

Discovery Bible Study

A Twelve Week Follow-Up Course

Discovery



Bible



Study

Student Guide

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To Him who is above all...

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0 Introduction*

0.1 History of the study

“Discovery Bible Study” is designed as a follow up Bible Study for new believers at a university level. This material was prepared by students from Malaysia and Hong Kong who were studying in Canada as a part of their efforts to share their new found faith with their classmate's

0.2 Each study session

Designed for use in a small group (6-8 member) study. Suggested lesson format is free sharing, singing, Bible Study and prayer for needs of group members.

0.3 Setup

Coming into this meeting you may have noticed that the layout is different than in your other courses. This is because language is for communication. Communication involves listening and speaking, i.e., not just the leader speaking and the student listening but also students speaking and other students listening. In other words, communication is a peer-to-peer not client-server architecture. Thus we will arrange the chairs in a large “O” to facilitate an interactive environment so we can share with each other..

0.4 Facilitator's Self-introduction

➤ Listen to the facilitators self-introduction.

0.5 Respect: Unspoken Rules

Everyone wants to be respected. Politeness is basically about respect. Being impolite to someone tells them that you do not respect them. Unfortunately, Westerners and Asians often have different ideas about the rules of politeness which are often unspoken. For example, while Asian lecturers often feel it is disrespectful for students to eat or drink in class, Westerners see nothing wrong with bringing coffee and donuts to a lecture or even a test situation. Following the following rules of politeness, appropriate in a Western context, will help the teacher and your fellow students feel that you respect them.

1. Attend all meetings

For a Westerner it is very impolite to promise to do something and not to do it. When you signed up for this study, there is the implicit promise to attend and be on time for all classes. Thus I expect you to try to attend all classes.

2. If you must be absent, inform (e.g. Email) the class tutor before the class.

It is also considered to be very inconsiderate if you miss a meeting or engagement and do not tell the host in advance. If the group or class is small, then the other members will wait for the person. Many times my Canadian friends have waited for up to an hour for a Chinese friend to join us – only to be disappointed. This inconveniences everyone. (While we continued to be friends, needless to say, that was the last time we invited that person to go out with us.)

* Items unique to the teacher's book are indicated with **underlined bold Arial** in the teacher edition.

So, if you need to miss a meeting due to sickness, attending a conference, or work, you should inform the teacher – maybe we can set up a separate time to meet with you to share the key points of the lesson.

3. Be on time

It is also very impolite to be late for an appointment or class as the others will wait. In Japan, once the teacher has arrived to start a class, the door is shut. Students may no longer enter the classroom.

Due to the nature of this class, we will follow the same procedure as is common in Japan. Firstly, this class is one that involves a lot of group work. Thus it is unfair to the other members of the group to have to explain the assignment again to a latecomer. Secondly, it is difficult enough to listen to English without any distractions. When a student rushes in late, it is next to impossible.

Thus, if the class has already started, then you *must* wait for the class break before entering the class. In this way you will not inconvenience other students.

4. Pay attention when others are speaking.

This not only means the teacher but also your classmates. This is how we respect others. If I say something, you don't understand, do NOT ask your friend, "What did he say?" While your friend is explaining you both will have missed the next point. More importantly, when a classmate is speaking, don't have a private conversation with your friends. Rather try to understand what he is saying. It respects him and it is good for you -- most people you meet will not speak perfect English!

5. Answer questions and share your answers.

When called on to answer, don't just sit and say nothing. Your ideas are important. If you do this you force us to wait for you to say something. This wastes everyone's time. If you can't answer the question, the following are all valid responses:

- "Pardon me, I don't understand the question."
- "I don't know.", or,
- "I am still thinking."

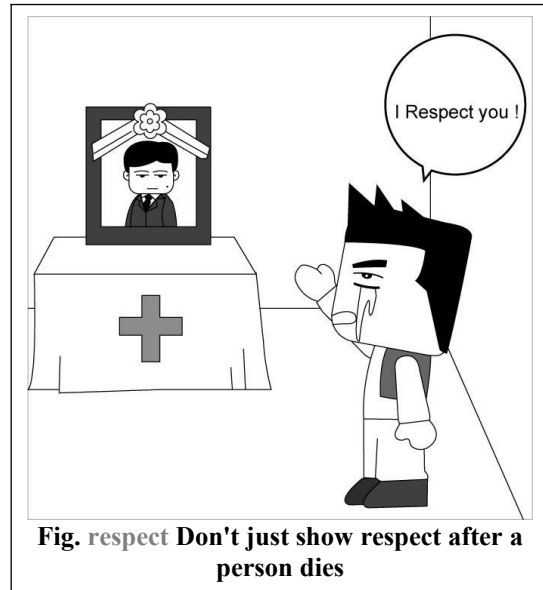
The above three are all valid and acceptable answers.

- Practice shouting the above phrases together.
- Ask each other unusual questions to practice these responses? (For example, "What is the capital of Rwanda?")

While there are areas of respect in Western culture that are not the same as Chinese culture, the basic principles are the same.

0.6 Scripture Memory

As you memorize, meditate on, study, and apply the Scripture verses presented here, you can become convinced of the reality of the promises God has made to you.



Always memorize the verse presented at the beginning of each lesson. You may want to begin by memorizing the verse, or you may prefer to do the study questions about the verse first. In either case, be sure to memorize the topic and the reference as well as the verse.

One good way to memorize these is to quote the topic and reference at the beginning of the verse and the reference at the end of the verse. For example, in quoting the verse in Lesson 1 you would say, “Assurance of Salvation, First John five, eleven and twelve,” and then repeat the verse. At the end you would repeat the reference again.

Learn one phrase at a time. Say “Assurance of Salvation, First John five, eleven and twelve, 'And this is the testimony...” Repeat this several times until you know it. Then, repeating what you have just learned, add the next phrase: “Assurance of Salvation, First John five, eleven and twelve, 'And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life...” Repeat all of this several times until you know it. Then all the next phrase. Repeat the process until you know it. Then all the next phrase. Repeat the process until you have memorized the verse.

As essential part of Scripture memory is review. Review, review, review! This will help you to retain what you have memorized. Be sure to review each verse daily.

Going through this process of memorizing, meditating, studying, and applying will help you understand and live by the principles presented in the verses.

0.7 Importance and Attributes of a Good Name

1. Importance of a Name

It is important to have an English name. In this course we will only be using English names. When practicing speaking English, this lets English conversations flow more naturally and lets you get used to pronouncing English names. In actual conversations with native English speakers, it will make it easier for them to remember your name. The key thing to remember is that a name is just a handle. Just as a designer seeks to make the handle of cup easy to grasp, you want to make it easy for people to address you.

2. Attributes of a 'good' name

With this in mind, it is safe to say, that it is best to choose an English name that is:

- relatively common,
- easy to spell,
- easy to pronounce, and,
- does not have any negative connotation.

While some parents like to give their children Chinese names that are not in any dictionary, it seems to me that it causes other people a lot of trouble. (For example, the name: 王行行, “Do I pronounce it as Wang Hang Hang, Wang Xing Xing, Wang Xing Hang or Wang Hang Xing?”)

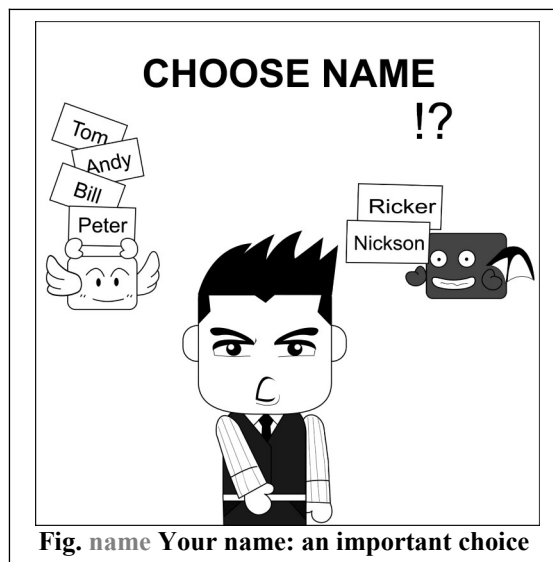


Fig. name Your name: an important choice

0.8 Suggestions in choosing your English name

Consider choosing a name whose meaning reflects your personality. You might want to consider choosing a name that is similar to your Chinese name in either pronunciation or in meaning.

For example the author's daughter's English name is Charity Grace White. (Charity is another word for love in English). We chose the Chinese name: 白爱恩。 My cousin's name is Christine Bell. She chose the Chinese name: 丁克心。 In the first case, the Chinese is a translation from the English of meaning, while in the second case it is a combination of meaning and sound. Both names are very natural in either language. If you read either Chinese name you would never know that the person referred to is a Canadian.

In order to help you in selecting a name, the following tables suggest a number of English names that are relatively common. The first column lists the registered name, while the second column the short form of the name (used among friends). As words in English come from many different languages the third column indicates the language the name comes from and the original meaning. The final column indicates the popularity of the name in the United States at the present time in terms of the number of registered names for babies compiled by the United States Government. The Website is quite interesting as you can trace the popularity of a name over time.

Table namemale Common North American male names (rank indicates the most popular names in the USA between the years 2000 to 2006^[ssa])

<i>Name</i>	<i>Short form</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Aaron	-	Hebrew	messenger	49
Abel	Abe	Hebrew	child	351
Adam	-	Hebrew	man of the red earth	60
Alexander	Alex	Greek	protector of mankind	16
Alfred	-	English	wise counsel	665
Andrew	Andy	Greek	strong	5
Benjamin	Ben	Hebrew	son of my right hand	25
Bradley	Brad	English	broad	159
Bruce	-	English	thicket	478
Charles	Charlie	German	manly/strong	58
Christopher	Chris	Greek	Christ-bearer	6
Clifford	Cliff	English	steep rock	883
Dale	-	England	valley	560
Daniel	Dan	Hebrew	God is my judge	7
David	Dave	Hebrew	beloved (2nd Jewish King)	13
Donald	Don	English	ruler of the world: brown stranger	256
Douglas	Doug	Scottish	from the dark water	318
Edward	Ed	English	guardian of prosperity	127

<i>Name</i>	<i>Short form</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Ethan	-	Hebrew	Strong, firm, impetuous	9
Gary	-	English/Latin	spear carrier	313
Gordon	Gord	English	from the cornered hill	743
Harold	Harry	English	army-power	598
Henry	-	German	ruler	111
Isaac	-	Hebrew	laughter	50
Jacob*	Jack	Hebrew	one who wrongly seizes another's place	1
James	Jim	Hebrew	(same Hebrew name as Jacob)	18
Jason	-	Greek	healer	42
Jeffrey	Jeff	French	heavenly peace	142
Joel	-	Hebrew	Jehovah is the Lord	123
John	-	Hebrew	God is gracious	17
Jonathan	Jon	Hebrew	Jehovah gave	21
Joseph	Joe	Hebrew	he shall add	8
Joshua	Josh	Hebrew	Jehovah saves	3
Luke	-	Greek	from Luciana (an region within Italy)	44
Mark	-	Latin	warlike	104
Matthew	Matt	Hebrew	gift of the Lord	4
Michael	Mike	Hebrew	like the Lord	2
Nicholas	Nick	Greek	Victory of the people	10
Patrick	Pat	Latin	nobleman	86
Paul	Paul	Latin	little one	121
Peter	Pete	Greek	rock	145
Phillip	Phil	Greek	lover of horses	233
Richard	Eric/Rick	German	powerful ruler	81
Robert	Rob/Bob	English	bright/famous	34
Ronald*	Ron	English	Adviser to the King	232
Samuel	Sam	Hebrew	asked of God	24
Scott	-	English	from Scotland	202
Sean	-	English	God is forgiving	61
Steven	Steve	Greek	crowned one	70

<i>Name</i>	<i>Short form</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Stephen			(1 st Christian martyr)	125
Thomas	Tom	Hebrew	twin	36
Wayne	-	English	Wagoner	579
Wesley	-	English	west meadow	186
William	Will/Bill	German	determined guard	11

* Not a good choice for a name due to its association with a certain clown.

