the road...

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Luke 24:13-35.

**EXERCISE:**

1. What day is it (verse 1)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where were two men from the group going (verse 13)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What were they talking about (verse 14)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. As they were walking and talking, what happened (verse 15)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the interesting phenomenon that occurred (verse 16)? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What question did Jesus ask that caused them to stop walking (verse 17)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did their faces reflect in verse 17? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did Cleopas ask Jesus (verse 18)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. And Jesus answered (verse 19a): \_\_\_\_\_
10. How did they describe Jesus of Nazareth in verse 19?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What events did these men relate to Jesus (verses 20-24)?
  - a. Verse 20: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Verse 21: What was their hope? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How long had it been since all of this has happened? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Verses 22 and 23: What did the women do?
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_

- e. Verse 24: What did their companions find? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
12. What was Jesus' response (verse 25)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_
13. What did He ask them (verse 26)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Jesus used Moses and the prophets to do what (verse 27)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
15. What happened when they approached the village (verse 28-29)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
16. What did Jesus do at the table (verse 30)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
17. What happened to the two men (verse 31)? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What happened to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What did they ask each other (verse 32)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
20. They had a story to tell! What did they do (verse 33)? \_\_\_\_\_
21. Who all was assembled? \_\_\_\_\_
22. What did those assembled have to say (verse 34)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
23. What did the two who had walked to Emmaus share (verse 35)?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Part 3**

#### **REFLECTION:**

1. It is easy to imagine these two disciples walking along and talking about the events of the past few days. To them nothing was as important as their Master's suffering and death. And now, to make things more complicated, reports were that the tomb was found empty and His body was gone. The women couldn't find it in the tomb. Peter and John went to the tomb to confirm what the women had said and they couldn't find His body. Was Jesus suffering and death all about His body and now the fact that it was missing? Was this all everyone was talking about? What was it that the angel had said (Luke 24:5b-6)? \_\_\_\_\_

Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you think you would be talking about if you were walking with these men? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION:**

1. Do the events and happenings in my own life keep me from seeing Jesus? Consider a time when you have been so captivated in the events/happenings in your life that Jesus seemed obscure and unrecognizable: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are my expectations of Jesus? What do I expect Him to do for me, my family, and my friends? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do I expect Him to do for those who follow Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do my own expectations of Jesus keep me from seeing Jesus for who He is? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The people expected to find Jesus' body in a tomb. Where am I looking for Jesus? Where do I hope to find Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where did Jesus tell the disciples they would find Him (Luke 24:27) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4**

**REFLECTION:**

1. It was late afternoon when they arrived in Emmaus and they invited Jesus to stay for dinner. Verse 29 says that they "urged Him strongly." Showing hospitality to the stranger can be a rich blessing.
- a. St. Paul encourages us with the words, " \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 12:13)."
  - b. In Hebrews 13:2 we are told: "Do not \_\_\_\_\_ to show \_\_\_\_\_ to strangers, for thereby some have \_\_\_\_\_ angels \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Jesus was ready to reveal Himself to these men. When He was at the table with them,
- a. He \_\_\_\_\_,
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_,

- c. and \_\_\_\_\_ it and gave it to them.
3. So much had been happening all day long but Jesus had one more happening that He wanted them to experience. What was the happening that took place at the table (verse 31)? “Their \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_, and they \_\_\_\_\_ Him. And He \_\_\_\_\_ from their \_\_\_\_\_.” They personally encountered the Living Lord Jesus!

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. What is it like to have my heart burning within me while He talks with me and opens the Scripture to me? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What change might I make in my life that would give me more “heart burn” experiences?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** O most holy Lord, the resurrection is all about You. You are the One sent by the Father to redeem Israel. You are the One sent by the Father to redeem me. Through Your Word open my eyes to see You and cause my heart to burn within me. Give me the energy and zeal to share with others the truth that You have risen from the dead! May I never cease to give to You my thanks and praise. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON FIVE

# I AM SENDING YOU

## JOHN 20:19-23 – JESUS, MY PEACE

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### OVERVIEW OF LESSON 5

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## **INTRODUCTION**

One would think that the day with all of its activities was over and those gathered together were physically and emotionally spent. However, the day was not over for the disciples. The Emmaus disciples had just returned tired from their long walk and yet so eager to share their experience. They were still relating their story to the others when Jesus appeared again. Where was it this time?

The Resurrected Lord offers gifts to those who follow Him. As you study Lesson 5 watch for these gifts! They are gifts from Him who first gives them to His disciples and now passes them on to you and me. Receive them graciously and with thanksgiving. Carefully unwrap them and listen intensely as Jesus tells you about them. Ask Jesus how to best use these gifts to honor His most holy name and to glorify our Father who is in heaven.

