

What I Need: What God Has for Me

A Bible Study for Teens

(And for others who are brave enough to ask the tough questions...)

Part A: God as Creator (Father)

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FOREWORD:

Youth, in their characteristic economy, would rather not bother with things which they perceive as making no difference in their lives.

If our idea, as adults, is to be supportive of them in this difficult age (while taking every opportunity afforded to teach them) then we must be able to make God seem important enough for them to bother listening about Him.

God is, of course, important enough... the problem is often our delivery of that information.

By remembering the needs of Youth (*acceptance, self-awareness, growth to physical and mental maturity, separation from parents, new relations to peers, etc.*) we can present some of the mysteries of God in a way that is truthful and acceptable by asking questions and letting the Youth seek the answers from the source of all Truth. (*From God Himself and from His Word: The Bible.*)

Personal journals may be helpful in increasing self-awareness and personal growth, especially in this age group. God will be more important to them at this stage if they can see some clear connection between their lives (*and the associated pain, struggle, hardship and loneliness*) and God's provision for them. Thus the name of this study, **"What I Need: What God has for Me."**

Essentially, we need to show them that "what they need" is "what God has". Sharing that one basic concept with them will encourage them to learn more about what God has to say. This will subsequently empower them with knowledge that can affect their lives everyday... forever.

God bless you!

-- Sharon Chatwell

TEACHER INSTRUCTION:

Use one of the following lessons at each gathering with the Youth.

Teacher will need: One copy of the lesson.

Each Student will need: A question and answer sheet, pencil or pen, and a Bible. Each student may have a personal folder with a journal in which to make observations.

NOTE: *It is best if each student has access to a Bible. Alternatively, make copies of the Bible verses, divide them among the students, and have them read aloud.*

Opening Shot:

The “Opening Shot” is a statement made by the teacher to the Youth at the beginning of the Bible Study time. It is a brave statement of faith, outlining the ideas that will be discussed in that lesson. It is “a shot across the bow”, intended to get their attention and to fly in the face of what culture may be telling them these days. *“Let ‘em have it!”*

Introduction to Bible Truths – (OPTIONAL):

These Bible verses support the statements in the Opening Shot. These may be read aloud, especially if the students have questions about statements made in the Opening Shot. **If time does not allow, this portion of the lesson may be omitted.**

Ask Me No Questions/ I’ll Tell You No Lies:

The question and answer sheet may then be handed out and the students allowed a period of time to reflect on the questions privately. They may wish to respond to the questions or write other questions on their paper. This may be done individually or in groups of 2-3. The Youth are encouraged to come up with their own answers (even if they seem simplistic at first.) Papers may be collected and/or kept in a personal folder.

We’ve Got Questions/ God’s Got Answers:

These Bible verses are meant to help answer the questions which were posed on the question and answer sheet. Ask the students to find and read the various Bible passages aloud. Discuss how the Bible’s answers may be different from their own.

Personal Journaling – (OPTIONAL):

This exercise allows students to make an entry in a personal journal after the lesson. It lets them reflect on what they have learned and write down their thoughts on the subject. This journal is kept private and given to the student to take home at the end of the year. The journal may be kept in a personal folder, in a separate section from their question and answer sheets. **If time does not allow, this exercise may be omitted.**

Parting Shot:

This portion is a summary of the truths learned in the lesson, and it tells how we may apply them to our lives. It is to be read by the teacher just before the closing of the time together in prayer.

Outline of Curriculum:

A. **God as Creator (Father)**

1. God Created Everything (Seen and Unseen)
2. God: the Alpha and the Omega (the Beginning and the End)
3. Plans for Salvation before the Beginning of the World
4. Concepts of Sin and Righteousness
5. Old Covenant (Abraham) – Promises Made
6. Delivering His Nation (Moses) – Promises Kept
7. The Ten Commandments
8. Creating a New People (from the Wilderness to Canaan)
9. Our Awesome God (How do we worship God?)
10. The Question of Faith
11. Does God Hear Prayer?
12. Prophecy of a Savior

Additional Portions of the Bible Study Series ***What I Need: What God Has for Me***

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B. God as Savior (Son)

1. Not every time is right (Jesus came in the fullness of time)
2. Fulfillment of prophecies at His birth.
3. The Son of Man/ The Son of God
4. Satan tries to destroy Jesus and His Journey
5. Jesus Dies on the Cross
6. Jesus is Raised from the Dead
7. Jesus brought God's message
8. Jesus is God (God come to earth)
9. Jesus Taught Us
10. Jesus Saves Us
11. After the Resurrection
12. Jesus is coming back.