Table namefemale Common North American female names

<i>Name</i>	<i>Short form</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Amanda	Mandy	Latin	worthy of love
Amelia	Emily	German	hard-working
Annie	Ann/Anne	Hebrew	gracious
Ashley	-	English	ash tree
Audrey	-	English	noble strength
Bethany	Beth	Hebrew	house
Betsy	-	Hebrew	consecrated to God
Betty	-	Hebrew	consecrated to God
Brenda	-	English	fiery hill/sword-blade
Charity	-	Latin	love
Christine	Christy	Greek	anointed
Daisy	-	English	flower name
Danielle	-	Hebrew	God is my Judge
Dawn	-	English	dawn
Deborah	Deb/Debbie	Hebrew	bee
Diane		Latin	sex goddess
Elizabeth	Liz/Beth	Hebrew	consecrated to God
Esther	-	Hebrew	star
Faith	-	English	fidelity
Gloria	-	Latin	glory
Hannah	-	Hebrew	graceful
Heather	-	English	a type of flower
Helen	-	Greek	light
Holly	-	English	a plant with red berries
Hope	-	English	hope

<i>Name</i>	<i>Short form</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Jacqueline	Jacky	Hebrew	one who wrongly seizes another's place
Janet	Jane	English	God's gracious gift
Janice	Jan	Hebrew	God is Gracious
Jennifer	Jenny	English	white/fair
Jill	-	English	Girl/Sweetheart
Joanne	Joan	Hebrew	God is Gracious
Judith	Judy	Hebrew	praise/admired
Leslie	-	Scottish	small meadow
Lillian	Lily	English	a type of flower
Linda	-	Spanish	pretty
Lydia	-	Greek	from city of Lydia
Marian	-	English	Mary + Ann
Mary	-	Hebrew	bitter
Merry	-	English	happy
Miriam	-	Hebrew	bitter
Nancy	-	Hebrew	full of grace
Naomi	-	Hebrew	pleasant one
Rachel	-	Hebrew	little lamb/pure
Rebecca	Becky	Hebrew	bound/tide
Rose	-	Greek	a type of flower
Ruth	-	Hebrew	compassionate friend
Sarah	-	Hebrew	princess
Sharon	-	Hebrew	princess
Shirley	-	English	country meadow
Sophia	-	Greek	wisdom
Susan	Suzy*	Hebrew	Lily (a type of flower)
Tammy	-	Hebrew	perfect one
Tina	-	English	river
Wendy	-	English	fair

* While a good English name, it is not a good choice for a Chinese girl due to its association with prostitution.

As you look at the names in the above tables, you will note that many English names have a short form – which would be used if you are good friends with the person. From the names, you can also learn a little about the culture from which they have come. (For example,

English female names tend to emphasize nature. German names tend to emphasize hard working. Hebrew names focus towards God. Greek and Latin names are more philosophical.) Further information how to choose a name and how not to choose a name is available on the internet.^[Name]

1. Individual Activity: Choose your name. (10')

- Choose an English name for yourself. You may...:
 - Keep an English name you already use (if it has not already been chosen)
 - Choose an English name you know and like
 - Choose an English name from this list
- As soon as you have chosen one, come to the front and write it on the board. If someone has already chosen the name you want, you will need to choose a different name.

0.9 Getting to Know Each Other

For the first few weeks of this course, we will start each class by playing a game to help you remember the names of your classmates (also to help the teacher to get to know the names of the students for grading!) as you will be having many opportunities to talk with each other in this course. This will make it easier to interact with fellow students.

1. Class Activity: Introducing Myself

- When it is your turn, state your name and the name of the town in which you were born. (We will go clockwise around the U)

2. Class Activity: Remembering Names

- When it is your turn (We will go counter-clockwise),
 - recite the names of your classmates,
 - add your own name to the end of the list.

3. Class Activity (Two teams): Ordering

- The facilitator will divide the group into two teams.
- Line up in alphabetical order (from A to Z) with your team members.
- Raise your hands when complete.
- The first group that has lined up in order (without any mistakes) wins.

4. Group Activity: Unique experiences

- The facilitator will number you off from 1 to 4
- Form a group with students having the same number. (e.g. All #1 students should assemble in the front-left corner of the room, all #2 students in the back-left corner, all #3 students in the back-right corner and all #4 students in the front-right corner)
- Find out one unusual, unique or interesting thing about each member of your group.
- Vote to find the person who has the most unique or interesting thing
- Choose a spokesman to introduce that person to the rest of the class.

1 Assurance of Salvation

1.1 Memory Work

1. Why should you memorize Bible passages?

2. Memorize 1 John 5:11-12

(1) 1 John 5:11-12 (NIRV) Assurance of Salvation	5:11-12 (CUV)
¹¹ And this is the testimony; God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.	¹¹ 這見證就是 神賜給我們永生； 這永生也是在他兒子裡面。 ¹² 人有了神的兒子就有生命， 沒有神的兒子就沒有生命。

This verse, that you have memorized and will study, will equip you for first encounters with the enemy. His first approach is often to cast doubt on the work God has done in your heart. Although you won't hear his audible voice, he will whisper this in your mind:

“You don't think you are saved and your sins forgiven just by believing and receiving Christ? Surely that is not enough!”

What will your answer be? Your *only* hope of successfully resisting such an attack is to resort to God's word. What does God say about the matter? That is the important think for you to know.

On the basis of God's written word you can be convinced you have the Lord Jesus Christ, and with him eternal life. You can thus overcome in this first test of your faith. The attack may recur, but now you can meet it with the word of God in your heart.

1.2 God's Promises to You

1. 1 John 5:11-12

a. Who gives eternal life?

b. Where is eternal life found?

c. Who has eternal life?

d. Who does not have eternal life?

2. (John 3:16) How has God shown that he loves you?

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (NIV) 「神愛世人，甚至將他的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信他的，不至滅亡，反得永生。」

3. What results of man's sinfulness are listed in:

a. Isaiah 59:2

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that He will not hear.

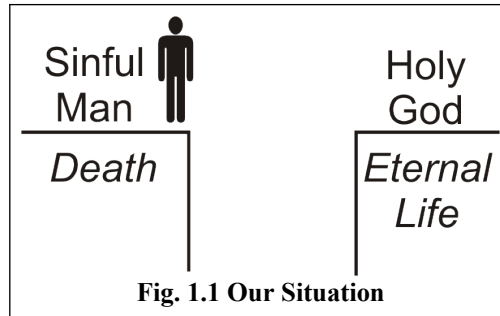
但你們的罪孽使你們與神隔絕；
你們的罪惡使他掩面不聽你們。

b. Romans 6:23

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. 因為罪的工價乃是死；惟有神的恩賜，在我們的主基督耶穌裡，乃是永生。

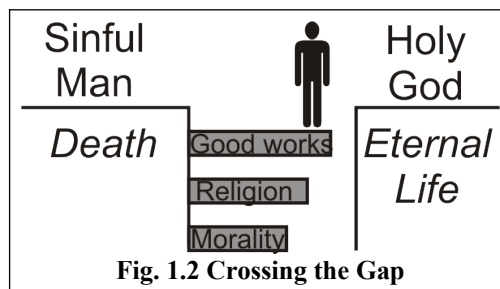
4. How can our relationship with our Holy God be once again restored according to 1 John 1:9?

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 我們若認自己的罪，神是信實的，是公義的，必要赦免我們的罪，洗淨我們一切的不義。



5. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Why do human efforts always fail to reach God?

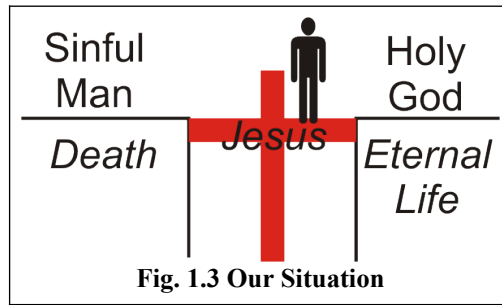
Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any many should boast." 你們得救是本乎恩，也因著信；這並不是出於自己，乃是神所賜的；也不是出於行為，免得有人自誇。



---- BREAK WEEK 1 HERE ----

6. In 1 Peter 3:18 how did Peter explain what God has done to bring men to himself?

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. 因基督也曾一次為罪受苦，就是義的代替不義的，為要引我們到神面前。按著肉體說，他被治死；按著靈性說，他復活了。



7. How did John say a person receives the gift of salvation in John 1:12?

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. 凡接待他的，就是信他名的人，他就賜他們權柄，作神的兒女。

---BREAK WEEK 2---

1.3 Things you should know

1. After we believe in Christ, what does the Holy Spirit testify within us according to Romans 8:16?

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 聖靈與我們的心同證我們是神的兒女；

2. What takes place when a person becomes a Christian, as described in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new. 若有人在基督裡，他就是新造的人，舊事已過，都變成新的了。

3. What do you think all things implies? What is new?

We must emphasize the importance of believing God and taking Him at His Word. A person must learn to place his faith in the promises of God and not in what he feels. Feelings often help substantiate the truth of the Word of God, but the problem with feelings is that they are too often controlled by circumstances. Our faith was meant to rest on the solid rock of God's Word, not the shifting sands of feelings. The new Christian must focus his faith on the unchanging fact and not on the changing circumstances.

1.4 Things you will have

The Salvation of a newborn believer can also be assured through the explainable changes taking place in his life, both in actions and attitudes. 2 Corinthians 5:17 teaches that a new Christian has become a new creation. This new creation results in a changed life and is evidenced by several things. The new Christian can use the evidence of these changes as a guideline upon which to gauge his assurance.

1. What are the changes the Word of God implies should be developing in the life of a new believer?

1. 1 Peter 2:2

1 Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation. 就要愛慕那純淨的靈奶，像才生的嬰孩愛慕奶一樣，叫你們因此漸長，以致得救。

2. 1 John 2:3

1 John 2:3 We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commandments. 我們若遵守他的誡命，就曉得是認識他。

3. 2 Corinthians 4:13

2 Corinthians 4:13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak. 但我們既有信心，正如經上記著說：『我因信，所以如此說話。』我們也信，所以也說話。

4. d. Acts 4:20

Acts 4:20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. 我們所看見所聽見的，不能不說。」

---BREAK WEEK 3 ---

2. Which of the following changes have you experienced in your life? (Check appropriate ones and elaborate(explain) if necessary)

- ☐ Inner Peace [Philippians 4:6-7] _____
- ☐ New awareness of sin _____
- ☐ Victory over sin _____
- ☐ New love for God _____
- ☐ Desire to read the Bible (YES) _____
- ☐ Attitude changes _____
- ☐ Sense of forgiveness _____
- ☐ New concern for others _____

1.5 Memory Work:

1. Write out 1 John 5:11-12

2. Apply 1 John 5:11-12

Meditate on this verse and consider how to apply it to your life.

How do you know that you have eternal life?

3. Take a few moments to thank God for all he has given you in Jesus Christ.

2 Redemptive Work of Jesus Christ

2.1 Memory Work

1. Review 1 John 5:11-12.

Check here ____ after quoting it correctly from memory.

