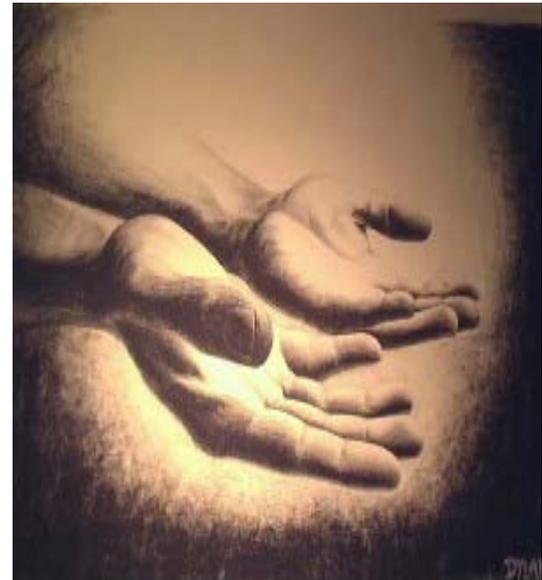


God's Wonderful Gifts

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INTRODUCTION GOD'S WONDERFUL GIFTS

One of the amazing things about Bible Study is the way that God makes us aware of His wonderful gifts that can change our lives!

We may be quite familiar with the Gospel of John but the more we study and seek to grow in our faith, the more we begin to relate the New Testament to the Old Testament and we become aware of our human failures.

God wants us to be able to live in our broken world with a knowledge of His many gifts and how these can transform our lives and enable us to reach out to others with the love of our wonderful Saviour!

These studies help us understand and will help us claim the gifts that God graciously has provided for us.

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7. These studies will be a journey of faith, from Adam to Eve to our own personal journey learning to discover His wonderful gifts and apply them to our daily lives.

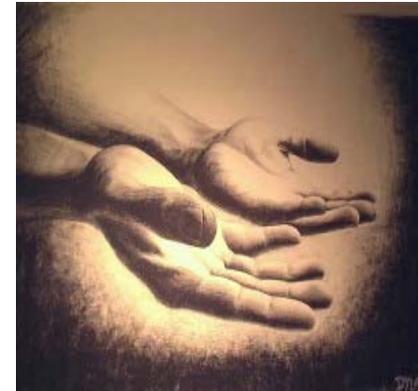
Look ahead to Colossians 3: 12 -15 and consider all God's many blessings. These verses give us a wonderful picture of what our lives could be. How do we respond to these verses?

8. What does it mean to you that you are holy and dearly loved by God?

9. What does it mean to you that you are called to peace?

10. What are you thankful for?

God's Wonderful Gifts



The Beginning
Lesson 1

The Beginning

Lesson 1

Introduction to God's Wonderful Gifts: The Beginning

2 Peter 1:3

“ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness! Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

For the next 14 studies we will be studying God's Wonderful Gifts to us as described in the book of John.

Do we know and claim these wonderful gifts?

What are these gifts and how should we apply them to each day?

Read Genesis 1 and Genesis 2

1. How would you describe God's gifts to Adam?
 2. Do you think Genesis 2:2 has significance today?
 3. What does Genesis 2:18 tell us about God?
- Read Genesis 3**
4. What happened to our wonderful world?
 5. What means did Satan use to tempt Eve?
 6. How did both Adam and Eve reply to God's questions?

So often in life we become so wrapped up with daily tasks that we forget to lift our hearts and minds to Him. Together Grace and Truth keep us in touch with our Saviour and fill us with the joy of His many blessings.

Have each of us opened our hearts and minds to Him?

8. Can you think of a way you might begin the day with grace in your home or workplace?

9. Can you think of a time in your life when you did not tell the truth in order to protect yourself? How did you feel afterwards?

10. As you think about the Lord Jesus coming into our world and giving us His special gifts of Grace and Truth, how might we be able to deal with problems in our lives?

In our study of God's wonderful gifts to us we shall see grace and truth in action as Jesus reaches out to people who experienced problems that are very relevant to our lives today.

God's Wonderful Gifts



The Gift of Grace and Truth
Lesson 2

The Gift of Grace and Truth
Lesson 2

The Gospel of John is an amazing book for us to read and relate to our daily lives. By reading His words we learn what our loving God promises us in order for us to live as God wants us to in our broken world. We shall be blessed as we learn about these wonderful gifts and how to apply them in practical ways. Pray that God will open our eyes and our minds and heart so that our lives will be blessed and experience the joy of reaching out to others in our needy world.

Read John 1: 1 - 14

1. In John 1:6 we are introduced to John the Baptist. What was his role to be?
2. Who is the true light and how was the light received?
3. What is one of God's greatest desires for each of us?