**LESSON 5**

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** This next story is recorded in John’s Gospel. We were told that after Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples in Emmaus they returned at once to Jerusalem (Luke 24:33). What did the Eleven tell them when they arrived (verse 34)?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Then the two told the others (verse 35):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Luke tells us in verse 36 that “while they were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Himself \_\_\_\_\_ among them and said, ‘\_\_\_\_\_!’”

We will pick up with this next story in John 20.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read John 20:19-23.

**EXERCISE:**

1. What time of the day is it (verse 19)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. What had happened earlier that day (verse 1ff)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What was all the confusion about (verses 2, 9)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where were the disciples? What was the setting (verse 19)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why were they afraid? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Quite simply, John tells us that \_\_\_\_\_ came and \_\_\_\_\_ among them (verse 19).
5. What was His greeting? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Luke 24:37 tells us the immediate reaction of the disciples: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Jesus asked them why are you \_\_\_\_\_ and why do \_\_\_\_\_ rise in your minds? Their initial reaction to Jesus’ appearance was that Jesus was a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. To bring them from their fear to the reality of His presence what did He tell them (Luke 24:39)?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

9. What was their reaction once they saw His hands and feet (verse 41)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

All of this was too good to be true!

10. Turn to John 20 once again. John also reports, “They were \_\_\_\_\_ when they saw the Lord (verse 20b).”

**REFLECTION:**

1. It isn’t difficult to imagine that those locked in the room were exhausted. It had been a long day beginning with the early morning report from the women and then the race to the tomb that left John believing and Peter still wondering what had happened. Then in the middle of all of the confusion Mary Magdalene reported that she had seen the Lord and to top it off the disciples returned from their trip to Emmaus saying that Jesus showed up there. What more could happen that day? Put yourself in their place. What would you make of all of this? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Then there’s the gamut of emotions. Undoubtedly, they were scared one minute and living with hope the next. They were frightened and troubled and then overjoyed and amazed at what seemed too good to be true...but, maybe impossible. After all, how could He be raised from the dead? They knew He was dead. Nicodemus and Joseph buried Him. Now, it seems, He’s showing up everywhere. What would you make of all of this? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2**

**EXERCISE:**

1. Jesus repeats what He had said earlier: “\_\_\_\_\_ (John 20:21a).”
2. Then He says to them, “As the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ Me, even so I am \_\_\_\_\_ you.”
3. Verse 22: Then what did He do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 And, what did He say? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Verse 23: He goes on and what does He tell them? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**TEACHING:** Jesus, the Resurrected Lord, comes and brings four gifts to His people, to His sent ones, to you and me. These gifts are all mentioned in these three verses, John 20:21-23.

1. Jesus brings the gift of His *peace*.

What gift could these people need more than peace? They were experiencing anything but peace. Their leader had been executed. One of their friends not only betrayed their leader but then committed suicide. They had never seen such violence and hatred from their religious leaders. Their dream of Israel's release from the oppression of the Romans was squelched. Their expectations shattered. They all might have thought that He would come down from the cross and save Himself and them but He died and left them with fear for their own lives.

What had been going on behind locked doors? Did they talk about what went wrong, how everything happened so fast, how He had warned them? Did they recall what He had said? Did they admit to themselves and one another that they didn't believe it was possible? Did they admit that they didn't want to believe He would really die? Were they feeling guilty for abandoning and deserting Jesus just as He said they would? Now they were overwhelmed with fear of the Jews. When would they come after them? Everyone knew they were His followers.

Were they experiencing the reality of their own powerlessness? They had no power over their leader. At this moment they had no idea where He was. They had no power over their circumstances and no power over death. They didn't even have power over responses to their fear and had no power over their future. They were powerless! With this upheaval of emotions, insecurity and fear they longed for the gift of peace! Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Peace is ours. It heals our relationship with God and restores our relationship with our fellow human beings. Peace reconciles us to the Father through the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross. Peace is God's gift to those who believe that He is the Savior of the world. Peace enables us to hear God's plan and hear His invitation to us to join Him as He seeks to reach out and save those who are lost and don't know His love. Peace enables us to breathe deep and receive His power through the Spirit who empowers me and all believers to participate in His purpose of bringing forgiveness, hope, and new life to all through the message of Jesus, our Resurrected Lord! Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION:**

1. What do you fear? Does the thought of Jesus greeting you with the words, “Peace be with you” startle you? He wants to come in so you can touch Him, feel Him, embrace Him and see Him as He is. He’s alive! He has conquered death!
2. Jesus is alive and wants to come into the locked places in your life, in your heart. He *wants* to penetrate the walls, doors, locks and any other barriers you may be hiding behind. He *wants* to say to you, “Peace be with you.” He *wants* to give you Himself.
3. Where in your life do you want Him to bring His gift of peace? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Part 3**

**TEACHING** (continued):

2. Jesus brings the gift of His *plan*.

He said to them, “As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.” We may question if this is much of a gift. The Father sent Him and He was crucified. Now He’s sending me? I don’t know about this...