2. Memorize John 3:16

(2) John 3:16 (NIRV) Redemptive Work of Christ	3:16 (CUV)
¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.	¹⁶ 神愛世人， 甚至將他的獨生子賜給他們， 叫一切信他的， 不至滅亡， 反得永生。

Jesus' own disciples, early in their experience with Him, asked in amazement, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41) The religious leaders of His day asked, "Who is this who speaks blasphemy?" (Luke 5:21). We read that at the end of His three and a half years of preaching, "...when He was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, 'Who is this?'" (Matthew 21:19). The correct answer makes a tremendous difference to life.

Jesus Christ had a public life of only three and a half years. He lived in an age without cars, trains, airplanes, radio, TV, newspapers, or any other fast means of communication. He was born in one tiny village and lived most of His life in another. In fact, he traveled no more than 320 km from His birthplace! He never wrote a book and never went to college. He owned no property and held no public office.

Yet, as Phillips Brooks put it, "All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has this one solitary life -- the life of Jesus Christ."

2.2 Jesus Christ is More than a Man

1. Paul in his letter to the Galatians (Galatians 4:4) refers to Him by saying that He was born under ____ This verse also says He had a human ____ but that His Father was ____

[Galatians 4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law.] (及至時候滿足，神就差遣他的兒子，為女子所生，且生在律法以下，)

2. "For God so loved the world that He gave His _____ Son." (John 3:16)

We have now seen that Jesus was, by nature, the Son of God. The importance of this is seen when we realize the difference between something you MAKE and something you BEGET (give birth to) by way of reproduction. If you make a table or a robot, it is not the same essence as yourself -- it is not human. But if you have a son -- he is of your own essence, i.e., he is human because you are human. God MADE man -- they are not divine. But Jesus is begotten of God; He is declared to be the ONLY Son of God, i.e., He is Divine!

3. In John's Gospel, Jesus is sometimes called "The Word". What does John 1:1-3 tell us about how long He has existed?

John 1:1-3 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.

(太初有道，道與神同在，道就是神。這道太初與神同在。萬物是藉著他造的；凡被造的，沒有一樣不是藉著他造的。)

Notice it does not say that He **BEGAN** "in the beginning". It says that in the beginning He "already **EXISTED**". He existed **BEFORE** His human birth, and there never was a time when He did not exist! Therefore, John tells us: "And the Word was made (lit. 'became') flesh, and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14)

2.3 Jesus Christ Knew Man's Greatest Need

1. According to Romans 3:23, how does God classify you?

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (因為世人都犯了罪，虧缺了神的榮耀；)

We know this to be true. This is an age of unrest, sleeping pills, and nervous breakdowns. In Romans chapter 1, the Bible describes all the personal and social problems we can face -- from immorality and crime through juvenile delinquency and broken homes to the international situation. But the Bible does what our newspapers do not do: it gives us the real reason for these conditions. The real reason is that we are all sinners.

In the Bible, physical death, as we think of it, is only part of the picture. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 2:1) indicates that people who are now alive, physically, can at the same time be "dead!". This is because death is not a ceasing to exist, but rather a **CONDITION** of existence -- that of separation from God, Who is our source of spiritual life. It is our sin that separates us from God! The essence of sin is self-centered inwardly

Romans 1:21-22 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him. Instead, their thoughts turned to worthless things, and their ignorant hearts were darkened. Though claiming to be wise, they became fools. (但如今，神的義在律法以外已經顯明出來，有律法和先知為證：就是神的義，因信耶穌基督加給一切相信的人，並沒有分別)

Therefore, regardless of who we are, if we are honest with ourselves, we really do need a change of heart. The Bible uses an expression which, though it may be ridiculed by some people, describes man's basic need: "to be saved.". This is what Jesus Christ came to do.

2.4 He Died to "SAVE"

1. According to 1 Peter 3:18, why did Jesus Christ, the Just One, die for us, the unjust?

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, an innocent (just) person for the guilty (unjust), so that he could bring you to God. He was put to death in the sphere of the flesh but was made alive in the sphere of the spirit, (ISV) (因基督也曾一次為罪受苦，就是義的代替不義的，為要引我們到神面前。按著肉體說，他被治死；按著靈性說，他復活了。)

In the Old Testament, Isaiah 53:5 puts it this way: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement (punishment) of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes (blood) we are healed (forgiven)".

2. We now see that a holy, righteous God actually sent His Son to die for those who were in rebellion against Him! Although God hates sin, what, according to 1 John 4:10, is His attitude towards us sinners?

1 John 4:10 This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (不是我們愛神，乃是神愛我們，差他的兒子為我們的罪作了挽回祭，這就是愛了。)

3. The result God planned from the death of Christ was that the _____
_____ be reconciled to (or reunited in fellowship with) _____
(2 Corinthians 5:19)

2 Corinthians 5:19 For in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself by not counting their sins against them, and he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (這就是神在基督裡，叫世人與自己和好，不將他們的過犯歸到他們身上，並且將這和好的道理託付了我們。)

2.5 Memory Work: Write out John 3:16

3 Forgiveness of Sins

3.1 Memory Work

1. Review the following verses, and check them off after quoting them correctly from memory. 1 John 5:11-12 _____ John 3:16 _____
2. Memorize 1 John 1:9

(3) 1 John 1:9 (NIRV) Confession of Sins	1:9(CUV)
⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.	⁹ 我們若認自己的罪， 神是信實的， 是公義的， 必要赦免我們 的罪， 洗淨我們一切的不義。

Although victory over sin is rightfully yours, there will be times when you miss the way of escape. You will fail and sin against God. Once you do, your enemy will be on the job immediately:

“No you've done it. Aren't you supposed to be a Christian? Christians don't do those things.”

But God makes provision in his word for the failures of His children, as we see in 1 John 1:9. We received His full forgiveness as we confess to Him our sins.

To confess a sin means to uncover it and call it exactly what God calls it. This honest confession must include the willingness to forsake the sin. God promise not only to forgive us, but also to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. What a gracious provision!

3.2 Exploring 1 John 1:9

1. What does God want you to do about your sins?

2. What is true confession?

3. In his act of forgiving us, how is God described?

4. What else does God do when you confess your sins?

3.3 Our Confession of Our Sins

1. Read 1 John 1:8,10. What did John say you should recognize about yourself?

8 If we say that we have no sin,
we are false to ourselves and there is nothing true in us.
9 If we say openly that we have done wrong,
he is upright and true to his word,
giving us forgiveness of sins and making us clean from all evil.
10 If we say that we have no sin,
we make him false and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10, BEN)

8 我們若說自己無罪，
便是自欺，
真理不在我們心裡了。
10 我們若說自己沒有犯過罪，
便是以神為說謊的，
他的道也不在我們心裡了。

2. What should be your attitude toward sin?

Psalms 139:23-24

Search me, O God,
and know my heart:
try me,
and know my thoughts: And
see if there be any wicked way in me, and
lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)

神啊，求你
鑒察我，知道我的心思，
試煉我，知道我的意念，
看在我裡面有什麼惡行沒有，
引導我走永生的道路。

Psalm 38:18

For I will declare mine iniquity;
I will be sorry for my sin.

我要承認我的罪孽；
我要因 我的罪憂愁。

3. How does the result of concealing our sins differ from the results of confessing them, according to Proverbs 28:13?

He who keeps his sins secret
will not do well;
but one who is open about them,
and gives them up
will get mercy. (Proverbs 28:13, BEN)

遮掩自己罪過的，
必不亨通；
承認離棄罪過的，
必蒙憐恤。

3.4 His Forgiveness of our Sin

1. How is God described in Romans 5:8?

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth (has made clear) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

惟有基督在我們還作罪人的時候為我們死，神的愛就在此向我們顯明了。

2. According to 1 Peter 2:24, on what basis are you forgiven?

(1 Peter 2:24) Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

他被掛在木頭上，親身擔當了我們的罪，使我們既然在罪上死，就得以在義上活。因他受的鞭傷，你們便得了醫治。

3. Read Hebrews 10:12. How powerful is Christ's sacrifice in forgiving our sins?

(Hebrews 10:12) But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God." (ISV)

但基督獻了一次永遠的贖罪祭，就在神的右邊坐下了。

3.5 Our Responses After Forgiveness

1. Read Hebrews 10:17. Why is it foolish for you to continue to feel guilty about sin?

(Hebrews 10:17) and, "I will never again remember their sins and their lawless deeds." (ISV) 以後就說：我不再記念他們的罪愆和他們的過犯

If you continue to feel guilty about a sin which you have confessed, what does this indicate about your relationship with God?

2. According to Ephesians 4:32, what should be your attitude toward those who have offended you? Why?

(Ephesians 4:32) And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another just as God has forgiven you in Christ. (ISV)

並要以恩慈相待，存憐憫的心，彼此饒恕，正如神在基督裡饒恕了你們一樣。

3. What are some practical things we can do to forgive others?

4. According to Romans 6:1,2,6; should we continue to sin because we are assured of God's grace of forgiveness? Why?

(Romans 6:1,2,6)

1. What should we say, then? Should we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2. Of course not! How can we who died as far as sin is concerned go on living in it? 6. We know that our old selves were crucified with him so that our sinful bodies might be rendered powerless and we might no longer be slaves to sin. (ISV)

這樣，怎麼說呢？我們可以仍在罪中、叫恩典顯多嗎？

斷乎不可！我們在罪上死了的人豈可仍在罪中活著呢？

因為知道我們的舊人和他同釘十字架，使罪身滅絕，叫我們不再作罪的奴僕；

3.6 Memory Work: 1 John 1:9

1. Write out 1 John 1:9 from memory.

2. Apply 1 John 1:9

Perhaps as you worked on this lesson something came to your mind which is hindering your fellowship with God – some sin you have committed for which you have not asked forgiveness. If so, write down what God brought to your mind.

Confess this to God, and claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 that He has forgiven your sin. Thank Him for His forgiveness.



4 Salvation By Faith

4.1 Memory Work

1. Review the previous memory verses. Check them off after quoting from memory.

- 1 John 5: 11-12 _____
- John 3:16 _____
- 1 John 1:9 _____

2. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9

(4) Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIRV) Salvation by Faith	2:8-9(CUV)
⁹ For it is by grace you have been saved , through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.	⁸ 你們得救 是本乎恩 也因著信； 這並 不是出於自己， 乃是神所賜的；也 不是出於行為， 免得有人自誇。

The Bible reveals that God has laid down the exact condition upon which an individual may receive the salvation provided through the death of His Son Jesus Christ. God's condition is a definite and personal relationship to the Lord Jesus.

In Acts 11:26, we have the origin of the term “Christian”. There we read, “...and the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch”. According to the Bible; a Christian is a disciple of Jesus.

This lesson is to help you discover what that relationship is and how you may enter it for yourself.

4.2 Salvation is Based on Faith

It is obvious that, if a man could earn his salvation by living a good life, Jesus Christ would not have needed to die on the cross for our sins.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us how we CANNOT be saved.

It is **NOT** by _____ nor by _____

According to these verses, we **ARE** saved by _____ through _____

The word “grace” means something someone else does for us freely. In this case, it refers to the goodness of God toward undeserving men. This idea is repeated by the use of the word “gift”.

2. From Romans 6:20,23 we learn more about this gift.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free as far as righteousness was concerned. What benefit did you get from doing those things you are now ashamed of? For those things resulted in death.... For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

因為你們作罪之奴僕的時候，

就不被義約束了。

你們現今所看為羞恥的事，當日有什麼果子呢？

那些事的結局就是死。...

因為罪的工價乃是死；惟有神的恩賜，在我們的主基督耶穌裡，乃是永生。

This verse tells us God's gift is _____. In addition, these verses tell us that this gift is given (or made available) through _____.