C. God as Enabler (Holy Spirit)

1. Comforter/ Pentecost
2. Work of the Holy Spirit
3. Fruits of the Spirit
4. Gifts of the Spirit
5. Characteristics of the Holy Spirit
6. Who are our teachers?
7. The Spirit is God indwelling us.
8. Sent by the Father/ Announced by Jesus
9. The Spirit testifies of Jesus as the Christ
10. The Spirit enables us to do all things through Christ Jesus
11. The Spirit leads us, comforts us, directs us, and convicts us of sin
12. The Spirit testifies to the truth about us to the Father.

Lesson #1 God Created Everything (Seen and Unseen)

Opening Shot:

God exists. His name is "I AM." He created everything there is whether it is seen or unseen. That includes everything and everyone, even you. He created everything that you can touch, everything that you can see, and even everything that no one can see. Everything, that was created, was created by Him.

Introduction to Bible Truths: (Optional)

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Genesis 1:26-27 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Hebrews 11:3 *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) I know that I'm here and my parents were involved, but WHY am I here and WHY does it matter?
- 2.) If God really is there, why did He make all this stuff anyway?
- 3.) If God did make everything (including me), why should I care?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) If you've ever wondered why you were born, you are in good company. Job suffered so much, that in **Job 3:1** he curses the day he was born! In **Job 3:23** he asks "*Why is life given to a man...?*" Job was so miserable in his pain and frustration that he couldn't understand why a man was even born!
- 2.) God responds to Job in **Job 38:2**. God asks Job '*Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?*' and then He goes on to list many of the things He has created. In **Job 42:3-6** Job responds: "*Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.*" Job is overwhelmed when God reveals Himself. In the end he realizes that God created all things because it pleased Him to do so. And **Genesis 1:26-31** tells us that when everything was created, God called it all "good".
- 3.) **Jeremiah 29:11-13** tells us that God cares for us and has a plan for us.

Parting Shot:

Since God made everything originally so that it was good, He is the only One who can tell us how to live those lives effectively, happily and in fullness. Later, He came Himself to teach us in the person of Jesus Christ. We can listen to all that Jesus has to tell us. The Bible contains the truths we need. For these reasons we need to listen to God, think about His words, and be ready to apply them to our lives.

Lesson #2 God: the Alpha and the Omega (the Beginning and the End)

Opening Shot:

God exists. He says in His Word that He is the Beginning and the End. He says that His name is "I AM WHO I AM". Jesus, His Son, also laid claim to that name. At the end of all things we know, God will create new things for us to know as His children.

Introduction to Bible Truths: (Optional)

Revelation 1:8 *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

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

John 8:58 *"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"*

Revelation 21:1 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...*

Revelation 21:6 *He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."*

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) We did this last time!! Why should I care if God existed since the beginning? Whatever that means...
- 2.) What's more, why should I care if God is going to exist at the end, whenever that is?
- 3.) Why would God call Himself "I AM WHO I AM"?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) A quick review of **Job chapters 38-41** reminds us that God created all things. That makes Him really important!
- 2.) **Isaiah 65:17** says: *"Behold I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."* **Isaiah 65:17-25** and **Revelation 21:1-6** tell us what the new heavens and the new earth will be like. Since God is the Beginning of all things and the End of all things, He must be in the middle too; where we are!! So He is REALLY important!
- 3.) **Hebrews 6:13-14** *When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."* (Reference is to **Genesis 22:15-18**) God is the Greatest and He is the Beginning and the End; what else would He call Himself besides "I AM THAT I AM"?