He holds the plan, His vision for the world and invites me to participate in it. His vision has been going on since the beginning of time. His plan is to establish His Kingdom and He desires all humankind to belong and be a part of it. The Resurrected Lord tells those gathered that they are a part of the plan and the plan is really quite simple:

- a. I am sending you. I am the One with the authority. Authority is given. Because I am sending you, you have My authority.
- b. You will be my witnesses. You will give witness to me, not to yourselves. You will testify of what you have seen, heard, and know.
- c. You will go to the ends of the earth. This is my vision.

**APPLICATION:**

1. Does Jesus’ gift of His plan scare you? Have you ever used someone else’s authority? Envision what His plan means for your life as He authorizes you to use His authority: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Understanding that we are all sent by Him and told to “Go” where is a place He is sending you to bring His peace and power? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Jesus is asking me to die to self. He died in order that I might live. What needs to die within me so that through my life someone might receive eternal life from Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** Take a moment and give thanks for the gift of peace and for His invitation and to be sent with His authority. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TEACHING** (continued):

3. Jesus brings the gift of His *power*.  
“He \_\_\_\_\_ on them and said to them, “\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 20:22).” He breathed on them. His breath holds life and gives life. In Genesis 2 God becomes intimately involved with the creation of man. What are we told in verse 7b? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Isaiah 42:5 we are told that He “gives \_\_\_\_\_ to His people.”

God’s power is His gift to us and it comes by means of His Holy Spirit. Luke 24:49 says that you” are \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ from on high.” In John 20:22 He said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” It’s as though He’s saying, “Take a deep breath. Inhale and receive My Spirit.” The Holy Spirit is His power to accomplish the plan! With His Spirit there are no barriers that cannot be overcome for God Himself partners with us. We are not setting out on our own and hoping that God will empower us. We are joining Him on His mission.

**APPLICATION:**

1. Each day I ask for a fresh outpouring of God’s Spirit on my life in order that I might...
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Each day I ask to be released from all that would keep me from joining God on His mission to establish His Kingdom in the heart and lives of those I am reaching as His witness, namely...

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** Each day I thank Him for the partnership that He and I share together: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part 4**

**TEACHING** (continued):

4. Jesus brings the gift of His *purpose*.

Jesus' purpose for sending us with the life giving breath of His Spirit is that through our lives others might receive the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness is the exchange for sin. Jesus forgave us and took our sin upon Himself. God's love initiates God's purpose. God did not love us because Jesus died for us. No, Jesus died for us because God loved us. John 3:16 reminds us that God loved us and gave His Son. God gave Jesus to save us, not to condemn us (John 3:17).

People everywhere seek purpose and meaning in their lives. They ask, "What is my purpose in life?" This is a universal question. We long for a purpose larger than "eating, drinking, and being merry." We want to live a life that matters. In this story, Jesus links His purpose to our purpose. Just as the Father sent Him to bring love, forgiveness and peace to the world so Jesus now gives us the same purpose. Whether in my home or work, exercise room or neighborhood I can be a person who forgives, loves, and brings peace. This is a great purpose! This gives meaning to life. This has *eternal* value.

**APPLICATION:**

1. Which of these four gifts is/are most precious to you right now? \_\_\_\_\_

Because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Knowing these gifts come to me from the Resurrected Lord, how might I utilize these gifts in order to become a more effective partner with Him in His mission?

- a. The gift of His peace: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. The gift of His plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. The gift of His power: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. The gift of His purpose: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** Bring your life before the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for His generous gifts to you that make your life significant and meaningful. Ask for His guidance and direction as you use these gifts. Seek to use these gifts with great intention and ask that He grant you an awareness of the many opportunities in which these gifts will be used to bless the lives of others. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# LESSON SIX

# DO YOU LOVE ME?

**JOHN 21:1-19 – FOLLOW ME**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The disciples had gone up to Galilee as Jesus had instructed them. One gets a sense that these men were bored. In John 21 they decided to go fishing. What happened? Discover an analogy between their catch of fish and the work of God's people, the Church. What might the catch of fish communicate to them regarding their ministry as fishers of men?

We may ask the question, "Can God use me?" But often we may really want to know, "Can I do something so bad that God cannot and will not use me?" Peter had done what he never thought possible when he denied his Lord. We were told that in remorse he went out and wept bitterly. Forgiveness was immediate. God never withholds forgiveness. Jesus, however, knew there was another issue that needed to be resolved. In Lesson 6 take a moment and sit quietly by Jesus and listen to his conversation with Peter. Maybe Jesus is answering your question as well



**LESSON 6**

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** This next story in *God's Love, Our Life* happened sometime later. Much of the story has to do with fishing, fish, and fishermen. Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." He began His ministry to some fishermen with these words and in John 21 we find the words once again, "Follow Me."

