

## A VISION OF WORSHIP

### Revelation 5

What does it mean to worship? What items on the printed bulletins give meaning to worship? Why does the church meet regularly for this kind of service with printed programs?

Discuss some ways we worship as a family or congregation.

How could we improve on the following situation: It's Sunday morning. "You kids hurry or you'll make us late!" Calls Dad. "Mom!" cries Janie, "Mildred has on my pink sweater and I wanted to wear it." "Can't you tie your shoes any faster? Demands Mom of 4 year-old John. "I've shown you and shown you - I don't know if you'll ever learn!" Finally, they are piled willy-nilly into the car and off they go toward church. "Watch out, Jim yells Mom to her husband. "You're going to run that red light." "I'm too hot," say Mildred. "Roll down that window." "No!" protests Janie. "I'm too cold." "You kids shut up!" yells Dad. "I'm trying to listen to Rev. Moses on the radio. Besides, here we are at church. Now don't forget - get yourselves right back to the car when church is over. We don't want to miss the kick-off." (Is there any similarity here in your Sunday mornings? How can you solve some of these problems and help this family.)

Lesson: Better Understanding Of What Is Involved In Worship Of God.

#### 4:1-11 - Enraptured God.

Augustine walking by seashore trying to understand mysteries of God. He came upon a child sitting on the sand dipping water from the sea. "What are you doing child," asked the Preacher. "I'm trying to dip all the water out of the sea" was the reply. But, "dear one," he replied, "that is completely impossible." "Yes, I understand," said the child. Augustine said, that child was like an angel telling me, I could never understand the mysteries of God.

- V. 1 - Open door in Heaven - able to see what's going on.
  - V. 3 - God on the Throne.
  - V. 4 - Twenty-four elders (Redeemed of the Lord.)
  - V. 5 - Symbols - God's displeasure at enemies of the cross.
  - V. 6 - Crystal sea - separated God.
  - V. 6-7 - Living Creatures.
  - V. 8-11 - Graceless Hymn of Praise.
- 5:1-14.

#### I. LOCKED BOOK - 5:1-14

##### 1. Scroll - V. 1

What did the scroll held in God's hand contain?

"Upon the right hand - extended as act of offering - so crowded that writing ran on all sides." Jer. 32:9-12.

##### 2. Seal - V. 2-3

Seals, completely - God alone knows what was written. (Book to do with redemption and final acts of God.)

V. 2 - Who is worthy? - Challenges all to open.

V. 3 - No one - why did no one respond to open?

##### 3. Sorrow - V. 4 (Audibly)

Why was John grieved when no one offered to open the scroll?

#### II. LAMB OF GOD - V. 5

##### 1. Lion - V. 5

What comfort was one of the elders able to give John? What qualified Christ to do this? How did John describe Christ here? Gen. 49:9 - Tribe of Judah. Isa. 11:1 - Root of David - Messiah.

##### 2. Lamb - V. 6

Lion becomes a little lamb. He is standing, Lamb of God. Bears marks of past death wounds. He is not dead. Horns - emblems of power. Eyes - intelligent knowledge - searching the earth. Zech. 4:10.

##### 3. Lifting - V. 7

How did Christ take the scroll? How could a lamb take a book? Only Christ can carry forward God's Judgements on wicked men. One of greatest acts in history.

#### III. LIVING CREATURES

##### 1. Worship - V. 8

How did taking of the scroll signal a great outpouring of worship? Worship of redeemed - elders fall down. Golden bowl - Prayers of God's people, pour out as incense. (A fruit - pear preserves spread on bread. Prayer preserves!)

##### 2. Worth - V. 9-10

What is worship and how is it usually expressed?

1. It is for God - Thou did't purchase.
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#### CONCLUSION:

I see didn't get anything out of church today. The Choir was off key, kids noisy, sermon dull. - ever hear such comments? Does this reflect an attitude, can we bring something to worship? Do we go through motions, or are we trying to draw closer to the Lord?

## JUDAS (A FRIEND WHO BETRAYED)

Mark 14, Matthew 27

What is one quality which we most desire in others? How do we feel about someone we shared our thoughts with and we are let down, when they fail to keep our trust? In what ways do we betray others?