Parting Shot:

God is the Beginning and the End. He exists. He is so all encompassing, so present, and so indispensable, the only thing He could call Himself is "I AM". Jesus used that name for Himself in a discussion. The innate Being of God cannot be overlooked. And He loves us! Everything else hinges on how we accept that and how we relate to Him.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson #2 God: the Alpha and the Omega (the Beginning and the End)

1.) We did this last time!! Why should I care if God existed since the beginning?
Whatever that means...

2.) What's more, why should I care if God is going to exist at the end?
Whenever that is...

3.) Why would God call Himself "I AM WHO I AM"?

Lesson #3 Plans for Salvation before the Beginning of the World

Opening Shot:

God knows all and sees all. He knew from the beginning that man would choose to sin and therefore fall away. So, God planned from before the world began to provide for our salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. God taught His people to sacrifice a lamb without blemish as a guilt or sin offering. Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He died once for all time. Jesus is the perfect Lamb of God.

Introduction to Bible Truths: (Optional)

Genesis 22:7-8 *Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.*

John 1:29 *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Revelation 13:8 *All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to **the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.***

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) How could God know what was going to happen in the Future?
- 2.) If God knew man was going to "fall away" from Him in sin, why did He make man anyway?
- 3.) Why did Jesus only have to die once?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) **Revelation 1:8** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." God knows everything in the past, present and future, already. We can trust what He tells us.*
- 2.) **John 1:1-3** *says this about Jesus: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. Although it is a mystery to us WHY God would make us when He knew that we would fall away, we know that He did so willingly (**Genesis 1**) and that He provided for our forgiveness BEFORE He created us.*
- 3.) **1 Peter 1:18-19** *For you know that it was not with perishable things...that you were redeemed... but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **1 Peter 3:18** For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. The Lamb of God only had to die once!*

Parting Shot:

God knew we would mess up. He provided for our salvation before the beginning of the world out of His mercy and goodness. Because of what Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, has done, we can be saved from our sins!

Lesson #4 Concepts of Sin and Righteousness

Opening Shot:

God is righteous. Only He is good. All others (meaning all of us) have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Mankind is under a curse of death. Jesus, when He came and died on the cross to pay for all sin, freed us from having to die a “second death”. God will ultimately judge all mankind. Our only hope of salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Introduction to Bible Truths:

Read **Romans 3:19-26**; **Romans 3:23** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
Read **Revelation 20:12-15**; **v.14-15** *Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Read **Revelation 21:6-8**

Ask Me No Questions/ I’ll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) How come I had to have Jesus die for me? Why couldn’t I just try to make up for my own sins?
- 2.) How about all those people who never heard of Jesus? Does God send them all to hell?
- 3.) What about all the babies that die right after they are born? They never even had a chance to sin, why do they die like those of us who have sinned a lot?

We’ve Got Questions/ God’s Got Answers:

- 1.) We can’t make up for our own sins. Even our very best efforts are like filthy rags. **Isaiah 64:6** *All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags: we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.* But Jesus is righteous and His death paid for our sins. God gives us righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. **Romans 3:22** *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*
- 2.) God will judge all people justly. **Romans 1:18-20** and **Romans 2:12-16**
- 3.) People die (even little babies) because of sin that came into the world when Adam first broke God’s command. **Romans 5:12-14** *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.*

Parting Shot:

God is good. We “mess up” often. If we had to try and make up for our own sins, we would never be able to do so! On our own, our very best is like filthy rags. But because Jesus was righteous and died in our place, God gives us a new righteousness. This righteousness comes to us through faith in Jesus Christ!

Lesson #5 Old Covenant (Abraham) – Promises Made

Opening Shot:

Four thousand years ago God spoke to a man named Abram directly. He promised Abram some amazing things! He told Abram that He would make him to be the father of many nations and that through him and his descendents the whole world would be blessed. He also promised Abram the land of Canaan. Even though Abram was too old to have children (99 years old) he believed God! God counted that as righteousness towards Abram. And God changed Abram's name to Abraham.