A gift is something we must accept or reject from the giver. We have seen in Ephesians 2:8,9 that the way we accept God's gift of salvation is by faith.

But what is faith? Many people seem to think that faith is just believing that certain facts are true. The Bible teaches us that the faith that saves involves more than just knowing and believing these things.

(James 2:19) You believe that there is one God. That's fine! Even the demons believe that and tremble with fear. 你信神只有一位，你信的不錯；鬼魔也信，卻是戰驚。

Clearly from this verse, faith is more than just knowing and believing something. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that:

faith is the substances (or assurance) of things hope for, the evidence (or proving) of things not seen. 信就是所望之事的實底，是未見之事的確據。

In other words, faith is an assurance so strong that we act upon it! Therefore James concludes that:

In the same way, faith by itself, if it does not have any works, is dead. 這樣，信心若沒有行為就是死的。(James 2:17)

The words “faith (noun)” and “believe (verb)” carries with them the idea of trusting by committing oneself to the one in whom we believe.

4.3 Faith must be in Jesus Christ

We have seen from Romans 6:23 that God's gift of eternal life is through Jesus Christ.

1. What does Jesus say is the way to God? (John 14:6)

(John 14:6) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” 耶穌說「我就是道路、真理、生命；若不藉著我，沒有人能到父那裡去。」

2. How many other ways to God are there? (Acts 4:12)

(Acts 4:12) There is no salvation by anyone else, for there is no other name under heaven given among people by which we must be saved. 除他以外，別無拯救；因為在天下人間，沒有賜下別的名，我們可以靠著得救。

3. Paul expresses this idea in other words in 1 Timothy 2:5. Fill in the blanks.

(1 Timothy 2:5) There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and human beings—a human, Christ Jesus. 因為只有一位神，在神和人中間，只有一位中保，乃是降世為人的基督耶穌；

For there is _____ God, and one _____ between God and men. The name of this mediator is _____.

4.4 Faith Involves a Relationship with Christ

We have now seen that salvation involves receiving God's gift, and that this gift is in Jesus Christ.

1. According to John 1:12, we must _____ in Christ.

This is the same as receiving Him.

(John 1:12) However,
to all who received him, 凡接待他的，
to those believing in his name, 就是信他名的人，
he gave authority to become God's children, 他就賜他們權柄，作神的兒女。

What relationship does this give us to God? - _____

2. To believe in Jesus Christ (“in his name”) is to confess him as _____

(Philippians 2:8-11) Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 所以，神將他升為至高，又賜給他那超乎萬名之上的名，叫一切在天上的、地上的，和地底下的，因耶穌的名無不屈膝，無不口稱「耶穌基督為主」，使榮耀歸與父神。

3. (Luke 6:46) Jesus says that to call Him “Lord” is not enough. What must we also do?

(Luke 6:46) Why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord,' but don't do what I tell you? 你們為什麼稱呼我『主啊，主啊，』卻不遵我的話行呢？

4. What, in view of this entire lesson, would you say is the way we put this faith in Christ into action?

Since our faith involves **obedience**, God has given us things we should do as acts of obedience. One of these in particular is given as a **first step** for every real believer.

5. What act of obedience is essential for every believer? (See Romans 10:9-10)

(Rm. 10:9-10) If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For a person believes with his heart and is justified, and a person declares with his mouth and is saved. 你若口裡認耶穌為主，心裡信神叫他從死裡復活，就必得救。因為人心裡相信，就可以稱義；口裡承認，就可以得救。

6. According to Matthew 10:32-33, what did Jesus say happens to the person who refuses to confess (or denies) Him before men?

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men,
him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

But whosoever shall deny me before men,
him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

「凡在人面前 認我的，
我在我天上的父面前也必 認他；
凡在人面前不認我的，
我在我天上的父面前也必不認他。」

4.5 Memory Work: Ephesians 2:8-9

1. Write out Ephesians 2:8-9 from memory.

2. Apply Ephesians 2:8-9

Have you ever truly trusted the Lord Jesus by faith alone and by the surrender of your will to him as your personal Lord and Saviour?

If you have not made such a commitment before and wish to do this, tell Him (in prayer) that you acknowledge *the sin of having lived your life without His control*, and that you now surrender your entire life to Him as your Saviour and Lord.

If you have told the Lord Jesus this, in prayer, you could sign your name to the statement below as a permanent reminder of what you have done.

“I have today trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour by faith alone and by the surrender of my entire life to His control as my Lord.”

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Keeping in mind question 5 in the previous section, be sure that you let others know of your decision.

5 Victory Over Temptation

5.1 Memory Work

1. Review the previous memory verses. Check them off after quoting from memory.

- 1 John 5: 11-12 _____
- John 3:16 _____
- 1 John 1:9 _____
- Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

2. Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Corinthians 10:13 (WEB)

No temptation has taken you
except what is common to man.
God is faithful,
who will not allow you to be tempted
above what you are able,
but will with the temptation
also make the way of escape,
that you may be able to endure it.

Victory over Temptation

你們所遇見的試探，
無非是人所能受的。
神是信實的，
必不叫你們受試探
過於所能受的
在受試探的時候，
總要給你們開一條出路，
叫你們能忍受得住。

3. When to Use this Verse

Still another attack from Satan may be along this line: He will whisper to you, “You have life, all right, *but* you are a weakling; you have always been a weakling.”

He will remind you of some sin which has gripped you for years. He will point to something of which you are keenly aware, and say, “You are weak. You will not be able to stand against this temptation. You may be able to stand against others, *but* not this one. Give up. Just do it and get it over with....”

How will you answer him? Will you attempt to reason? Will you try to produce your own arguments? Will you run to see what other people say? Or will you rely on the invincible word of God?

Knowing 1 Corinthians 10:13 will allow you to ward off this attack. God promises victory. It belongs to you as His child. Believe Him, and you will see how God does things that are impossible with men. It will thrill you to see the chains of lifetime habits broken by His mighty power.

5.2 Victory over Temptation Assured--1 Corinthians 10:13

1. What is true about every temptation you face?

2. Who can give you victory when you are tempted?

3. Does God remove temptation? What does God do?

4. Does escape mean victory?

5. How can we experience God's faithfulness in our own battles with temptation?

5.3 Sources of Temptation

1. **Lust.** From where does lust come? (James 1:14)

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.	但各人被試探， 乃是被自己的私慾牽引誘惑的。
James 1:14	

2. **The World.** Read 1 John 2:15-16. What are the three primary areas of temptation from the world?

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.	不要愛世界 和世界上的事。 人若愛世界， 愛父的心就不在他裡面了。 因為凡世界上的事，就像 肉體的情慾， 眼目的情慾，並 今生的驕傲， 都不是從父來的， 乃是從世界來的。
1 John 2:15-16	

3. **Satan** According to Peter (cf 1 Peter 5:8) what is the devil seeking to do when he tempts you? (What is Satan's purpose in giving tempting you?)

Be clear-minded and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion,	務要謹守，警醒。 因為你們的仇敵魔鬼， 如同吼叫的獅子， 遍地遊行，
---	---

looking for someone to devour. 尋找可吞吃的人。 1Peter 5:8

4. What does this mean to you?

5.4 Trials vs. Temptation

1. Read James 1:13. Does God tempt you? Explain.

When someone is tempted,
he should not say,
"I am being tempted by God,"
because
God cannot be tempted by evil,
nor does he tempt anyone.

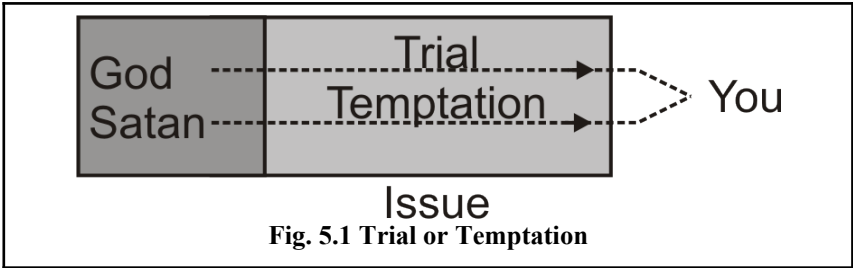
人被試探，
不可說：
「我是被神試探」；
因為
神 不能被惡試探，
他也不 試探人。

James 1:13

God uses difficulties to test you, the Bible refers this to '*trial*'. **Trial** and **temptation** are very different:

Item	Trial	Temptation
Source	God	Satan
Purpose	Good	Evil
Desired Result: leads men to	Spiritual Maturity stronger faith gain rewards glorify God	Fall into sins weaker faith forfeit rewards shame God

The chart above indicates that **trials** come from God, while **temptation** comes from Satan. This is true by principle. However, we have to know that God can use Satan's temptation to test us, and Satan can also use God's trial to tempt us. Therefore, when we have to face a difficulty, we do not need to distinguish whether it is a trial or a temptation, as long as we rely on our Lord Jesus Christ for victory, we can proceed towards maturity and firm faith.



5.5 Conditions for Victory

We have to differentiate carefully that temptation by itself is not a sin, but failure in temptation is sin. Our Lord Jesus Christ was also tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11), yet He did not fail nor sin. The Bible points out that there exists a process for temptation to evolve into a sin (James 1:14-15)

But each one is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin; and the sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.

但各人被试探，乃是被自己的私欲牵引诱惑的。私欲既怀了胎，就生出罪来。罪既长成，就生出死来。

Lust -----> Sin -----> Death
(Conceived:Maturity)(Full-grown:No Repentance)

If we can control our own lust (in our private thought life), win over our flesh, we will not sin.

1. What are both the passive and active ways in dealing with the temptation of lust according to 2 Timothy 2:22?

Flee from youthful passions.

Instead, pursue

righteousness,

faithfulness,

love, and

peace

together with those who call

on the Lord with a pure heart.

你要逃避少年的私慾，

同那清心禱告主的人追求

公義、

信德、

仁愛、

和平。

2 Timothy 2:22

2. How does Peter suggest that can you get ready to defend yourself from the enemy (Satan=Devil)? (1 Peter 5:8)

Be clear-minded and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 務要謹守，警醒。因為你們的仇敵魔鬼，如同吼叫的獅子，遍地遊行，尋找可吞吃的人。(1 Pt. 5:8)

3. Just before he died, Jesus also mentioned another key in preparing for temptation. (a) What did Jesus suggest that one do? (b) What should we also recognize about ourselves? (Matthew 26:41)

All of you must stay awake and pray that you won't come into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.. 總要警醒禱告，免得入了迷惑。你們心靈固然願意，肉體卻軟弱了。(Mt 26:41)

4. Jesus in a model prayer also addressed the issue of temptation. How did Jesus suggest we pray regarding temptation? (Matthew 6:13)

And never bring us into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

不叫我們遇見試探；
救 我們脫離兇惡。

Mt. 6:13

5. Even though you flee, you are alert and you pray, but if you will to indulge yourself, you are bound to lose. What two things does James tell us to do in order have a victorious Christian life? (James 4:7)

Submit yourselves to God.
Resist the devil, and
he will run away from you.

你們要順服神。
務要抵擋魔鬼，
魔鬼就必離開你們逃跑了。

Jm 4:7

6. According Psalm 119:11, what also helps us to avoid sinning against God?

Your word have I hid in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.