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read John 21:1-14.

**EXERCISE:**

1. Where does this story take place (verse 1)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who were those gathered together (verse 2)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was Peter going to do (verse 3)? \_\_\_\_\_  
and the others said \_\_\_\_\_
4. How did fishing go that night? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore. What are we told about the disciples (verse 4)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Jesus called out to them. "\_\_\_\_\_."
7. Of course, they hadn't caught anything so what does He tell them (verse 6a)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. And the result was (verse 6b): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who recognized Jesus first (verse 7)? \_\_\_\_\_ and he told \_\_\_\_\_:  
"It is the \_\_\_\_\_."
10. What was Peter's immediate reaction (verse 7b)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What did the other disciples do (verse 8)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What had been prepared for them before they even arrived (verse 9)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What did Jesus ask them to do (verse 10)? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Peter climbed on board and helped to drag the net ashore. What are we told (verse 11)?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Jesus invited them to \_\_\_\_\_ and have \_\_\_\_\_.
16. All of the disciples \_\_\_\_\_ it was the \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 12).
17. What did Jesus do with the fish and the bread (verse 13)? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2**

**REFLECTION:**

1. It's interesting to observe Peter in these few verses. Both the angel at the tomb and Jesus had told the women to tell His disciples to go to Galilee and wait for Him there. We find Jesus there in Galilee but Peter appears to be bored, sitting around with the other disciples and, apparently, with nothing to do. Waiting with nothing to do was difficult for Peter so he decided to go fishing and the others decided to go with him. The next thing we read about him he's jumping out of the boat and into the water in order to swim to Jesus! Then he's climbing aboard the boat and helping to drag ashore the net full of large fish. He seems to be exploding with energy! It's as though he can't do enough for Jesus...or...maybe he's uncomfortable around Jesus because of unresolved issues...or... In the light of his betrayal of his master, what might be going on with Peter? Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
2. We've glanced for a moment at Peter, the fisherman. Now, what are your thoughts about the miraculous catch of fish (verse 6) and the nets that didn't tear (verse 11)? Is this difficult to believe? Is this the crux of the story? How might the story of the fish and the nets reveal God's heart for people who have yet to come to know Him, for those yet to be caught and wrapped in the love of God (net) and brought into His Kingdom, His Church (boat)? The size of the catch is more than any of these men imagined and yet, regardless of the size of the catch, the nets did not break. What point was Jesus making? What was the Master Fisherman teaching them? What was possible with the simple directive to throw their net on the other side of the boat? How do we partner with Jesus and others throwing, hauling, and towing the net in order to bring the fish to Jesus (verse 10)? How do we partner with Jesus and one another to capture the world in His net? Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION:**

1. Jesus said, "Throw your net..." As one fishing for men, what is the net that I am throwing?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where am I throwing my net? Is it in my home? My neighborhood? My carpool? Where are the fish? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jesus said, "Bring some...you have caught..." You're a fisherman, fishing for those God loves! Share your story. Jesus wants to hear all about your catch! What was your bait? Where did you go? Did you use a net? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who are you inviting to fish with you? If others follow you, will they learn how to be fishermen? What will you *show* them so they can learn? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3**

**INTRODUCTION:** Jesus still had some unfinished business with Peter. Things were not resolved. Peter, undoubtedly, knew that he had been forgiven. We do know that Jesus had appeared to Him on the day of His resurrection (Luke 24:34) and we can only imagine what it must have been like for Peter to have all of his wondering about what happened (Luke 24:12) dissolved by the presence of his Resurrected Lord. But, the unresolved question remained, "Jesus, can I sin so badly that you will refuse to use me?"

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read John 21:15-19

**EXERCISE:**

1. They had just finished breakfast and Jesus began talking with Peter. What did He ask Peter (verse 15)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. And Peter responded, "\_\_\_\_\_."
3. Jesus answered, "\_\_\_\_\_."
4. Verses 16 and 17 are almost a repeat of verse 15. Do you love me? You know that I do. Feed my sheep. Peter denied Jesus three times and for each time He asked Peter the same question and gave Peter the same directive. The metaphor changes. John told a fishing story but Jesus refers to \_\_\_\_\_. "Feed my \_\_\_\_\_."
5. Then in verse 18 Jesus shared with Peter what would happen to him when he was old:
  - a. What did Jesus say about when he was younger? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. What did Jesus say would happen when he was old? \_\_\_\_\_

6. It is interesting to hear how Jesus talks about Peter's death. He talked about it like He did His own. Jesus spoke of Peter's death as a means of \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 19). *Note:* Tradition says that Peter and his wife were both crucified and that Peter was crucified upside down. It's hard to believe that such a death gives glory to God but faith rests in Jesus' words.
7. Then Jesus reinstated Peter with the same words He used three years earlier when He called Peter in Matthew 4:20. "\_\_\_\_\_." The Lord knew Peter's heart. He knew Peter had denied Him. He knew that Peter was sorry for what he had done and repented. We know he went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:62). Peter needed to know if he was still valuable to Jesus. Jesus made things quite clear. "You, Peter, *follow Me*, even to the cross and, I tell you, whether in living or in dying you will glorify God."