4. Why do you think Jesus was not gladly received?
5. Read John 1: 12. This is a life changing verse. Can you put this promise in your own words?
6. What happens to us when we receive Jesus as our Saviour?
7. Jesus is referred to being full of Grace and Truth. Grace and Truth are very powerful words in the Bible.

Grace to
satisfy
our heart

Grace ~ is the amazing gift of God's special blessings as proof of His great love for us even when we don't deserve His goodness.

Truth to
satisfy
our mind

Truth ~ Our wise God loves us and wants us to keep our minds as well as our hearts in tune with His purposes that are always right.

Read Ephesians 2 : 8-10

7. One of the great blessings that come from reading the Bible is to link the Old Testament to the New Testament. Look back at **Ezekiel 36 : 25-28**. What do you think water symbolizes?

8. Do we wonder how Nicodemus was changed by his encounter with Jesus? **Read John 7 : 45 - 52 and John 19: 38-42.**

9. Why do you think that many people in the world have not accepted the amazing gift of eternal life?

10. How can we share with others the wonderful truth about God's plan of a new life in knowing our Saviour, Jesus?

11. How is it possible in our busy lives to give priority to knowing Jesus and learning about Him and His wonderful message and promise of eternal life?

God's Wonderful Gifts



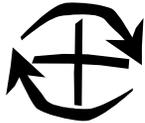
*The Gift of New Birth
and a New Life
Lesson 3*

The Gift of a New Birth and a New Life

Lesson 3

As we can imagine when Jesus came into the world and began to reach out to others with His message of Grace and Truth He would have to face opposition. Some of the greatest opposition came from very religious authorities. The Pharisees were a group who believed they were experts on knowledge about anything religious. They had great influence and power over people.

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**Read John 3: 1 - 21**



Take note of the questions that were asked and the answers Jesus gave. They still have real relevance to our lives today!

1. What do we learn in verse 1 about Nicodemus?

2. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night time?

3. Is there anything to indicate why he was curious?

4. Why do you think Jesus gave a rather startling immediate answer?

5. We are probably aware that we are all part of a broken world and we know how we truly need a Saviour ~ someone to be our Guide and Comforter. Why do you think that Jesus began His answers with “I tell you the truth” ?

6. What do you think Jesus meant by “born of water” and “the Spirit”?

10b. Have you encountered this when you spoke to people about the gift that God has for them?

11. What 2 conditions does God seek (John 4:23, 24) for worship which is pleasing to Him?

What does that mean?

12. What is the spiritual lesson you can learn from the fact that the woman 'left her water pot'?

What was the first thing the Samaritan woman did?  
Apply this to Romans 10: 9 -10.

What was the result of her testimony?

13. Given the social barriers between Jews and Samaritans what do verses 40 - 42 teach you about Jesus?

14. What gift did the woman receive from Jesus that Jesus is offering you as well? How does that make you feel and what does it motivate you to do?

# God's Wonderful Gifts



*The Gift of Living Water*  
*Lesson 4*

## *The Gift of Living Water*

### *Lesson 4*

The passage we are about to study has a lot to teach us. It is the story of one Samaritan woman whose life was changed forever and who impacted others with this change. In the East it is unusual for women to draw water at noon, the hottest time of the day. Therefore, this Samaritan woman may have come to draw water at this time because the women of her village so ostracized her that she could only draw water when they were absent. Her being aware of this would only make her more surprised when Jesus, a man and a Jew, spoke to her.

Let us read about the wonderful gift that Jesus offers her and see what will happen.

### **Read John 4 : 1 - 42**

1. What gift is Jesus asking the woman to give to Him (vs. 8)?
2. What did the Samaritan woman really mean when she said "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink"?
3. In a previous study we learned all about Nicodemus. (John 3: 1-21) How is Jesus' approach with the Samaritan woman different ? How is it the same?
- 3b. How is the Samaritan woman's response like that of Nicodemus?
4. Name 3 things which the woman of Samaria needed to know and do (John 4:10) that are also necessary in every experience of a true Christian conversion.
5. How would you compare your own Spiritual beginnings with God to that of the woman at the well?
6. In John 4: 13 -14, what is the main difference between the 'water of this earth' and the 'water' which Jesus offers?
7. When Jesus in verse 13 speaks of this water or the water of the earth, He is using symbolical language. Can you give examples of things for which we long for while not being bad in themselves, do not satisfy us?
8. After the woman takes the first step in verse 15, why do you think Jesus changed the topic of conversation so abruptly to her personal life?
9. What strikes you about the way Jesus responds to her claim not to have a husband?
10. Why do you think the woman changed the conversation to focus on a religious controversy?