我將你的話藏在心裡，
免得我得罪你。

(Ps. 119:11)

7. How did Jesus confront the temptation of the devil? (Matthew 4:1-11)

8. Summarize what we should do to have victory over temptation.

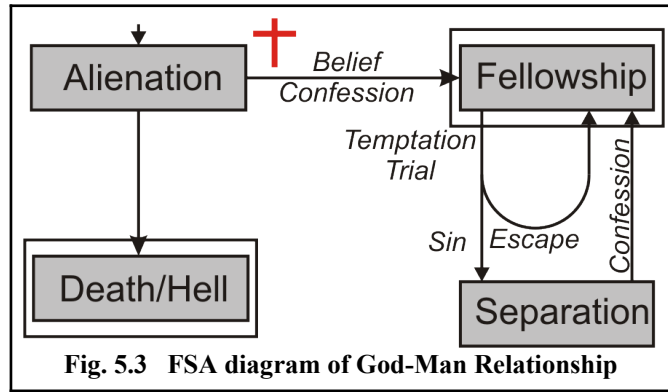
5.6 Memory Work

The precautions taken by the Psalmist and the example of Jesus, show us the importance of memorizing Scripture verses

1. Write out 1 Corinthians 10:13 from memory.

2. Apply: What is a temptation that frequently seizes you?

3. What do you think God's way of escape is?



6 Power for Living in the Holy Spirit

6.1 Memory Work

1. Review the previous memory verses. Check them off after quoting from memory.

- 1 John 5: 11-12 _____
- John 3:16 _____
- 1 John 1:9 _____
- Ephesians 2:8-9 _____
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 _____

2. Memorize Galatians 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIRV) Fruit of the Spirit	加拉太书 5:22-23 (CUV)
But the fruit of the Spirit is	聖靈所結的果子，就是
love, joy, peace,	仁愛、喜樂、和平、
patience, kindness, goodness,	忍耐、恩慈、良善、
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.	信實、溫柔、節制。
Against such things there is no law.	這樣的事沒有律法禁止。

3. Lesson Motivation

It is important for a new Christian to realize the source of power for living the Christian life. The significant truths of the Spirit-filled life are basic to effective Christian living. A grasp of these truths early in your Christian experience will prevent much defeat and frustration as you grow. This Bible study deals with this truth and follows a three-point outline that should aid retention in your life.

6.2 Promises of God in Abundant Christian Living

Learning to be filled, which means controlled and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, is the key to spiritual victory and effectiveness for a Christian. It is only when this condition is present in the experience of a Christian that many of the promises in the Word of God begin to become real to a Christian.

1. What kind of life does Christ promise His followers in John 10:10?

The thief comes only to steal,	盜賊來，無非要偷竊，
slaughter, and destroy.	殺害，毀壞；
I have come that they may have life,	我來了，是要叫羊得生命，
and have it abundantly.	並且得的更豐盛。

– Abundant life. Not just life but overflowing life. Twilight vs daylight .

This kind of abundant life was to be characterized by both effectiveness in ministry (service) and in personal completeness of life. Personal completeness is described by the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit.

2. What does Galatians 5:22-23 tell us about the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit in personal completeness of abundant life?

— _____

— _____

— _____

The Holy Spirit is the source of power for this kind of Christian living. It is only when one is filled with God's Holy Spirit that this kind of life becomes possible. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."* (Acts 1:8a)

6.3 What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

1. Jesus Christ lives His life in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit in a very real sense means to be filled with _____ and _____ in you. (Galatians 2:20)
2. Read Ephesians 5:18. Paul compares being filled with the Holy Spirit to drunkenness.
 1. What controls you when you are drunk? _____
 2. Who controls you when you are filled with the Spirit? _____
 3. Are you able to have self-control in both cases? _____
 4. Summarize what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

6.4 How can I be consistently filled with the Holy Spirit?

There are certain conditions which must be met before one can be filled with God's Holy Spirit. These conditions are ones that need to be met continuously, not just once, because the filling of the Spirit is not a once-and-for-all act, but a continuing process. Being filled is not the product of asking, as much as it is a product of meeting the conditions.

Find out the four conditions in order to be filled with God's Holy Spirit by referring to the respective Scripture verses. Give a reason to explain why each condition is necessary.

1. (Matthew 5:6) Condition: _____ and Reason.

(Mt 5:6) "How blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, for it is they who will be satisfied! 飢渴慕義的人有福了！因為他們必得飽足。

2. (Romans 12:1) Condition: _____ and Reason.

(Rm 12:1) I therefore urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices that are holy and pleasing to God, for this is the reasonable way for you to worship. 所以弟兄們，我以神的慈悲勸你們，將身體獻上，當作活祭，是聖潔的，是神所喜悅的；你們如此事奉乃是理所當然的。

3. (1 John 2:3) Condition: _____ and Reason.

(1Jo 2:3) This is how we can be sure that we have come to know him: if we continually keep his commandments. 我們若遵守他的誡命，就曉得是認識他。

4. (1 John 1:9) Condition: _____ and Reason.

(1Jo 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us those sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 我們若認自己的罪，神是信實的，是公義的，必要赦免我們的罪，洗淨我們一切的不義。

Confession is not merely a matter of telling the Lord you are sorry for sinning, but it also includes repenting (turning from sin) and trusting God for forgiveness. These elements are essential. The word confess means to agree with God concerning your sin. These are the conditions for the filling of God's Holy Spirit. If you have met these conditions, then as a simple act of faith, surrender your life, ask Christ to control your life, and trust Him that He has and will continue to do so. Consistently walking in the Spirit is a product of meeting the conditions day-by-day. It is then that we will see the fruits of the Spirit becoming evident in our lives. This is the *Normal Christian Life*.

“Day-by-Day, Oh dear Lord, 3 things I pray:

To see thee more clearly,
To follow thee more nearly,
To love thee more dearly,
Day-by-day-by-day-by-day.”

Lyrics from Song “Day-by-Day” in Godspell

6.5 Memory Work

The precautions taken by the Psalmist and the example of Jesus, show us the importance of memorizing Scripture verses

1. Write out Galatians 5:22-23 from memory.

2. Applying Galatians 5:22-23

Meditate on the nine elements of the fruit of the Spirit listed in this verse. Are you clear about what they are and look like?

1. Fill in the following chart evaluating yourself as to your possession of these fruits.

Item	English	Chinese	NO!	Weak	Middle	YES!	Perfect
1	Love	仁愛					
2	joy	喜樂					
3	peace	和平					
4	patience	忍耐					
5	kindness	恩慈					
6	goodness	良善					
7	faithfulness	信實					
8	gentleness	溫柔					
9	self-control	節制					

2. Have a good friend (or spouse, child) assess your life for the fruits of the Spirit.

Item	English	Chinese	NO!	Weak	Middle	YES!	Don't know
1	Love,	仁愛					
2	joy,	喜樂					
3	peace,	和平					
4	patience,	忍耐					
5	kindness,	恩慈					
6	goodness,	良善					
7	faithfulness,	信實					
8	gentleness,	溫柔					
9	self-control.	節制					

3. Compare your answers. Do you see yourself the ways other see you?

Pray together about our weaknesses. Praise God for our strengths.

<i>Person</i>	<i>Strength to Praise</i>	<i>Weakness to Pray</i>

7 Developing the Devotional Life

7.1 Memory Work

1. Review the previous memory verses. Check them off after quoting from memory.

- 1 John 5: 11-12 _____
- John 3:16 _____
- 1 John 1:9 _____
- Ephesians 2:8-9 _____
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 _____
- Galatians 5:22-23 _____

Christian Speak

quiet time

= daily devotions

= time alone with God

defn: A time spent *alone* reading the Bible, meditating, praying, singing and worshiping God.

2. Memorize Mark 1:35 Jesus' Devotional Life

Mark 1:35 Jesus' Devotional Life

Very early in the morning,

while it was still dark,

Jesus got up, and

went to a deserted place and

prayed there.

次日早晨，

天未亮的時候，

耶穌起來，

到曠野地方去，

在那裡禱告。

3. Lesson Motivation

A pastor asked the members of his church why each one of them needs to have a *quiet time* with God everyday.

“If I don't don't have a *quiet time*, things will go wrong that day”. The pastor replied: “Your purpose is wrong. Having a quiet time is not for avoiding bad luck.”

“If I don't have a quiet time, I feel I am not a Christian.”, suggested another person. The pastor replied: “Your purpose is also wrong. Having a *quiet time* is not a creed to become a Christian. We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, not by having a daily quiet time.”

“I can only know God's guidance by having a quiet time.” suggested another member. The pastor replied: “Wrong again. A quiet time is not fortune-telling. Of course God leads us every day, but this is not the ultimate purpose of having a daily *quiet time*.”

“My devotional habit can help me to understand the Bible more and to pray more powerfully.” The pastor replied: “These are only the merits of a *quiet time*, but they are not the ultimate purpose.”

“What is the ultimate purpose?”: asked everyone. “The ultimate purpose of a *quiet time* is the Lord Himself, we pray in Him in order to draw closer to Him, to express our love for Him, give thanks and praise Him. We study the Bible in order to know Him, to see how lovely He is. Reading the Bible should be like reading a love letter. You will be attracted by love while you are reading. Your heart is filled with your lover. This kind of quiet time is sweet and enjoyable. We are satisfied by the Lord, and the Lord is satisfied by us. This is the correct purpose of a quiet time.”

7.2 Daily Devotional Life

1. In your own words, briefly write down the purpose of the daily devotional life.

2. Read Psalm 1:2. How should a person's delight in God's law be put into action?

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and
in his law doth he meditate day and night.

惟喜愛耶和華的律法，
晝夜思想，
這人便為有福！

3. How do you feel about studying God's word? How do you put into practice?

7.3 Choose a Time and Place

Proper planning for a good time and place will prevent many problems such as distractions, interruptions, and conflicts. One's *quiet time* should be at a time when he can give his undivided attention to the LORD. Some have found that the early morning is best for them; others prefer late at night. The important thing is to set up a time when you are alert and can think clearly. Set up twenty to thirty minutes as an initial goal for your daily devotions.

It is important for you to have your daily devotions free from interruptions and distractions. This is important if one is to fully concentrate on the Word of God. If possible, find a place that you can pray out loud without disturbing others.

When you read Mark 1:35, you may have been surprised to read that our Lord Jesus Christ, who is God, also rose up early in the morning to pray. Yes! Our Lord Jesus Christ also realized the importance of communication with His Father.

1. In Mark 1:35, what time of day did Jesus pray?

2. Where did Jesus go to pray?

3. Why do you think he chose this time and this place?

4. In Mark 14:23 when and where did Jesus go to pray? Why?

Mat 14:23 After dismissing the crowds, he went up on a hillside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. 散了眾人以後，他就獨自上山去禱告。到了晚上，只有他一人在那裡。

5. What is the best time of the day and place for you to have a *quiet time* with God?

7.4 Suggested Procedure

1. Overview

You need some guideline on what you should do during your *quiet time*. Different people follow slightly different procedures in doing a *quiet time*. Generally, I (jdww) have found the following sequence to be helpful.

1. Praise – Sing a Song praising God!
2. Reflection & Confession – Repent of any known sin, Ask God to point out Sins
3. Looking at God's Word
4. Prayer
5. Planning the Day / Reflecting on the Day past

While one is having his devotions, it is helpful to keep a personal “blog” to record your reflections, your learnings from God's word and plans for the day. In the future, this will allow you to reflect back on God's goodness to you.

2. Looking At God's Word

As one studies the bible, it is best to read a paragraph or a chapter at a time. First, ask God to teach you from the passage. Second, read the passage slowly several times and think about the text. Here are some basic questions a new Christian could ask:

1. Does this teach me about any sins I should forsake?
2. Are there promises to claim?
3. Are there examples to follow?
4. Are there warnings to consider?
5. What does it teach me about the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
6. Are there any other truths?
7. What should I do about this things?
(Application)

Don't just think about these questions, write out your thoughts. This brings us to the importance of a notebook or blog. You should be keeping track of your daily study. One possibility is to use the format on the left:

3. Prayer

A second vital element in your devotional life is prayer. It is important that prayer become a natural part of your life.