#### **Part 4**

**APPLICATION:** We, too, are told to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we follow Him. Hebrew 12:2 says, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus who...endured the cross...Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted." Knowing a little more about Peter from this story in John 21 and now reading about Jesus and the cross in Hebrews 12, I am challenged to "fix my eyes on Jesus."

1. What does that mean for me as I consider my friendships? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does that mean for me as I consider my lifestyle? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does that mean for me as I consider my cross? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **REFLECTION:**

1. Luke tells us something that is not recorded in any of the other Gospels. What did Jesus say to Peter in Luke 22:31-32? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Consider this passage in the light of John 21:15-17. Jesus told Peter:
  - a. Verse 15: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Verse 16: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Verse 17: \_\_\_\_\_

Peter was given the opportunity to express His love to Jesus by strengthening his brothers (Luke 22:32).

3. In the light of Peter’s own denial of Jesus, how might this personal life experience—having denied Jesus and received His forgiveness—have given meaning to his message and strength to the brothers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. As one who lives knowing God’s forgiveness, how might your own weaknesses and failures be a means God uses to strengthen others? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIZATION:** Jesus spoke of sheep another time in John 10:3b-4. “He calls his own sheep

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Him for they know His voice.”

For those who are a bit more ambitious and would like to add another section of God’s Word to their memory library, Peter himself encourages us through a letter he wrote to the churches throughout Asia Minor, modern day Turkey. In 1 Peter 5:2 he encourages the church leaders: “Shepherd the flock of God

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

as God would have you...”

**PRAYER:** O Jesus, once again I hear Your Words, “Follow Me.” You ask me to feed Your sheep that they may also follow You if they hear Your voice because they know You. May I be faithful in my service to You as I follow You with my eyes fixed on You. Hold me close to You and when I stray and do wrong, restore Your wandering sheep. Jesus, in humility I bow before You knowing that apart from You I can do nothing and with You all things are possible. Grant me the courage to throw my net in order that You might bring others into the safety of Your loving arms by Your resurrection power. \_\_\_\_\_



## LESSON SEVEN

# GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

### MARK 16 – JESUS’ COMMAND

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## **INTRODUCTION**

So, where is Jesus now? He seems to have just disappeared behind a cloud. He said He would never leave us nor forsake us. Then where is he? In a way, we may feel a little like the disciples looking up in the clouds wondering what happened to their Victorious Leader. Where did He go?

Lesson 7 concludes the study of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. All biblical history pointed toward this one moment in time. The Old Testament looks forward to the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ who was promised by God to be the Redeemer. The New Testament believers look back to the cross and the empty tomb for in Jesus' death and resurrection we have all that we need for this life and the next. We have a Savior who did it all. He did for us what we were not able to do for ourselves. He redeemed us with His precious body and blood, sacrificed for the forgiveness of our sins.



**LESSON 7**

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** We have heard the greatest story ever told. Three of the four Gospels, however, contain one more story. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us what happened to Jesus. After all, He did die but He also rose again. He lived and showed Himself alive to many, especially to His disciples and to those who followed Him. But where is He now? Is He still alive and living somewhere? What happened to Him? Let's listen to what the Gospels say.

**TEACHING:** We need to take time to backtrack. We need to return to Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin in Matthew 26:63-64. Caiaphas, the high priest, demanded that Jesus say whether or not He was the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. What was Jesus' reply in verse 64a?

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus proceeds to give a prophecy in verse 64. What does He say to all of them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who was this "Power" that Jesus mentions? See Mark 16:19. \_\_\_\_\_

And, what does it mean that Jesus will be sitting at the right hand of this Power? Sitting at the right hand indicated that Jesus was the voice of God. Recall what John says in John 1:1, 2. He refers to Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_ who became flesh and dwelled among us.

Sitting at the right hand is the position of the Son, the position of the Prince, the firstborn Son of the Father. This is the position of rule and of authority, the position of power. What is the power that Jesus has according to Ephesians 1:19-21? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What additional insight do we receive regarding the right hand of God from these references?

- a. Romans 8:34? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Hebrews 1:3b-4? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Hebrews 12:2? \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read the story shared in Mark 16:9-16 and see Jesus' prophecy fulfilled. Mark's account very briefly summarizes Easter and what followed. (Current Biblical scholars believe that originally Mark ended with verse 8 and that the remaining verses were added a few years later.)