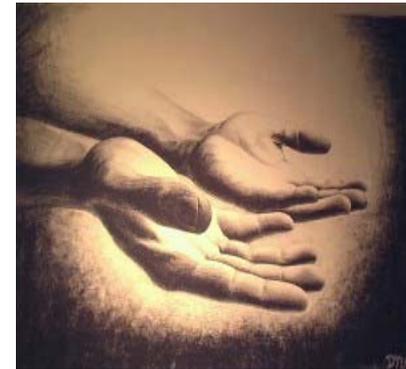


Read John 9 : 35 - 41



11. What name does Jesus call Himself in verse 35?
  
- 11b. That name was Jesus' most common name for Himself. Why do you think Jesus used that name?
  
12. What had happened to this man who had been blind between verse 11 and verse 38?
  
13. In this chapter who were the ones most critical of the blind man? Why was that?
  
14. What is the blindness that Jesus is talking about in verses 39 and 41?
  
15. In studying the book of John and the gifts that Jesus offers us, how would you describe the gift that is offered here and how can it change our lives?

# God's Wonderful Gifts



*A Special Gift For Our Earthly Eyes*  
*Lesson 5*

*A Special Gift For Our Earthly Eyes*  
*Lesson 5*

 **Read John 9 : 1 - 12** 

1. How did the people look upon the man's blindness?
2. How does Jesus correct their thinking?
3. Is there any way in which you have found Jesus to be a light in your life?
4. Why do you think the man did as Jesus requested him to do?
5. Can you think of a time when you felt Jesus speaking to you and how following His guidance proved to be a blessing?

6. What is significant about the way the man responded to criticism?

 **Read John 9 : 13 - 34** 

7. Why do you think the Pharisees brought up the reference to the Sabbath?
8. The situation presented a problem for the parents of the blind man. How did they handle the situation?
9. How did the man who had been blind respond to criticism and what does that show how the healing had affected him?
10. Why do you think the Pharisees referred to Moses in verse 28?

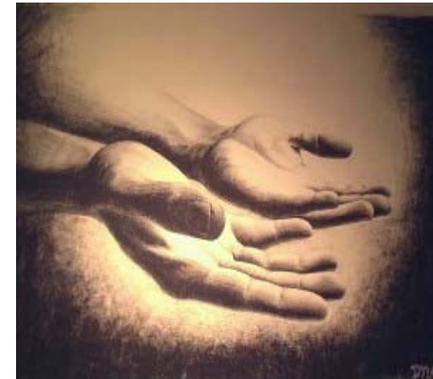
10. Who are the other sheep that He must bring also? (vs. 16)
  
11. What final claim does Jesus make in verses 17 and 18? How does this gift of Jesus to you impact you?

**Read John 10 : 22- 42**

**The Feast of Dedication (Today the Feast of Lights, Hanukkah)**

12. Why do you think Jesus did not tell them 'Yes I am the Messiah'? (vs. 24, 25)
  
13. What 3 things does Jesus say about His sheep in verse 27? Is this true for you?
  
14. What amazing promise does Jesus give about the sheep that listen to His voice in verses 28, 29? How does this encourage you?
  
15. Jesus has laid down His life for you as a Gift to you. No one, no circumstance or men, life or death can separate you or pluck you out of the hand of Jesus. (Isaiah 49:16) How can you lay down your life as a gift to Jesus? How can you take up your life in resurrection power?

*God's  
Wonderful  
Gifts*



*The Gift of Knowing The Good Shepherd  
Lesson 6*

# *The Gift of Knowing The Good Shepherd*

## *Lesson 6*

It was natural that sooner or later Jesus would speak of Himself as the "Shepherd of the Sheep" for this revelation of God is given throughout the Old Testament. Just to name a few verses: Genesis 49:24, Psalm 77:20 and Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:11. The life of a Judean shepherd was very hard. Not only were the Eastern shepherds different in attitude from those of the West, their methods were different as well. A shepherd always led his sheep. He had 4 pieces of equipment. A **bag** made of animal skin ('**scrip**') in which he kept his food. A **sling** holding small stones. The Palestinian shepherd had no sheep dog so when a sheep strayed he would sling a stone just in front of the wayward sheep to bring back the sheep. He had a **rod**, a weapon of defence and he had a **staff** by which he pulled back wandering sheep. At the end of the day, when the sheep entered the sheepfold, the shepherd would hold this rod low at the entrance, close to the ground and every sheep had to pass under the rod. By this means the shepherd checked each sheep to see if it had any wounds which needed attention.