Date: _____	Passage _____
1. Sins to Forsake: _____	
2. Promise: _____	
3. Examples: _____	
4. Warnings: _____	
5. Teachings about God: _____	
6. Other truths: _____	
7. Application to me: _____	

Developing a prayer list is a helpful tool to aid in the prayer time of yours. It could be kept as a separate list or “blog”. The prayer diary will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 9.

7.5 Practice

There will be a time for a quiet time together during the Bible study. Please prepare the following Bible passages by meditating upon the suggested questions. Then put your thoughts on a piece of paper according to the format suggested above for your *quiet time* notebook.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

The love of Christ controls us, for we are convinced of this: that one person died for all people; therefore, all people have died. He died for all people, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for the one who died and rose for them. So then, from now on we do not think of anyone from a human point of view. Even if we did think of Christ from a human point of view, we don't think of him that way any more. Therefore, if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away, Behold! All things have become new!	原來基督的愛激勵我們； 因我們想， 一人既替眾人死， 眾人就 都死了； 並且他替眾人死， 是叫那些活著的人 不再為自己活， 乃為 替他們死而復活的主 活。 所以，我們從今以後， 不憑著外貌認人了。 雖然憑著外貌認過基督， 如今卻不再這樣認他了。 若有人在基督裡， 他就是新造的人， 舊事已過， 都變成新的了。
---	---

How is God's love revealed to us?	Teaching about God
For who did Christ die?	Truth
How have I experienced God's love?	Application
For what purpose did Christ die?	Truth
What am I living for? Money? School?	Application
When a person is in Christ, what happens?	Promise
Have “old things” really passed away?	Application
What “new things” are in my life?	Application

2. Colossians 3:1-17

What are we told about Christ?	Teaching about God
From verse 1, Paul wrote “If then you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God.” What is Paul trying to point out?	Other truths
Who is the old self? Who is the new self? Compare the lives of these two types of people.	Other truths
What are the sinful behaviours Paul cited? Have you taken action to overcome these sins in your life?	Sins to forsake
As of today, are we behaving in the same way as we did before Christ entered our life? Or is our life elevated to a new horizon?	Application to Me

What are the special qualities which should be observed in a new life?	Other truths
Do our lives exhibit these fine qualities that are mentioned in the passage?	Application to Me
Does the joy that we received from Christ's redemption still dwell in our hearts?	Application to Me
What are the standards that we use as principles of our actions and behaviours?	Application to Me

3. Chosen Passage

7.6 Memory Work

1. Write out Mark 1:35 from memory.

2. Applying Mark 1:35

Draw up a plan for a *quiet time* for next month. Make your commitment to God in prayer that you will stick to this plan, and discipline yourself in your devotional life with Him.

8 God's Word

8.1 Memory Work

1. Review the previous memory verses. Check them off after quoting from memory.

1 John 5: 11-12	John 3:16	1 John 1:9	Mark 1:35
Ephesians 2:8-9	1 Corinthians 10:13	Galatians 5:22-23	

2. Memorize Psalm 119:9, 11 God's Word

Psalm 119:9,11	God's Word
How can a young man keep his way pure?	少年人用什麼潔淨他的行為呢？
By living according to your word...	是要遵行你的話！
I have hidden your word in my heart	我將你的話藏在心裡，
that I might not sin against you.	免得我得罪你。

3. Lesson Motivation

By memorizing God's Word, we can avoid and experience victory over unintentional (不故意) sin, and can please God in all areas of life.

As the Apostle Paul said goodbye to believers from Ephesus, he reminded them that God's word “can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32). God's Word gives us food for spiritual maturity, and prepare us for our eternity with God. It is through God's written Word that God often talks to us.

Not having a regular intake of God's word will stunt our spiritual growth as surely as improper nourishment harms a child. “Like new born babes,” the Apostle Peter wrote, “crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.” (1 Peter 2:2).

8.2 Exploring Psalm 119:9,11

1. How can you live a pure life?

2. What will keep you from sin?

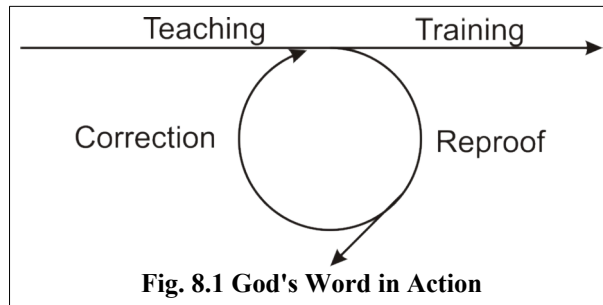
8.3 Use of God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another--	聖經都是神所默示的，
showing us truth,	於教訓、
exposing our rebellion,	督責、
correcting our mistakes,	使人歸正、
training us to live God's way.	教導人學義
	都是有益的，
Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.	叫屬神的人得以完全，
	預備行各樣的善事。

1. Where do the Scriptures come from?

2. What will the Scriptures do in your life?

3. What will be the result of following the Scriptures in our life?



8.4 Live in God's Word

1. Read Psalm 1:2. What attitude should you have towards God's word?

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

惟喜愛耶和華的律法，
晝夜思想，

這人便為有福！(CUV)

Instead, they find joy in
obeying the Law of the LORD,
and they study it day and night. (GNB)

他喜愛的
是耶和華的律法，
他晝夜默誦的
也是耶和華的律法。(NCV)

2. (Apply) What is your attitude towards studying God's word? Do you like to obey?

3. What does Joshua 1:8 teach us to do so as to live according to God's word?

這律法書不可離開你的口，要晝夜默誦，好使你謹守遵行書中所記的一切；這樣，你的道路就必順利，你必一路亨通。(NCV)

Always remember what is written in that book of law. Speak about that book and study it day and night. Then you can be sure to obey what is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything you do. (ERV)

8.5 Hide God's Word in your Heart

1. Colossians 3:16 says that we should let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. (你們要讓基督的道豐豐富富地住在你們心裡 CSV) What could you do, personally, to enrich the quality of your intake of Scripture.

2. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7 What did Moses tell the people to do with God's word?

Always remember these commands
that I give you today.

Be sure to teach them to your children.

Talk about these commands

when you sit in your house and

when you walk on the road.

Talk about them

when you lie down and

when you get up.

我今日吩咐你的這些話，

都要記在你的心上；

你要把這些話不斷地教訓你的兒女，

無論你

坐在家裡，或

行在路上，或

躺下，或

起來的時候，

都要談論。

3. What is a practical way for you to talk to others about God's word?

8.6 Keep Sins Out with God's Word

1. What is the word of God able to do in your heart, according to Hebrews 4:12?

God's word is

alive and

working.

It is sharper than the sharpest sword

and cuts all the way into us.

It cuts deep to the place where the

soul and the

spirit are joined.

God's word cuts to the center of

our joints and

our bones.

It judges the thoughts and

feelings in our hearts. (ERV)

神的道

是活的，

是有效的，

比一切兩刃的劍更鋒利，

甚至可以刺入剖開

靈與

魂，

關節與

骨髓，

並且能夠辨明心中的

思想和

意念。(NCV)

2. Read James 1:22-25. What do we see when we get close to a mirror?

Do what God's teaching says; don't just listen and do nothing. When you only sit and listen, you are fooling yourselves. Hearing God's teaching and doing nothing is like looking at your face in the mirror and doing nothing about what you saw. You go away and immediately forget how bad you looked. But when you look into God's perfect law that sets people free, pay attention to it. If you do what it says, you will have God's blessing. Never just listen to his teaching and forget what you heard. (ERV)

只是你們要行道、不要單單聽道、自己欺哄自己。因為聽道而不行道的、就像人對著鏡子看自己本來的面目。看見、走後、隨即忘了他的相貌如何。惟有詳細察看那全備使人自由之律法的、並且時常如此、這人既不是聽了就忘、乃是實在行出來、就在他所行的事上必然得福。(NCV)

3. How did James say we should respond to the word of God?

8.7 Memory Work

1. Write out Psalm 119:9,11 from memory.

2. Applying Psalm 119:9,11....

Select one of the verses that you have already memorized which you need to apply this week. Now write a prayer request based on this need. Pray and ask God to help you in this area.

9 Prayer Life

9.1 Memory Work

1. Review the previous memory verses. Check them off after quoting from memory.

1 John 5: 11-12	John 3:16	1 John 1:9
Ephesians 2:8-9	1 Corinthians 10:13	Galatians 5:22-23
Mark 1:35	Psalms 119:9,11	

2. Memorize Philippians 4:6-7

Philippians 4:6-7

μηδεν μεριμνατε,
αλλ εν παντι

τη προσευχη και
τη δεησει μετα
ευχαριστιας
τα αιτηματα υμων
γνωριζεσθω προς τον θεον.
και η ειρηνη του θεου
η υπερεχουσα παντα νοον
φρουρησει
τας καρδιας υμων και
τα νοηματα υμων
εν χριστω ιησου.

The Power of Prayer

應當一無掛慮，
只要凡事
借着
禱告，
祈求，和
感謝，
將你們所要的
告訴神。
神所賜出人意外的平安，
必在基督耶穌裡，
保守你們的
心懷
意念。(CUV)

6 Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Give thanks to him. 7 Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood. (NIRV)

6 應當毫無憂慮，只要凡事藉著禱告祈求，帶著感恩的心，把你們所要的告訴神。 Do not be afraid about anything. Do not let anything cause you trouble inside yourselves. Instead, tell everything to God. Pray to him. Ask him for everything that you need. And when you pray, always thank him.

7 這樣，神所賜超過人能了解的平安，必在基督耶穌裡，保守你們的心思意念。 If you do that, God will rule you. He will rule your minds by Christ Jesus. He will rule what you feel like. He will cause you to be without trouble inside yourselves. God is so great that he can do that for us. But we cannot understand how he does it. (NCV (<http://www.dbsbible.org>) / EEV (<http://www.easyenglish.info>))

3. Lesson Motivation

Prayer is the privilege and responsibility of Christians.

Vocabulary

privilege: unmerited (不應得的) opportunity (機會)

responsibility: 責任

每一項權利都包含着責任；

每一個機遇都包含着義務；

每一種獲得都包含着職責。(Comp. EC dictionary)

While it is primarily through God's word with the interpretation and personalization provided by the Holy Spirit, that God speaks to us; prayer is the way in which we respond verbally back to God.

While God hears the prayers of non-Christians, it is only the prayers of his children that he promises to answer. (John 16:24 Jesus said: "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask, and you will receive what you ask for. Then your joy will be complete." The promise that God will hear our prayers is a great privilege. For the same reason, it is also a great responsibility.

9.2 The Privilege

1. (vs 6) What does the Paul tells us not to do?
2. (vs 6) When we are afraid and worried, what should we do?
3. (vs 6) But as we do this, what should be also be careful to do?
4. (vs 7) If we do this, what is God's promise?
5. (vs 7) Does God promise to give us what we want?
6. (vs 7) Why does Paul say, "God's peace cannot be understood"? Examples?
7. Application: Do I make use of this privilege?
8. Application: When I pray, what do I include in my prayer?

9.3 The Responsibility

Samuel was a prophet and priest in Israel. His birth was an answer to prayer. As a young boy he heard God's voice. He had the privilege of anointing 2 kings. Here is an example of his attitude.

Far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; (1 Samuel 12:23) 至於我，斷不停止為你們禱告，以致得罪耶和華。

1. How does Samuel regard is his responsibility with regards to prayer?

-
2. Why does he talk of sinning against the LORD and not against man?