Nevertheless, these verses support the resurrection events in the other Gospels and give us additional insights.)

**EXERCISE:**

1. To whom did Jesus first appear on the day He rose (verse 9)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are we told about her? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. After she had seen Jesus to whom did she go and tell (verse 10a)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How are they described (verse 10b)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was their reaction to the news that Mary brought to them (verse 11)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Mark goes on to tell us about the men who were traveling to \_\_\_\_\_  
See Luke 24:13ff. What did they report? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the reaction of the disciples to their report (Mark 16:13)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Later Jesus appeared to whom (verse 14)? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Jesus rebuked them for \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_
10. In spite of their refusal to believe what did Jesus tell them (verse 15-16)? “\_\_\_\_\_ into  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel to the whole  
\_\_\_\_\_. Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_  
will be \_\_\_\_\_, but whoever does not \_\_\_\_\_ will be  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

**Part 2**

**REFLECTION:** Let’s stop here for a moment to reflect on a couple of things.

1. The disciples were so caught up in their weeping and mourning that they seemed to prefer their grief to the Good News that Mary and the other women brought to them, the good news that Jesus was alive. He had risen! They did not \_\_\_\_\_ it.
2. The two men had encountered Jesus on their way to Emmaus and when their eyes were opened they recognized Jesus, turned around, and walked all the way back to Jerusalem where the disciples were hiding out in order to report that Jesus was alive. They had seen Him. He had risen! Again, according to Mark’s Gospel, the disciples do not \_\_\_\_\_ them either.

3. So, Jesus showed up while the Eleven were eating. Remember, Jesus wanted the women to tell His disciples that He had risen (Matthew 28:9-10). They would be the first to know. Instead, they respond to their news in unbelief. For what does Jesus rebuke them?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

One can't help but wonder if Jesus would say the same thing to people today, especially rebuking those who are stubborn and refuse to believe." Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION:** If Jesus came to dinner at your house, would He rebuke you for your lack of faith and your "stubborn refusal" to believe those who have shared with you all that they had seen and heard?

Why? Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIZATION:** Mark 16:15-16 are words that Jesus spoke to His disciples. It was the command to GO. It was the command to go into all the WORLD. It was the command to go into all the world and PREACH the Good News to all creation. It was the promise that whoever BELIEVES and is baptized will be saved. It was also His Word that said and whoever does not \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_. But know that it is only unbelief that condemns a person. Whoever does not believe shall be condemned.

Write these verses on one of your index cards. These words spoken by Jesus offer us comfort in knowing that if we believe we will be saved. We will be given life eternal. Carry this Good News around in your pocket or in your purse. It's the best news you can share!

**PRAYER:** O Lord Jesus, give me the faith to believe that You have indeed risen from the dead. Give me the faith to believe that because You live, I shall live also. Give me the faith to believe that this Good News holds my salvation. Give me the courage to go into all the world and share this Good News that others might know You, Jesus, as the Lord and Savior of their life. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Part 3**

**INTRODUCTION:** As we continue in Mark 16 note the number of times the word "believe" is used. What was the issue for Mark? To him, what was the crux of the resurrection message? Was it only that

the events of Easter happened? He seems upset with the disciples, those who knew Him the best. They were the ones who were invited to “follow Me.” They were the ones who gave Jesus the bread and fish and experienced 5000 people fed. They were the ones who sat at His feet listening as He taught them. Didn’t these men understand that it was faith that enabled them to believe who He was? It was faith that enabled them to believe that He was the Son of God, their Living Lord. Were some of them so stubborn that they refused to believe? Jesus called them to have faith and believe. Jesus called them to set aside their unbelief and believe that what they had been told was true. But Jesus didn’t abandon them because of their unbelief. He loved them to the end and appeared to the Eleven so they could see for themselves. And then He said to Thomas (John 20:29), “Have you have \_\_\_\_\_ because you have seen Me? \_\_\_\_\_ are those who have not seen Me and yet have \_\_\_\_\_.”

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Mark 16:17-18.