Introduction to Bible Truths:

Genesis 17:1-8 *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*

Genesis 18:18 *Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.*

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) Why did God change Abram's name to Abraham?
- 2.) How could God know what was going to happen to Abraham later in his life?
- 3.) Did Abraham really believe God?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) The Bible tells us that God changed Abram's name (Abram means "exalted Father") to Abraham (meaning "Father of many") because God had made him the father of many nations. See **Genesis 17:5**.
- 2.) God sees the past, the present and the future with absolute clarity. **Revelation 1:8** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*
- 3.) **Genesis 15:6** *Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Abram believed God and God credited to him as righteousness. In other words, Abraham had faith in God and that is how Abraham was saved.*

Parting Shot:

God sees what is in our hearts. It is no mystery to Him that what He promises sometimes seems impossible to us. We wonder how He will accomplish His promises to us. But surely it is not our problem to figure it all out, or to make it all come true. Our job is to believe and to trust God. He will do exactly what He says He will do!

Lesson #6 Delivering His Nation (Moses) – Promises Kept

Opening Shot:

God made promises to Abraham to make him into a great nation and to give him the land of Canaan for all time. God kept these promises, beginning with the birth of Abraham's son, Isaac. Abraham's descendents through Isaac became a great nation while they were in Egypt. God called them out of Egypt by sending Moses to lead them. God took them back to Canaan; back to the land He had promised to Abraham. God kept all of His promises to Abraham. God keeps all of His promises to us.

Introduction to Bible Truths:

Exodus 6:7-8 (God spoke to Moses and said) *"I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD."*

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) Why does God bother making promises to us?
- 2.) If God makes promises, does He always keep them?
- 3.) What kind of promises does God make to me and you?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) God makes us promises so that we can know what will happen in the future, and so that we can be assured of things. God always keeps His promises. **Numbers 23:19** *God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?*
- 2.) God kept His promises to Abraham. **Psalms 105:42-45** *For he remembered his holy promise given to his servant Abraham. He brought out his people with rejoicing, his chosen ones with shouts of joy; he gave them the lands of the nations, and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—that they might keep his precepts and observe his laws. Praise the LORD.*
- 3.) God promises to be with us always. **Matthew 28:20b** *Jesus said "... and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* **Revelation 22:12** (Jesus said) *"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."*

Parting Shot:

God loves us. He wants us to know what we can expect from Him. He wants us to be sure of what is going to happen. Sometimes we know specifics; sometimes we only know general things. But God wants us to know Him and that we can trust Him. When Jesus came to us He fulfilled God's promises to send the Savior, He allowed us to see God and He made promises for the future.

Lesson #7 The Ten Commandments

Opening Shot:

God is Holy. Only He is good. God gave His people His commandments so that they might follow them and be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests to God. His commands tell us how to please God and how to live in peace with man. Jesus said that He came not to abolish the Law or the prophets, but to fulfill them. Jesus kept the Law perfectly.

Introduction to Bible Truths:

Revelation 4:8b *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”*

Exodus 20:1-17 The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19:4-6 (God said to tell the Israelites) *“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”*

Ask Me No Questions/ I’ll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) The Ten Commandments were written so long ago, aren’t they out of date?
- 2.) If we believe in Jesus, do we still have to obey the commandments?

We’ve Got Questions/ God’s Got Answers

- 1.) **Matthew 5:17-18** (Jesus said) *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”*
- 2.) Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets perfectly and now we as believers in Christ have been set free of the old law and live according to the Holy Spirit, which lives in us. **Romans 8:1-5** ¹*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,* ²*because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.* ³*For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,* ⁴*in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.* ⁵*Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.* Also read **Romans 7:1-6** and **Romans 6:1-4**

Parting Shot:

As believers in Christ, we are freed of the Law and called to live by the Holy Spirit, who lives in us. If we do what the Spirit of Life tells us to do, we will do all that the Law requires and even more, because we will be doing what pleases God.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson #7 The Ten Commandments

1.) The Ten Commandments were written so long ago, aren't they out of date?

2.) If we believe in Jesus, do we still have to obey the commandments?

Lesson #8 Creating a New People (from the Wilderness to Canaan)

Opening Shot:

God miraculously led his people out of slavery in Egypt and then into the Wilderness where they received his Law. He also gave them a feast that they were to observe (Passover) to remember what God had done to bring them out of Egypt. Then he led them to Canaan and told them to go in and possess the land. But the people were afraid to do what God asked them, so He made them wander in the wilderness until all but two of them (the two who had believed) had died. A new, young nation of believers had been raised in the Wilderness to take their places. Then God's People, who believed in his Promises and in his Law, went in and took possession of the land.