### **Read John 10 : 1 - 6**

#### **The First Parable: False and True Shepherds**

1. What do you think do the sheep, the Shepherd and the stranger / thief represent?
2. What is the relationship of the Shepherd to his sheep? (vs. 3)  
*(For your info: In the East, the relationship between shepherd and sheep is very different from that in the West, because sheep were not bred to be killed so much as they were bred for their wool. Since the sheep would be with its shepherd for years, a real relationship developed between them.)*
3. How do the sheep respond to the Shepherd? (vs.4)

4. What is the characteristic of a true Shepherd and what do you think of when you say Jesus is my Shepherd?

### **Read John 10 : 7 - 10**

#### **The Second Parable: Jesus as the Door / Gate**

5. What does Jesus mean by saying I am the gate / door for the sheep?
6. What do you think verse 9 means? (pay especial attention to the words 'come in and out' and 'find pasture')
7. Jesus says that He has come so we may have life. What gift is Jesus talking about? What does He mean by 'to the full' ?(vs. 10)

### **Read John 10 : 11 - 21**

#### **The Third Parable: Jesus, the Good Shepherd**

8. What gift gives Jesus you as the good Shepherd?
9. What are the qualifications of Jesus as the good Shepherd? (verses 14-18) (if possible name 9)

11. How is Mary's greeting like and unlike Martha's?
12. Since Jesus knew that He was going to raise Lazarus (John 11:11) how do you account for His weeping (vv 33-35)?
13. How would you have felt if you had been there and saw Jesus crying?

**Read John 11 : 38 - 53**

14. Why did Jesus ask the friends to "take away the stone" (v 38) and "take off the grave clothes and let him go"? What is the symbolic meaning of the grave stone and the grave clothes?
15. What reason does Jesus give for praying in public to His Father before raising Lazarus? (give verse)
16. Why do you think the Pharisees and some others wanted to kill Jesus right after this?
17. Jesus feels as compassionate about you as He did about Mary, Martha and Lazarus. He gives to us the gift of life on earth and in heaven. Have you accepted this gift of life and what does it mean to you while you live on this earth?

*God's  
Wonderful  
Gifts*



*The Gift of Earthly and Heavenly Life  
Lesson 7*

# *The Gift of Earthly and Heavenly Life*

## *Lesson 7*

The miracle that we are about to study is the final 'sign' or 'miracle' by which Jesus revealed Himself before going to the cross. (Of course His own resurrection was a the greatest miracle) The raising of Lazarus took place during the last winter of Jesus' life. At the end of this miracle there appeared to be a division between those who believed and those who did not believe. Those who believed were confirmed in their belief that Jesus was the son of God. The raising of Lazarus shows us the truth of the claims of Jesus that He is the Lord and giver of life. Those that did not believe Him went on their way to plan his crucifixion.

### **Read John 11 : 1 - 16**

1. How would you describe Jesus' relationship with this family?
  
- 2a. When Jesus received the message, was Lazarus dead or alive?
  
- 2b. Why do you think Jesus waited two days before leaving for Bethany? (vs. 6)
  
- 2c. Have you ever felt that God was not listening when you prayed? How does the way in which Jesus postponed his response to the sisters' request help you in understanding your prayer life?
  
3. What do you think Jesus meant by the parable in verses 9 and 10?

4. Why do you think Jesus tells the disciples that Lazarus was sleeping when He knew that Lazarus was dead?
  
5. How does John 11:7-16 give us a beautiful picture of the wonderful intimacy and affection which existed between Jesus and His disciples?
  
6. Give the good and weak traits of character which Thomas reveals in his remark.

### **Read John 11 : 17 - 37**

7. How long had Lazarus been dead by the time Jesus arrived?
  
8. How would you feel if you were Martha or Mary and you heard that Jesus had finally come?
  
9. What do you learn about Martha from the way she talks with Jesus in verses 21-27?
  
10. How does Jesus stretch her faith by His claim in verse 25?

9. As you read verses 9 to 17 how would you describe the atmosphere in which Jesus is talking to His disciples?
  
10. The disciples were given such a challenging task! How could they possibly be successful?
  
11. How can we really learn to bear fruit that will last?
  
12. Why is verse 17 such an important note to keep in our minds always?

# God's Wonderful Gifts



*The Gift of a Fruitful and Joyful Life*  
*Lesson 8*

# *The Gift of a Fruitful and Joyful Life*

## *Lesson 8*

One of the many wonderful ways that Jesus taught His disciples ~ and continues to teach us ~ is the way He used the things around Him as object lessons. In our minds we can picture Jesus looking at the vines which grew very well in the Holy Land climate.

Things that we see and feel help us to remember something important. After Jesus left the disciples, they would remember the lessons He taught them.