**EXERCISE:**

1. Jesus said that signs would accompany those who believe. He said, “In my name they will:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. In the Book of Acts we are told these things happened. Begin to see the signs that would accompany those who believe. What are the signs in these references?
  - a. Acts 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Acts 8:7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Acts 16:18 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Acts 10:46 \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Acts 19:6 \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Acts 28:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

**REFLECTION:**

1. Were these the same men who refused to believe what they were told? Could Jesus use them in spite of their reluctance to believe? Would Jesus use them to carry out His ministry? What kind of men were they? What kind of a teacher or rabbi would leave His ministry in their hands?  
Your reflections: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. At this point one can't help but wonder if some of them ever believed but only doubted. Your reflections: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. It's important to understand the difference between "believing" and "having faith in." One can believe many things, even things that are untrue. To have faith in Jesus is more than believing that what He has done is true. To have "faith in" means trusting what Jesus has done for one's own personal salvation. Thus, when Christians say, "I believe in Jesus" they are really saying that I am putting my trust in Him for my life now and for the eternal life He offers. Faith trusts God. Your reflections: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Jesus certainly left them with a message of Good News that He wanted all creation to hear. Again, we are reminded: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved!" The heart that believes longs to become God's child in baptism. For in baptism God acts. God initiates. God lays claim to us making us His children, giving us His Name (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). In baptism we are commissioned to "Go into all the world." We are His children invited into His mission! Your reflections: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. One can't help but ask, "What about the individual who is not baptized? Will that person be condemned?" Jesus told the disciples that only those who did not believe would be condemned. Unbelief is the only factor that can condemn a person. Belief offers life and salvation. Your reflections: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part 4**

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read again Mark 16:19-20

#### **EXERCISE:**

1. After Jesus finished speaking to His disciples, what happened (verse 19)?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Luke adds a little more. After Jesus spoke to the disciples He \_\_\_\_\_ them (Luke 24:50). And while He was blessing them, He \_\_\_\_\_ from them and was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The Book of Acts was also written by St. Luke. He gives us more information in Acts 1:9. What interesting things do you note in verses 9-11?
- A \_\_\_\_\_ took Him out of their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - And then what happened? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What did the angels ask the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - What did the angels tell them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In Matthew 28:17 we are told that the disciples \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. And then comes the haunting words, “but some \_\_\_\_\_.” Had Jesus invested His life and ministry in some who never believed but only continued to doubt Him? Of course, we do not know. We do know what Mark and Luke tell us.
- Mark 16:20 says that
    - the disciples went out and \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere.
    - and the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ with them
    - and the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ the message by accompanying \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Luke 24:52 says that
    - they \_\_\_\_\_ Him
    - and \_\_\_\_\_ to Jerusalem with \_\_\_\_\_.
    - and they were \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ God.

**REFLECTION:**

- Jesus blessed His disciples. They worshipped Him. He left them. They returned to Jerusalem with great joy. He went to prepare a place for them (John 14:2). They stayed continually at the temple praising God. Does it get any better than that? Do you notice anything missing? Return to Acts 1:4. What is the command that Jesus gave His disciples? Do not \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What was the gift His Father had promised? See John 14:25-26. Jesus is having Passover with His disciples before He is betrayed. What was His promise for which they were to wait?
- Who would the Father send? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What would the Spirit do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What are other things we are told about the Spirit in John 14:16?
  - a. What other names are given? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How will we know Him (verse 17)?
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_

2. It's difficult to comprehend but God's Spirit lives *with* us and if that is not overwhelming we need to understand that His Spirit lives *in* us. His promise is to never leave us nor forsake us. The Spirit of Truth, Jesus Himself, lives *with* us and lives *in* us. But, the Spirit of Truth had not yet come. This is why they were sent to Jerusalem and to wait for His coming.

## **Part 5**

**INTRODUCTION:** Sometimes the timeline of events gets a little fuzzy. It's difficult to know exactly when things happened and in what order they occurred. Several times after the resurrection Jesus gave the instruction that His disciples were to go to Galilee and there they would see Him (Matthew 28:7, 10). It's difficult to know when Jesus met them there. We do know that there were 40 days from the resurrection until His ascension into heaven so it could have happened during those days. Another uncertainty is if He ascended from the mountain referred to in Galilee (Matthew 28:16) or if He ascended somewhere outside of Bethany which was in Judea. Certainly where and when He ascended is not the crucial point. The words of Jesus to His disciples, however, provide the same teaching for us today as it did for them so many years ago. The words of Jesus to the Eleven recorded in Matthew 28:18-20 have been the marching orders of God's people throughout the history of time.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Matthew 28:16-20.

### **EXERCISE:**

1. Where did the disciples go (verse 16)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did they go there? \_\_\_\_\_
3. They saw Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
4. But, some \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus came to them. What did He tell them in verse 18? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Therefore! What is Jesus' directive to the Eleven (verse 19)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
7. ...and (verse 20) \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is His promise (verse 20b)? \_\_\_\_\_

**TEACHING:** There are three signature verses in Scripture that hold the God's Good News for us in a nutshell. Find them as referenced and write them out in their entirety.

1. John 3:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

In John 3 we are reminded that God acted out of His love for all humankind. His desire was and continues to be that the whole world is saved from sin, death, and the devil. God the Father acted by giving that which was most precious to Him, His one and only Son. He gave in order that all who believed in His Son as their Savior would be saved and given eternal life. God the Father did not send Jesus for the purpose of condemning the world but to save it!