Introduction to Bible Truths:

The sending of the spies into Canaan by the Israelites is found recorded in Numbers 13 and 14. Specifically may wish to emphasize the following points: **Numbers 13:25** (the land was searched for 40 days); **Numbers 13: 27-33** (conflicting reports were given - Joshua and Caleb were honest); **Numbers 14:6-9** (Caleb and Joshua); **Numbers 14:11**, and **27-34** (God's response to the situation).

Ask Me No Questions/I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) God has his way and I have mine. Why should I have to obey God's instructions if they don't make sense to me?
- 2.) What if I just don't have what it takes to do what God asks?

We've Got Questions/God's Got Answers:

- 1.) We are encouraged by the scriptures to trust in the Lord. Sometimes our own understanding just isn't enough. **Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*
- 2.) With God's help we can do all of the things he asks us to do. Even if the things seem nearly impossible, because nothing is impossible with God.
Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (KJV)*
Philippians 4:13 *I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (NIV)*
Luke 1:37 "For nothing is impossible with God."

Parting Shot:

God gives us instructions and sometimes they seem incredible, or difficult, or scary to do. So, we don't do them. God's way doesn't always require our understanding, or our strength, or even agreement to be the right way. It just is the right way. Sometimes our minds don't want to obey. We think that we know best. We think that we have an alternative plan, or new information that God might not have had when He made His decision. We think we know better than God, and that is where we make our mistake. When we find ourselves arguing with God, we are wrong.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson #8 Creating a New People (from the Wilderness to Canaan)

1.) God has his way and I have mine. Why should I have to obey God's instructions if they don't make sense to me?

2.) What if I just don't have what it takes to do what God asks?

Lesson #9 Our Awesome God (How do we worship God?)

Opening Shot:

We serve a mighty God. He alone is holy. He alone is worthy of all honor, glory, and praise. He is praised eternally in Heaven. David, who loved God very much, praised him with poems, prayers, and songs. We are to worship him together and privately. People worship in all kinds of situations. Jesus said that we will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

Introduction to Biblical Truths:

Matthew 4:10 *Jesus said to him, "Away from me Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"*

In **Matthew 15:7-9** Jesus says to the Pharisees: *You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."*

John 4:21-24 *Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, but time is coming when you worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet the time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."*

Ask Me No Questions/I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) How do we worship God?
- 2.) How can I worship God all by myself?
- 3.) What do I have to know about God to worship Him?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) Jesus says that we are to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. (See **John 4:21-24**.) When we say things about God and to God that are true about Him, we are worshipping Him. (See Psalms 145:1-21)
- 2.) Read all of **Psalms 145:1-21** together and discuss the different verses and the ways they suggest of praising and worshipping God. Then memorize **Psalms 150:6** *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.*
- 3.) We can worship God anytime and anywhere. People have worshipped Him even while they were in prison. Acts 16:25 *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*

Parting Shot:

We are to worship God only. People worship him in many places and in many different circumstances. Where we worship and under what circumstances are not as important as how we worship. We are to worship God (and he is spirit) in spirit and in truth. Our hearts are what matter to God, not our location, or the size of our choir, or the color of the pew cushions in our church.

Lesson #10 The Question of Faith

Opening Shot:

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. It is not a mushy sentimental feeling or wishful thinking. It is real and solid and it rests on things that are even more real and solid. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Introduction to Biblical Truths:

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) What is faith? And why do I need to have it?
- 2.) I'm still trying to figure out if I believe... How are other people so sure?
- 3.) How do we know that our faith is the right one?
- 4.) What can I do or what can I think about to help my faith grow stronger?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) **Hebrews 11:1-2** *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain if what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.* **Hebrews 11:6** *6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*
- 2.) Others before us have tested God's promises and found God to be faithful and found that all of his precepts are trustworthy! (*Precept is defined as "a rule, instruction or principle that guides somebody's actions, especially one that guides moral behavior" also it is 'a warrant or writ that is issued by a legal authority.'*) **Psalm 119:140** *Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.* **Read all of Psalm 111** (particularly v. 7) *The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.* **Deut 32:3-4** *I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.* **1 Corinthians 1:9** *God who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.*
- 3.) **Read all of Isaiah 45:18-25.** *v18 For this is what the LORD says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty but formed it to be inhabited—he says: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.*
- 4.) **Romans 10:17** *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.* Once in **Luke 17:5-6** Jesus' disciples said to Him "Increase our faith" and He replied "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." Therefore, it is not necessary for us to wait to have "more faith" before we start acting in faith.