Read John 15 : 1 - 8



1. What is the ultimate purpose for the gardener and how does he hope to accomplish this?
2. How would you describe the spiritual fruit that Jesus desires?
3. Jesus expresses His eagerness to have us remain in Him. How can that be possible and why do you think Jesus repeats the same words?

4. What guidance does Jesus give us for our prayer life? (verse 7)

5. How do you think Jesus “prunes” our lives? Can you give an example?



Read John 15 : 9 - 17

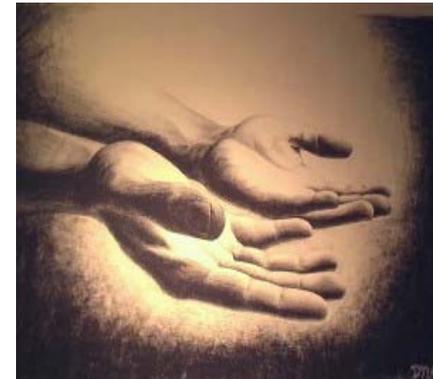


6. As human beings we desire to experience real love. How does Jesus give us a picture of His love towards the disciples and towards us?
7. What is the special gift Jesus offers us? Think back to an experience you remember!
8. What do you think Jesus is pointing towards in verse 13?

**Read John 17 : 20 - 26**

9. Who does Jesus pray for here?
  
10. Why do you think Jesus wants all believers to have unity or oneness?
  
11. What does Jesus' ultimate desire (verse 24) reveal about His love for us?
  
12. How do verses 25 - 26 sum up the major concerns of Jesus?
  
13. Have you discovered the meaning of John 17 : 3 and are you experiencing now eternal life in that you know God through a personal relationship with His son Jesus Christ?
  
14. Read John 17 and put your name in each verse in which He speaks of "His own". Does this encourage you?

*God's  
Wonderful  
Gifts*



*Preparation for the Cross - the Greatest Gift  
Lesson 9*

# *Preparation for the Cross - the Greatest Gift*

## *Lesson 9*

The prayer of John 17 is often called "Christ's High Priest Prayer". Just as the high priest of the Old Testament carried the names of all the tribes of Israel upon his heart when he entered God's presence (Exodus 28:11-12) so Jesus here carries all who believed then, who believe now, and all who are yet to believe, on His heart in His prayer to God for those He calls His own, whom God has given Him. Jesus had previously taught the disciples how to pray for themselves and others in need, here they are privileged to see how Jesus intercedes for them and everyone else. It is this prayer more than in any other that we see what are the desires of Jesus for us. This prayer is so precious because it shows us what we are told in Hebrews 7: 25 that He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

### **Read John 17: 1 - 19**

1. What event is it now time for (verse 1 and John 12 : 23 - 24)?
2. What does it mean to glorify someone?
3. When Jesus asked God to glorify Him because 'the hour has come' (verse 1 and verse 5), what did He mean ?
4. What gift did God the Father give His son and what does that mean to you? (verse 2, verse 6)

5. What are the gifts that Jesus gives us? (verses 2, 6, 8, 14, 13)

5b. What do these gifts mean to you?

6. For whom does Jesus not pray in this prayer?

7. Why do you think Jesus used the phrase "Holy Father" in verse 11?

7b. What does Jesus mean by "the name you gave Me"? (see also John 8: 58 and Exodus 3:14)

8. From what danger does Jesus pray His disciples will be protected?

## Read John 19 : 16 - 42

9. According to the sign on Jesus' cross, for what 'official' reason was He crucified? What do you think is the meaning of the sign being posted in 3 languages?
  
10. How do you think Jesus felt when He saw the prophecy from Psalm 22 17-18 come through before His eyes in verses 23 - 24?
  
11. What does the flow of blood and water mean in verses 34-35? (Exodus 12: 7; 12-13; John 4:10; John 7:37-38)
  
12. How have Jesus' 'blood' and 'water' touched your life? What would your life be like without them?

# God's Wonderful Gifts



*The Greatest Sacrifice For Us - The Cross*  
*Lesson 10*

# *The Cross - The Greatest Sacrifice For Us*

## *Lesson 10*

The next two chapters of John describe the humiliation and the suffering of our Lord Jesus. Jesus was betrayed and forsaken by his disciples, spit upon, slapped, scourged and nailed to the cross. But through it all it show us the glory of Jesus as the Son of man and the Son of God, full of courage, total obedience to God His Father, and an unselfish concern for others. These chapters show us the authority and power that lived in Jesus and show us how Jesus did come as the Saviour of the world by completing His work of redemption until at last He cried out 'it is finished'!