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

St. Paul wrote these words to the church in Ephesus and these same words are said for us to hear today. We are saved by grace, by God's love for us that can never be earned or worked for or deserved. We are saved by His gift of grace to us, His gift of love. His love is a free gift that can never be attained by anything we do. It is a gift that can only be received through faith in the redeeming work of Jesus. To us God says that His Son has done it all. *Tetelestai!*

3. Matthew 28:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

In Matthew 28 Jesus tells us that all authority is His. It has been given to Him by His Father. Now He says to His disciples, to us and to those who come after us, "Go and make disciples of all nations! This is His invitation to us to join Him in His mission to make disciples, to baptize in His Name, and to teach obedience to His Word. Above all, He gives His promise to always be



with us, to the very end of the age. With these words we know that we are privileged for we belong to His Kingdom and are His children. With these words we know that the privilege holds a responsibility, the responsibility to be His messengers of such Good News for all humankind. With these words we are given the assignment, the assignment to teach others all that we ourselves have been taught whether much or little. With these words we have the promise, the promise of His presence which grants to us His peace which passes all understanding.

**MEMORIZATION:** You probably have already guessed what will be your challenge for memory work. The desire is that these three passages be so etched in your memory that you might be reassured of your own salvation through faith in the work and words of the Lord. And, the desire is also that you might never have a dull moment in your life as you enthusiastically join God in His ongoing mission to all the world and with Him make disciples.

If you have not done so already, be sure to write out these verses on index cards and enjoy the challenge of not only the memory work but also following Jesus in obedience to His call: “Go, make disciples!”

**APPLICATION PLAN:**

1. Identify one area of your life in which you consider yourself sent on God’s mission and invited to share with Him in the assignment to “Go, make disciples!” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Knowing that you are one who is sent by God into His world, what difference does this make for you in the way you live your life, carrying out your daily responsibilities and activities?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** Yes, Lord, I want to say “Yes” to You and to Your invitation to join You in Your mission. I admit that I know and can comprehend so little of Your love for me, Your grace that offers forgiveness for all of my wrongdoings and shortcomings. I am overwhelmed that in spite of what You know about me that You want me to join You. I desperately need to know that Your presence will always be with me. I need the reassurance that You are not only *with* me but that You are *in* me. Use me, Lord, as You open my eyes to see opportunities to share Your love in the workplace, at school, in my neighborhood, and within my family. Thank You for this privilege, responsibility and assignment. May I faithfully serve You all the days of my life. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**UNIT REVIEW**

**GOD'S LOVE,  
OUR LIFE**

**PART 1 AND PART 2**

**REVIEW**

Congratulations! You have completed both parts of the study *God's Love, Our Life*. You are familiar with the passion story, the story of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection as told by the four Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Although Jesus knew that He would be betrayed, denied, flogged, mocked, and crucified, He remained obedient to the will of His Father. He knew that He was to accomplish the purpose for which He was sent. We followed Him from the Passover meal with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane where He wrestled in prayer. We watched as Judas kissed Him and the soldiers led Him off to Annas and Caiaphas. We sat in silence as we watched the mock trial with the spitting, slapping, and scourging of the soldiers. And then Jesus was sent to Pilate who found nothing wrong with Him, so he sent Jesus off to Herod. After Herod's disappointment that Jesus would not perform for him, Herod handed Him back to Pilate. Pilate had Him crucified with the official notice that read: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Jesus was crucified for who He was!

Jesus wanted the world to hear "*Tetelestai!*" No more sacrifices that foreshadowed or pointed to the ultimate sacrifice. He was the Sacrifice. He made the payment for sin. God offers pardon and peace to all who believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

Now it's time for you to review. Remember, this is not a test, only an opportunity to affirm you and your progress as you continue this exciting journey. Jesus' words to His disciples are the same words He says to you and to me, "As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." With those words we are invited to join God in His mission to share with the world that God's love is our Life!

1. What happened on Palm Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are two or three things that Jesus shared with His disciples in John 13-16?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who are those He prayed for in John 17 and what is one thing He asked for each?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Briefly describe something you remember about each of these places:

a. Garden of Gethsemane: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Before the Sanhedrin with Annas and Caiaphas: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. At the Praetorium with Pontius Pilate: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. At Golgotha, the Place of the Skull: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e. At the tomb: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

f. On the road to Emmaus: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

g. Behind locked doors: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

h. Along the lakeshore: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

i. On the mountain top: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Jesus' life is an example for us. What are three examples of Jesus from this passion story that are meaningful to you?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recall the three signature passages and share in a sentence or two your testimony of the difference these Words make in the way you live your life.

a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. John wrote in his Gospel, “These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name (John 20:21).” If someone were to ask you if you believed these things that have been written and that you have read, how would you respond? \_\_\_\_\_

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