Parting Shot:

We may wonder if our faith is "big" enough. Our faith may seem small, but our God is very BIG! We can believe in the One who says "I am the LORD, and there is no other."

Lesson #11 Does God Hear Prayer?

Opening Shot:

We pray, and sometimes it feels like God is right there, answering our questions just on the other side of the question mark. But other times it feels like the heavens are made of brass and our prayers just keep bouncing off of them. Despite all of this, God desires for us to bring our concerns and our praises to Him in prayer. As Christians we are commanded to pray continually, and to give thanks in all circumstances.

Introduction to Biblical Truths:

Read all of **James 5:13-16**: *13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 16The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) How can I know that God is listening and cares about what I'm praying about?
- 2.) Why doesn't He answer all of my prayers the way I want?
- 3.) Is anything too big or too small to pray about?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) God "hears" all prayer. **Psalm 139:4** *Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.* **Psalm 65:2** *O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come.* God cares about you and what you are praying about. **1 Peter 5:6-7** *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*
- 2.) God does not answer every prayer the way we desire. Even Jesus prayed "not my will, but yours be done." Jesus knew that His prayers were being heard, but He submitted His will to His Father's. Read **Luke 22:39-42** *v.42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."*
- 3.) Nothing is too big or too small for us to pray about. We are encouraged to pray about everything that bothers us or concerns us. **Philippians 4:6-7** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* The Holy Spirit intercedes for us and helps us to pray. **Romans 8:26-27** *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.* **Luke 11:1-13** *The Lord's Prayer.*

Parting Shot:

As Christians we are expected to pray for each other, and for anything about which we are anxious. God hears all prayer. Through his Holy Spirit, and the instruction and example of Jesus Christ, God the Father helps us to know how and when to pray.

Lesson #12 Prophecy of a Savior

Opening Shot:

God loves us. Even though we choose to sin, and are separated from him by that sin, He desires to bring us back into righteousness and fellowship with Him. From the time of the Garden of Eden and Adam and Eve's original sin, God has promised a Savior. God has given us information about the Savior (the Christ) through the ages. This information is recorded in the Old Testament as prophecies. God has kept all of his promises and fulfilled all of the prophecies in Jesus Christ.

Introduction to Bible Truths:

Sin and death came by one man Adam. The gift of God is given by grace through the righteousness of one man Jesus, the Christ. See **Romans 5: 12-14, 17-19**

Romans 5:18-19 *Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

Genesis chapter 3 deals with Man's fall, the serpent, and the first promise of the Savior. **Genesis 3:15** *and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring in hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) What is prophecy?
- 2.) How many of the prophecies of the Savior (or Christ) did Jesus fulfill?
- 3.) What did Jesus have to say about all the prophecies?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) Prophecy is the foretelling of events that will happen in the future. People who prophesy what God has to say are called prophets. The prophecies about the Christ were written hundreds and in some cases thousands of years before Jesus was born.
- 2.) There are over 300 prophecies about the Christ, Jesus fulfilled them all! See **Isaiah 53** particularly verses **9-12**.
- 3.) On the road to Emmaus, Jesus appears to two people and opens up their hearts to the scripture that prophesied about the Christ. See **Luke 24:13-35** **Luke 24:27** *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

Parting Shot:

Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) the Promised Savior of the Jewish nation. He reaches out to all people of the world with God's love and forgiveness of sin through His death and sacrifice for us. To accept Him is to accept the Truth, and the Life. Jesus is the Way. God has kept His promises and fulfilled the prophecies of the Savior in Jesus, who is the Christ!

This concludes this section

God as Creator (Father)

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