### **Read John 18: 1 - 40**

1. How does John 18 : 1 - 12 show the protective love of Jesus for His own? And how does it reveal the love and submission of Jesus for and to His Father?
2. How do verses 4, 9, 11, 36 show us that Jesus' suffering was voluntary? What does that mean to us?
3. What is the significance of verse 6? Compare this verse with Revelation 1: 17.
4. Jesus stood on trial more than five times between midnight and His crucifixion at 9:00 am. There were the religious trials (Annas, Caiaphas, the Sanhedrin) and the political trials (Pilate, Herod, the people). Who else do you think was judged as well during these trials?

5. What reason do the religious leaders give Pilate for bringing Jesus to him (verses 33-34)?

5b. What kind of punishment would Jesus receive because of this action?

### **Read John 19: 1 - 16**

6. Give the five main questions which Pilate asked Jesus in his examination. (John 18: 29 - 19:16)
7. In view of Pilate's convictions (John 18: 38 and John 19: 4, 6) why would he allow Jesus to be hit?
- 7b. What does the priests' reply (verse 15) indicate about their spiritual condition?
8. Why do you think Pilate gave in? Have you ever made a decision based on fear, rather on what is right? If you have, how can you protect yourself from that in the future?

## Read John 20: 24 - 31

11. In what way is Thomas typical of many people today?
12. What do you think about the way Jesus responded to his doubts?
13. Why do you think so many people in our society do not believe that Jesus died for them?
14. How will they ever change in their thinking and how do we as Christians fit into the picture?
15. We have been reading about the many gifts that Jesus is offering us. In John 20 : 31 we are told that the miraculous signs have been written that we may “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing we have life in His name”. A wonderful life in this world and the next can be ours. Have you accepted the gift of the risen Lord?

# God's Wonderful Gifts



*The Gift of the Risen Lord*  
*Lesson 11*

# *The Gift of the Risen Lord*

## *Lesson 11*

In our country we grow up learning something about Easter. Some of us learned to associate the name with the amazing record of Jesus' rising from the death.

Do we really take time to meditate on the importance of the risen Lord?

As we study this chapter try to put yourself in the place of those who discovered the empty tomb and those who actually saw the risen Lord!

### **Read John 20: 1 - 9**

1. What do we know about Mary Magdalene? Read Luke 8 : 2.
2. When our lives have been deeply touched by Jesus what are some things you want to do to help you grow in your faith?
3. What are the significant things that Mary Magdalene saw at the graveside?
4. What is different in the way Peter rushed to the tomb and the way he had reacted before the crucifixion?  
Read John 18 : 10 - 18.

### **Read John 20: 10 - 18**

5. Here we have a very moving picture of our risen Lord and a broken woman who did not realize that Jesus was right with her. Do we ourselves recognize that Jesus is always with us? Why not?
6. What message was Mary Magdalene asked to convey to the followers of Jesus and how might she feel?
7. Why do you think Jesus spoke of "My Father and your Father?"
8. Jesus is continually teaching us as we read the Bible and go to church and Bible study groups. While we are learning new and wonderful things about Jesus, how might we follow in the steps of the changed Mary Magdalene?

### **Read John 20: 19 - 23**

9. We can only imagine how the disciples were feeling at the news of Jesus' resurrection. Why do you think it was important that Jesus spoke and gave evidence that He was real?
10. Before going to the cross Jesus had talked to the disciples about the Holy Spirit. Why do you think that now He reminded them about this wonderful gift?

8. There are 2 different words for love in the Greek language. **Agapao** which is the highest, noblest form of love, such as man's love for God and **Phileo** a love that expresses personal attachment, devoted affection. Jesus uses the word agapao in verses 15 and 16. Peter uses the word phileo in verses 15 and 16. In verse 17 Jesus uses the word phileo and Peter responds likewise but with a "Lord you know all things, you know that I love you". Why do you think Peter used the word phileo for love?
9. What does this passage show us about the love of Jesus for Peter and for us?
10. If you were asked the same question that Jesus asked Peter, how would you respond?
11. "Feed my lambs .... Take care of my sheep..... Feed my sheep."  
What is Jesus saying to Peter?

If Jesus said this to you three times, what would this mean to you now?

12. What do you think Jesus means by His prediction in verse 18?
13. Jesus offered a wonderful gift to Peter. The gift of complete forgiveness. Have you received this gift?