-
3. Who is Samuel talking to when he makes this comment?
-

10 The Church

Vocabulary
analogy: 类似/类比/相似

10.1 Memory Work

1. Review the previous memory verses. Check them off after quoting from memory.

1 John 5: 11-12	John 3:16	1 John 1:9
Ephesians 2:8-9	1 Corinthians 10:13	Galatians 5:22-23
Mark 1:35	Psalms 119:9,11	Philippians 4:6-7

2. Memorize Ephesians (以弗所書) 4:11,12 The Church

Ephesians 4:11,12 The Church

It was He who gave
some to be apostles,
some to be prophets,
some to be evangelists, and
some to be pastors and teachers
to prepare God's people
for works of service
so that the body of Christ
may be built up. (NIRV)

以弗所書 4:11,12

他所賜的，
有作使徒的，
有作先知的，
有作傳福音的，也
有作牧養和教導的，
為的是要裝備聖徒，
去承擔聖工，
建立基督的身體； (CNV)



3. Lesson Motivation

The church is made up of all true Christians everywhere. It includes many thousands of local churches. God instituted these local churches to help Christians grow spiritually. You will have fellowship with other believers there. Fellowship involves serving and encouraging others and being served and encouraged. You will also receive "training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16) as God's word is preached and taught in the local church.

The Bible teaches us to seek out this kind of fellowship. "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25)

10.2 The Church = The Body of Christ

The word church is used in two senses in the Bible. At times it refers to the entire body of Christians in the world, i.e., the universal church. At other times it refers to a specific group of believers in a specific place, i.e., the local church. The church is often called the "body of Christ." This means that all Christians are part of the spiritual body of Christ as it ministers in our world today.

Augustine used the terms "visible church" and "invisible church" to emphasize this distinction. The invisible church is composed of all true Christians worldwide while the visible church is those that call themselves Christians and meet together weekly in a building.

Ephesians 4:11-16 explains this important truth and shows that everyone is need to make the body grow and become effective. When a person becomes a Christian, he receives the Holy Spirit and becomes a part of the body of Christ or universal church.

11 And he gave some as Apostles, and some, prophets; and some, preachers of the good news; and some to give care and teaching; 12 For the training of the saints as servants in the church, for the building up of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come to the harmony of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to full growth, to the full measure of Christ: 14 So that we may be no longer children, sent this way and that, turned about by every wind of teaching, by the twisting and tricks of men, by the deceits of error; 15 But saying true words in love, may come to full growth in him, who is the head, even Christ; 16 Through whom all the body, being rightly formed and united together, by the full working of every part, is increased to the building up of itself in love.

11 他所賜的，有作使徒的，有作先知的，有作傳福音的，也有作牧養和教導的，
12 為的是要裝備聖徒，去承擔聖工，建立基督的身體； 13 直到我們眾人對 神的兒子都有一致的信仰和認識，可以長大成人，達到基督豐盛長成的身量； 14 使我們不再作小孩子，中了人的詭計和騙人的手段，給異教之風搖撼，飄來飄去， 15 卻要在愛中過誠實的生活，在各方面長進，達到基督的身量。他是教會的頭， 16 全身靠著他，藉著每一個關節的支持，照著每部分的功用，配合聯繫起來，使身體漸漸長大，在愛中建立自己。

1. Who is He?

2. Why did He give gifts to us Christians?

3. The word "body" is used as an analogy of the church: Christ's body? Why do you think this analogy is used?

4. According to vs 12, when the members are trained what is the final result?

5. What does it "be build up" mean?

6. vs. 13-15 What will be the result in our lives when the church's ministry follows the pattern described in vs 11-12?

7. vs.11-15 Who in addition to the pastor is responsible for the growth of Christians in the local church?

8. vs 15-16. How can we, as individual members and as a whole, keep the local church functioning and growing

10.3 Why is the local church necessary?

The church is needed for a number of reasons.

1. Fellowship. According to Hebrews 10:25, how can our meeting together help you?

Not giving up our meetings, as is the way of some, but keeping one another strong in faith; and all the more because you see the day coming near.

2. Teaching. A good church provides needed training and teaching so Christians can grow in their own spiritual lives and minister to others. The variety of leaders with different spiritual gifts can provide growth.

3. Cooperate Worship.

4. Service. The church provides us with a place where we can use the gifts God has given us. (Eph 4:11-12) Evaluate the gifts that Christ has given you. In what areas of service can you manifest your gifts for the functioning and growing of the body of Christ, starting in your local church?

10.4 Why Should I Go?

A good question.

Firstly, you should go for all the reasons given for why the church is necessary.

Secondly, God commands that we should go.

Thirdly, group involvement tends to keep us from extremes.

Fourthly, there is a variety of people in the local church. In a “cell group”, the people you contact with daily are generally similar to you. Ideally, in a local church, you will meet a large variety of people: Older Christians can encourage you as you grow. New Christians can help you restore the excitement of your faith. The variety of backgrounds and ways in which God has brought people to himself will challenge you. Interacting with others will help us to grow.

10.5 Which Local Church Should I Attend

Ideally, this question should be one that one need not have to answer, I.e, there would only be one local church. Unfortunately, due to historical reasons and man's sinfulness, there are many options. This decision needs to be approached with prayer. The following check points can help you:

1. Preaches the Gospel of Christ, i.e., Salvation through Jesus alone. {KEY}
2. Members are growing and walking with Jesus {KEY}
3. Members have a desire to reach out to others {KEY}
4. Has a warm and friendly atmosphere
5. Cell group members attend.

From my personal perspective, one should start looking at the church closest to your home or base. Only if God says, “NO”, then should one go to a church further from home. I believe that this is important to allow us to bring others to church/fellowship with us.

10.6 Memory Work

1. Write out Ephesians 4:11,12 from memory.

2. Applying Ephesians 4:11,12

1. Write a short paragraph on why the local church is important for your spiritual growth?

2. What local church will you attend?

11 Christian Fellowship

Vocabulary

11.1 Memory Work

1. Review the previous memory verses. Check them off after quoting from memory.

1 John 5: 11-12	John 3:16	1 John 1:9
Ephesians 2:8-9	1 Corinthians 10:13	Galatians 5:22-23
Mark 1:35	Psalms 119:9,11	Philippians 4:6-7
Ephesians 4:11-12	Hebrews 10:25	Matthew 28:18-20

2. Memorize Hebrews 希伯來書) 10:25

Christian Fellowship

Hebrews 10:25 Christian Fellowship	希伯來書 10:25
Let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us cheer each other up with words of hope. Let us do it all the more as you see the day coming when Christ will return. (NIRV)	我們不可放棄聚會， 好像有些人的習慣一樣； 卻要互相勸勉。 你們既然知道那日子臨近， 就更應該這樣。(NCV)

3. Lesson Motivation

When many Christians use the term "fellowship" they are talking about a regularly scheduled meeting when Christians get together for the purpose of communicating with one another, sharing or learning, serving the Lord, socializing or even just having fun. (1) In this context, the word "fellowship" is being used to distinguish this type of meeting from a "traditional church service" where the attendees' attention is directed towards God (in worship or the Eucharist) or towards the teacher. (2) The word "fellowship" may also be used to describe a meeting of some segment, e.g., young people, young marrieds, of the local church population meets together regularly. In this case the format may be similar to a "traditional church service". (3) Fellowship, as we will discuss here, is more than a scheduled program or gathering and is not confined to any setting or set time. Today's lesson will focus on understanding fellowship in terms of the latter definition.

1. If someone describes our weekly meeting as a fellowship, which definition are we using?

11.2 What is Christian Fellowship? (defn 3)

"Fellowship" is derived from the Greek word (κοινωνία, pronounced koi-no-ni-a), which means "partnership, that is, (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship." God has given you much to share. As you examine the verses below, determine what you can share with others and one practical way to share it. (Bible verses at end of lesson)

<i>Passage</i>	<i>What to Share</i>	<i>How to Share</i>	
1 John 4:11,21	=====		
Galatians 6:2	=====		
Galatians 6:6	=====		
James 5:16	=====		

Picture the following situation. During a home gathering several Christians are in the same room drinking coffee and eating doughnuts as they discuss the upcoming election. The conversation moves to the subject of “which animal makes the best household pet.” Then one tells a joke he recently heard. They enjoy a good laugh together, and begin to talk about the weather forecast for tomorrow. As one of them leaves, he says, “It sure is good to have Christian fellowship.”

1. Is this genuine Christian fellowship? Why or why not? If so, which definition?

=====

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2. Could this time together be improved? How?

=====

=====

=====

11.3 The Purpose of Fellowship

1. What is one purpose of meeting together as believers? (Hebrews 10:25)

=====

=====

Graham Green writes, “I have never known a man who caused so much trouble for nobler purposes.” We are from different cultural backgrounds, we have different personalities, our styles of dealing with things and with people are different, and we have different habits too. With so many dissimilarities between members of the body of Christ, conflict is expected. If these are not dealt with, the results will be disunity and broken fellowship. Paul called us to actively to work hard at maintaining unity (Eph 4:3).

2. Why did Jesus pray for unity among us Christians in John 17:23?

=====

=====

11.4 Case Studies: Building Fellowship in Love

A genuine love demands total commitment to God. This includes obedience to His law. Jesus taught us that the law can be summed up as Loving God totally and Loving your neighbour as yourself." Our love for God is seen by how we demonstrate godly love among

brothers and sisters. John encouraged the early believers "let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and truth." (1 John 3:18)

1. Case 1: Disagreeable Trait

So often we cannot even communicate with, not to mention fellowship with, a certain brother or sister just because a particular trait in that person is not acceptable in our sight. "Brother A has some problem mastering his verbal English. Whenever he is required to speak in English during a meeting, i.e. praying or leading singing, he tends to drag for a long time in making just one point and repeat his thought again and again. Other brothers and sisters feel annoyed, and criticize him publicly as being long winded. He feels hurt by such a comment." How should you respond to Brother A according to Romans 15:7?

2. Case 2: Feeling down

There are times we become weary or discouraged under various pressures. Our faith becomes unsteady because we turn our eyes away from Jesus.

Sister B has become very depressed recently after receiving her final report. She failed one of her required courses in her final year. During her studies she has faced much pressure as her family has high expectations for her. She is very afraid to tell her parents about this setback. She is afraid her family will blame her for being lazy. (actually she studies very hard). She begins to question God: "Why do you do this to me? Why?"

As a brother (or sister), what will you do to help her? (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

3. Case 3: Broken Promise

No one is perfect. Even our closest friends sometimes hurt us. Sometimes this is unintentional. But it is sad that sometimes we become bitter towards those who have hurt us. We complain or become overwhelmed with anger when our self-esteem is hurt.

You had an appointment with brother Wang at 7:30AM Tuesday morning outside the library so he could give you back your notes in time for an Open Book midterm test at 8:00AM. Unfortunately, he did not show up. As a result, you did poorly on the midterm. You meet him at the cell group meeting the next week and find out that he overslept. Rather than apologize, he defends himself and tries to convince you that this was not his fault.

How do you feel?

How should you react? (Colossians 3:12,13)

4. Case 4: Sin is Close

Our lives are busy. We all have our own responsibilities to fulfill. Our thoughts are occupied by our own concerns. When a brother is trapped by some sin, would you hold a 'not my problem' attitude? If a sister is facing a difficult task and feels helpless, would you take a 'not-my-business' attitude? Would you find excuses for not showing concern?

Fred recently has started attending the cell group less and less frequently because of his non-Christian girlfriend. Various brothers and sisters have told him he should not be dating her. He tries very hard to help his girlfriend become a Christian but, up to now, she has expressed no interest. His emotion is seriously troubled and he feels guilty.