# God's Wonderful Gifts



*The Gift of Forgiveness*  
*Lesson 12*

*The Gift of Forgiveness -  
Peter's Failure and Restoration*

*Lesson 12*

When Jesus explained to the disciples that He would soon leave them and that they could not come where He was going, impulsive Peter felt compelled to interrupt. Peter was always different. He had followed his master in miracles. Peter's boastful self-confidence showed that as yet he had no idea of his weaknesses. Jesus told him that Peter was not even ready to be a martyr. Jesus told him that Peter would betray Him 3 times before the rooster crowed. Peter loved Jesus with the deepest devotion and publicly confessed Him. (John 6: 68-69) Although Peter was swept away by a moment of weakness because of sudden fear, God's word had taken true 'root' in Peter's 'honest and good heart'. It took a crisis to reveal to Peter that without Jesus his strongest points became his greatest weakness. Peter wept bitterly with remorse and sought Jesus' forgiveness at the first opportunity. What a great example for us and what great encouragement there is for us in this true story.

**Read John 13: 36 - 38, John 18: 15-18, 25-27**

1. Jesus knew the weaknesses of Peter and what was to come. Peter had great confidence in his devotion to Jesus. But this crisis shows Peter that without Jesus Peter could not count on his strongest points (courage and devotion) to take care of his fear. Have you learned this lesson?
2. Read Luke 22: 31-34 and compare this with John 13: 36-38. What important fact does Luke tell us about the Lord's prophesy concerning the denial of Peter that John does not tell us?

Do you think that this comforted Peter?

3. People judged Peter for his weakness. Others will judge us for our failures. Read Micah 7: 8-9, 18-19 What does this scripture teach us?
4. Read Luke 22: 54-62. When the rooster crowed what did Jesus do? What was Peter's reaction?

**Read John 21: 1 - 14**

5. Why do you think Peter went back to fishing? (vs. 3)
6. John recognized Jesus and told Peter. Peter reacted by jumping into the water while the other disciples just peddled their boat to Jesus. What do you think of Peter's reaction? Would you have reacted this way?

**Read John 21: 15 - 19**

7. When Jesus first met Simon (Peter) He told him that his name would be changed to Peter, which means 'rock'. What name does Jesus use in verse 15? What do you think is the reason?

8. What is the special gift that is promised to the disciples and what is His role to be?

9. Why do you think the disciples would need this special gift?

10. Why do you think Jesus emphasized the 'oneness' of Himself and the Holy Spirit?

11. Why was it a 'better' thing for the disciples for Jesus to go away?

If you would have a choice between having Jesus in the flesh like the disciples had or having Jesus like we have today, what would you prefer? Why?

### **Read John 16: 16-33**

12. In these verses the disciples begin to understand the roles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Why is it important for us to understand the wonder of God's plans and many blessings to us in our daily life?

# *God's Wonderful Gifts*



*The Gift of The Holy Spirit  
Lesson 13*

# *The Gift of the Holy Spirit*

## *Lesson 13*

In this study we are especially blessed as we look at the wonderful gifts that Jesus promised to the disciples and to all of us who choose to follow our Lord. The Gift of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for those who really love the Lord to follow in the way that He has prepared for us.

Without this Gift that He offers us it would be impossible to live the victorious Christian life in a world that so often still rejects Him.

As the time drew near for Jesus to return to heaven He wanted the disciples to be a light in the darkness of a broken world and to share with others the great gifts that Jesus offered them. These gifts promised in John's Gospel are very important in helping us to grow in our faith and to experience the joy and peace of a Christ-centered life.

### **Read John 14: 15-27**

1. How would you describe the attitude of Jesus to His disciples?
2. What is the wonderful gift that Jesus promised His disciples?

What was His role?

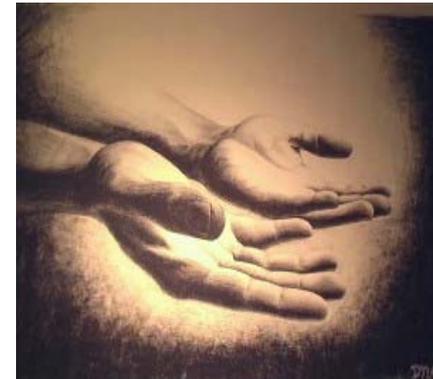
3. At times they and we may feel like abandoned orphans. What should we remember (verse 18)?
4. Judas, like us, had a 'why' question in verse 22. How does Jesus deal with it?
5. Think about verse 26. What effect could that verse have on our lives?
6. Verse 27 is a very special gift and promise. How can this verse be helpful to us?
7. In John's Gospel we have been trying to learn about the gifts that Jesus offers us if we are willing to receive them. Why is the last sentence so important?

### **Read John 16: 5-15**

Here we have Jesus explaining the very important work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was trying to help the disciples accept the reality of His departure into heaven. He also wanted them to have a clear picture of His wonderful provision for them to be able to live in a mixed up world.

10. In lesson 10 we saw why Jesus had come to this earth. How has this impacted your life?
  
11. In lesson 11 we studied the gift of our risen Lord and how people were impacted by His resurrection. Because He lives we too shall live! What does this statement mean to you?
  
12. In lesson 12 we studied all about Peter, his betrayal and Jesus' response to this. Do you identify with Peter? Why or why not?
  
13. In lesson 13 we studied the gift of the Holy Spirit. What encouraged you in this lesson?
  
14. We studied about all the many wonderful gifts that Jesus offers us. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful gifts that are available to us as Christians. The tragedy is that so often we read about these gifts and think how wonderful they are but we miss the many blessings that God is waiting for us to appropriate. Perhaps now is the time for us to come to our wonderful heavenly Father and open our hearts and minds to the precious gifts that are waiting for us. He is ready. ARE WE?

# God's Wonderful Gifts



*How to Claim God's Wonderful Gifts*  
*Lesson 14*

# *How to Claim God's Wonderful Gifts*

## *Lesson 14*

In the last weeks we have studied the wonderful gifts that God offers us and that are described in the book of John. We hope that you have enjoyed discovering the wonderful gifts that our gracious heavenly Father is offering to us. We hope that each gift in some way will become very real to each of us. Perhaps in the days ahead we will think seriously about these amazing gifts and accept them and make them a very important part of our lives.

In order to appreciate and appropriate the wonderful gifts that we have been learning about, perhaps this study together will help us to see how very important these gifts are, in order for us to live the kind of life that God desires for us as His children.

## **Read Romans 12 : 1 - 8**

1. In lesson 1 we learned about God's creative power and His concern for humanity. How does this comfort you?
2. In lesson 2 we talked about Jesus being full of Grace and Truth. Please explain what this means and what it means to you in your daily life.
3. In lesson 3 we discovered together with Nicodemus the gift of New Birth and Life. What does it mean to be born of water and Spirit?
4. In lesson 4 we learned about the gift of living water that Jesus offered to the woman at the well. How did this lesson impact you?
5. In lesson 5 we saw how Jesus gave the blind man eyes to see and how Jesus changed His life. In what way have your eyes been opened?
6. In lesson 6 we studied the parables of the Good Shepherd. Tell of a time in your life when Jesus was your Good Shepherd.
7. In lesson 7 we studied the resurrection of Lazarus and how Mary and Martha dealt with this crisis in their lives. How has this opened your eyes to the concept of an earthly life leading to an heavenly life?
8. In lesson 8 we studied the gift of a fruitful and joyful life and how we can produce fruit in our lives. In what way can your life become fruitful?
9. In lesson 9 we studied John 17:1-26, the prayer of Jesus for the disciples and us. In what way are our lives being prepared for all that He has for us?

**Lesson 8: The Gift of a Fruitful and Joyful Life**

John 15 : 1 – 17;

**Lesson 9: Preparation for the Cross - the Greatest Gift**

(Exodus 28:11-12) Hebrews 7: 25; John 12 : 23 – 24;

John 17: 1 – 26;

**Lesson 10: The Cross - The Greatest Sacrifice for Us**

John 18: 1 – 40 ; John 19: 1 - 42; Psalm 22: 17-18; Exodus 12: 7; 12-13;

John 4:10; John 7:37-38;

**Lesson 11: The Gift of the Risen Lord**

John 20: 1 – 31;

**Lesson 12: The Gift of Forgiveness - Peter's Failure and Restoration**

John 13: 36 - 38, John 18: 15-18, 25-27; John 6: 68-69; Luke 22: 31-34;

Micah 7: 8-9, 18-19; Luke 22: 54-62; John 21: 1 – 19;

**Lesson 13: The Gift of the Holy Spirit**

John 14: 15-27; John 16: 5-33;

**Lesson 14: How to Claim the Gifts of God**

**GOD'S WONDERFUL GIFTS**

**LAYOUT OF LESSONS 1 – 14**

**Lesson 1 :The Beginning**

Genesis 1, 2, 3; 2 Peter 1:3; Colossians 3: 12 -15

**Lesson 2 :The Gift of Grace and Truth**

John 1: 1 - 14 ; Ephesians 2 : 8-10;

**Les 3: The Gift of a New Birth and a New Life**

John 3: 1- 21; Ezekiel 36 : 25-28; John 7 : 45 – 52; John 19: 38-42;

**Lesson 4: The Gift of Living Water**

John 4 : 1 – 42;

**Lesson 5: A Special Gift for our Earthly Eyes**

John 9 : 1 – 41;

**Lesson 6: The Gift of Knowing the Good Shepherd**

Genesis 49:24, Psalm 77:20 and Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:11;

John 10 : 1 – 42;

**Lesson 7: The Gift of Earthly and Heavenly Life**

John 11 : 1 – 53;