How will you react to this brother? (Romans 15:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

11.5 Memory Work

1. Write out Hebrews 10:25 from memory.

2. Applying Hebrews 10:25

- Write a short paragraph to explain how brothers and sisters (e.g. in cell group) are important for your Christian Growth?

I John 4:11,12,21 (NIRV) Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we should also love one another. No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us. (21) Here is the command God has given us. Anyone who loves God must also love his brothers and sisters.	約翰一書 4:11,12,21 親愛的，神既然這樣愛我們，我們也應當彼此相愛。 12 從來沒有人見過神，我們若彼此相愛，神就住在我們裡面，他的愛也在我們裡面得到成全了。 21 愛神的，也應當愛弟兄，這就是我們從神領受的命令。
Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's heavy loads. If you do, you will give the law of Christ its full meaning.	加拉太書 6:2 你們各人的重擔要互相擔當，這樣就成全了基督的律法。
Galatians 6:6 Those who are taught the word must share all good things with their teacher.	加拉太書 6:6 在聖道上受教的，應該和施教的人分享自己的一切美物。
James 5:16 So admit to one another that you have sinned. Pray for one another so that you might be healed. The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen.	雅各書 5:16 所以你們應當彼此認罪，互相代求，這樣你們就可以痊愈。義人祈禱所發出的力量，是大有功效的。

<p>John 17:23</p> <p>I will be in them, just as you are in me. I want them to be brought together perfectly as one. This will let the world know that you sent me. It will also show the world that you have loved those you gave me, just as you have loved me. (NIRV)</p>	<p>約翰福音 17:23</p> <p>我在他們裡面，你在我裡面，使他們完完全全合而為一，讓世人知道你差了我來，並且知道你愛他們，好像愛我一樣。</p>
<p>Romans 15:7</p> <p>Christ has accepted you. So accept one another in order to bring praise to God.</p>	<p>羅馬書 15:7</p> <p>因此，你們應當彼此接納，就像基督接納了你們一樣，使榮耀歸於 神。</p>
<p>1 Thessalonians 5:11</p> <p>So cheer each other up with the hope you have. Build each other up. In fact, that's what you are doing.</p>	<p>帖撒羅尼迦前書 5:11</p> <p>所以，你們應該彼此勸慰，互相造就，正如你們一向所行的。</p>
<p>Colossians 3:12,13</p> <p>You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient.</p> <p>13 Put up with each other. Forgive the things you are holding against one another. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you</p>	<p>歌羅西書 3:12,13</p> <p>並且感謝父，他使你們有資格分享聖徒在光明中的基業。</p> <p>13 他救我們脫離了黑暗的權勢，把我們遷入他愛子的國裡。</p>
<p>Romans 15:1-2</p> <p>We who have strong faith should help the weak with their problems. We should not please only ourselves. 2 We should all please our neighbors. Let us do what is good for them. Let us build them up.</p>	<p>羅馬書 15:1-2</p> <p>我們堅強的人，應該擔當不堅強的人的軟弱，不應該求自己的喜悅。 2 我們各人務要叫鄰舍喜悅，好讓他得到益處、得到造就。</p>
<p>2 Timothy 3:16-17</p> <p>God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. 17 By using Scripture, a man of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.</p>	<p>提摩太後書 3:16-17</p> <p>願主賜憐憫給阿尼色弗一家的人，因為他多次使我暢快，也不以我的鎖鍊為恥；</p> <p>17 他竟然來到羅馬，迫切地尋找我，結果找到了。</p>

12 Witnessing

12.1 Memory Work

1. Review the previous memory verses. Check them off after quoting from memory.

1 John 5: 11-12	John 3:16	1 John 1:9	
Ephesians 2:8-9	1 Corinthians 10:13	Galatians 5:22-23	
Mark 1:35	Psalms 119:9,11	Philippians 4:6-7	
Ephesians 4:11-12	Hebrews 10:25	Matthew 28:18-20	

2. Memorize Matthew 28:18-20 馬太福音 28:18-20 The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIRV) Great Commission	馬太福音 28:18-20 (CUV)
¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."	¹⁸ 耶穌進前來，對他們說： 天上地下所有的權柄都賜給我了。 ¹⁹ 所以，你們要去， 使萬民作我的門徒， 奉父、 子、 聖靈 的名給他們施洗 ²⁰ 凡我所吩咐你們的， 都教訓他們遵守， 我就常與你們同在， 直到世界的末了。

3. What does the word "witness" mean?

4. Lesson Motivation

What could you tell someone about how your life has changed because of Jesus?

Have you thought about how to give a clear explanation of your faith in God?

Peter wrote, "*Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it.*" (1 Peter 3:15)

As someone who has experienced God's saving love, you have much to share. Before we accepted Jesus as our Saviour, we could only look forward to death. Now we have the privilege of talking to God now and the hope to go to heaven after our death. So we have good news to tell others!

12.2 Why witness?

Read carefully this week's memory verse. The word "teaching" in verse 19 means to make disciples. The expression "all nations" shows that God's blessing are no longer primarily for the Jewish people or one particular group of people, but for all the people of the

world. Notice that this command is prefaced by the statement that all authority belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Under whose authority do we go to proclaim the Good News? (vs18)

2. What ONE thing are we to do for those who do not know Jesus? (vs19)

3. What TWO things are we to do for those who become disciples? (vs19-20)

4. What kind of promise did Jesus Christ make to us all? (vs20)

5. To whom does Jesus' command apply?

6. Read Matthew 10:32-33.

Matthew 10:32-33	馬太福音 10:32-33(CUV)
³² "What about someone who says in front of others that he knows me? I will also say in front of my Father who is in heaven that I know him.	32 凡在人面前認我的， 我在我天上的父面前也必認他；
³³ But what about someone who says in front of others that he doesn't know me? I will say in front of my Father who is in heaven that I don't know him. " (NIRV)	33 凡在人面前不認我的， 我在我天上的父面前也必不認他。

What will Jesus do under the following conditions...

If you say you know Him before men,

If you say you don't know Him before men,

So we have a choice. What will you do?

12.3 Correct Attitude Toward Witnessing

1. Read Romans 1:16. Why do you not have to be afraid in speaking to others about the good news of Jesus Christ?

Romans 1:16 (NIRV)	羅馬書 1:16 (CUV)
I am not ashamed of the good news. It is God's power. And it will save everyone who believes.	16 我不以福音為恥；這福音本是神的大能，要救一切相信的，

2. Are you afraid and ashamed to admit before your friends that you are a Christian?

3. Why?

If we are like this, then we are ashamed of the gospel. Why? We cannot see how it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes. We should not be ashamed of what we believe in!

4. Read 1 Corinthians 9:16 If you preach the gospel and your friend decided to follow Jesus, what danger should you watch out for?

1 Corinthians 9:16 (NIRV) But when I preach the good news, I can't brag. I have to preach it. How terrible it will be for me if I do not preach the good news!	歌林多前書 9:16 (CUV) 16 我傳福音原沒有可誇的，因為我是不得已的。若不傳福音，我便有禍了。
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5. You want to introduce a friend to Christ. You talk to him about the Good News. What does 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 tell you about God's power.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NIRV) I didn't preach my message with clever and compelling words. As I preached, the Holy Spirit showed his power. 5 That was so you would believe not because of human wisdom but because of God's power.	歌林多前書 2:4-5 (CUV) ⁴ 我說的話、講的道，不是用智慧委婉的言語，乃是用聖靈和大能的明證， ⁵ 叫你們的信不在乎人的智慧，只在乎神的大能。
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6. What should be our attitude as we share about Jesus?

12.4 How can you become an effective witness?

Witnessing is not merely an activity – it is a way of life. Christians don't **do** witnessing, they **are** witnesses – good or bad. Concentrate on improving your witness for Jesus Christ.

1. How is the word “witness” being expanded in the above paragraph?

2. Witness by life.

This is strange because we are ready for heaven the moment we acknowledge our sins, repent and ask Jesus to be our Saviour. We do not have to be made better or trained to live in heaven. The thief who trusted the Lord Jesus while he was dying on a cross was ready for heaven at once. It would seem ideal for us to go to be with God as soon as we believe. Read Matthew 5:14-16.

<p>Matthew 5:14-16</p> <p>¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. ¹⁵ Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house.</p> <p>¹⁶ "In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven. (NIRV)</p>	<p>馬太福音 5:14-16 (CUV)</p> <p>¹⁴ 你們是世上的光。城造在山上是不能隱藏的。¹⁵ 人點燈，不放在斗底下，是放在燈臺上，就照亮一家的人。</p> <p>¹⁶ 你們的光也當這樣照在人前，叫他們看見你們的好行為，便將榮耀歸給你們在天上的父。</p>
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Notice that our lives are lights in the world. We are lights through our good works. What is the purpose of these good works?

3. Witness by Love.

Jesus tells us one purpose/result of our Christian love mentioned in John 13:34-35. What is it?

<p>John 13:34-35 (NIRV)</p> <p>34 "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. 35 If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."</p>	<p>約翰福音 13:34-35 (CUV)</p> <p>34 我賜給你們一條新命令，乃是叫你們彼此相愛；我怎樣愛你們，你們也要怎樣相愛。35 你們若有彼此相愛的心，眾人因此就認出你們是我的門徒了</p>
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4. Witness by Words

It is not enough just to live a good life. If we did, people would see our good works and praise **us**, not God! We must, **with** our good life, **tell** people **why** we live that way. They would also not know how to know Christ.

12.5 Handling Objections to the Gospel

You are sure to receive a variety of responses as you share your faith with others. Many will raise objections to the gospel and will not recognize their need of Christ. Read the Scriptures listed on the next page and tell how they apply to the following objections to the gospel:

1. "I'm basically a good person." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

2. "People from all religions will make it to heaven" (John 14:6)

<p>John 14:6 (NIRV)</p> <p>Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.</p>	<p>約翰福音 14:6 (CUV)</p> <p>耶穌說我就是道路、真理、生命；若不藉著我，沒有人能到父那裡去。</p>
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3. “What about all the Christians I know who are hypocrites?” (Romans 14:12)

Romans 14:12 (NIRV) So we will all have to explain to God the things we have done.	羅馬書 14:12(CUV) 這樣看來，我們各人必要將自己的事在神面前說明。
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4. “I'll become a Christian someday.” (2 Corinthians 6:2)

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NIRV) He says, "When I showed you my favor, I heard you. On the day I saved you, I helped you." —(Isaiah 49:8) I tell you, now is the time God shows his favor. Now is the day he saves.	約翰福音 6:2(CUV) 因為他說：在悅納的時候，我應允了你；在拯救的日子，我搭救了你。看哪！現在正是悅納的時候；現在正是拯救的日子。
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12.6 The Gospel 神的道

1. **Existence of God.** 有神 (Romans 1:20)
2. **You have Sinned** 你犯過罪 (Romans 3:23)
3. **Sin's Result** 死 罪的結果是死 (Romans 6:23)
4. **God Loves You** 上帝愛你 (John 3:16)
5. **Redemptive Work of Christ** 耶穌在十字架上受到罪的审判 (Romans 5:8)
6. **Resurrection of Christ** 耶穌復活 (Romans 4:25)
7. **Believe in Christ** 你只要相信 (John 1:12)
8. **Assurance of Salvation** 救恩的保證 (1 John 5:12-13)

12.7 Memory Work

1. Write out Matthew 28:18-20 from memory.

2. Applying Matthew 28:18-20

1. Write here the names of some people you would like to witness to about what Christ has done for you.

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2. Begin to pray regularly for these people, and plan a time you could share the gospel with at least one of them. Briefly describe your plan here.