Reflect on — How have I betrayed the trust people have placed in me? (1) My marriage partner. (2) My children. (3) Persons I work with. (4) My church. (5) Myself.

Has my loyalty to Christ been betrayed through unnoticed choices? Is it possible for one of us to become a betrayer? Here is a "possibility of betrayal check-list" — Think of the same person as you answer each question.

1. Do you know the person by name.
2. Do you know this person by the values he or she has.
3. Do you know this person to be of worth.
4. Do you know this person to be of worth to you.
5. Do you like to be with this person.
6. Can this person help you be a better person.
7. Will this relationship help you.
8. Can you ask this person to help you.
9. Would you use this person to help meet a need you have.
10. Are your goals for life of extreme importance to you.

(Yes, 1-3 Might betray; 4-7 Strong possibility; 8-10 Given right circumstances they could betray.)

What factors are involved when a friend betrays his friend? How do good relationships sour? How many relationships is it possible for me to betray? What do I need to do to avoid such action?

Ezekiel 33:13 — Epitaph for folks like Judas.

What goes into the making of a traitor? List. (Had some fine things, treasure of the Apostles, Iscariot — Word from Greek — a small sinner.)

### I. SALE — Mark 14:10

#### 1. Prospect — V. 10

What motivated Judas to betray Jesus to the chief priests? John 12:3-6 — How does this story speak of greed? Was there concern for the poor?

#### 2. Promise — V. 11

How did the religious leaders respond to Judas' offer? What was the special service Judas could perform for them? Betrayal was an "inside job". Frank Eorman, President, Eastern Air Lines, addressed the Faculty Club, University of Miami: "We must return to a belief in something beyond oneself and beyond self-gratification."

Purpose of Judas — for money — to make Jesus declare himself as King — to cause a revolution — to declare the Kingdom, etc. Why do you think he decided to betray Jesus?

Plan — Exo. 21:32. Price of a slave. Zech. 11:12-13.

### II. SIGN — Mark 14:17

#### 1. Comment — V. 17-18

Passover Meal.

#### 2. Concern — V. 19

How did they react to the announcement? (Did you hear what I heard?) How did Jesus' dipping the bread in the dish with Judas represent an opportunity for Judas to change?

#### 3. Condemnation — V. 20-21

Why did Jesus say the betrayer should never have been born? Isa. 53:5.

Today: We say someone else will, I might as well get the money, gamble, indulge in alcohol - drugs, sex excitement business says if I don't offer them this service someone else will — others take a hasty wedding, a wrong way trip, a one-way street not an expressway.

### III. SIGNAL — Mark 14:43

#### 1. Assembly — V. 43

V. 41 — Jesus left the supper, went to Garden Gethsemane. Where was the betrayal carried out?

#### 2. Action — V. 44-45

Why did he betray him with a kiss instead of just pointing him out? Whom did he bring along to the garden?

#### 3. Arrest — V. 46

Bound and led away. Peter's defense.

### IV. SUSPECT — Matthew 27:3-5

#### 1. Remorse — V. 3

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#### IV. SUICIDE - Matthew 27:3-5

##### 1. Remorse - V. 3

What made Judas return the money to the Priest? Deut. 27:25. "Repented himself". Not the same as change of mind and action. Better understood as "regret - remorse". The kind needed - 2 Cor. 7:10. What is the difference between remorse and repentance?

##### 2. Repent - V. 4

##### 3. Release - V. 5

Out from Upper Room to betray. Out from the Temple to self-destruction.

Peter's Field - V. 6-8, Acts 1:18-19, 25.

#### CONCLUSION:

Contrast Peter's denial experience with Judas. What happened to Judas could happen to any of us. Note the difference. Betrayal or diversion. Discuss how moral and spiritual deterioration reached it's climax in Judas. Story in Old West, lone rider, crosses low hills, he checks for smoke signals, he may be heading into a box canyon, dead end, no escape, if he turns - makes a run for it - may not be too late.

## YOU CAN KNOW GOD (WORSHIP)

John 4

Give your own definition of worship – Describe the things that come to mind when at worship.

List some of the various elements of worship – does worship actually change anything?

Talk about a difficulty you were facing in which worship helped you through. Describe how the burden was shifted from your shoulders to the Lord's.

Note some values given to times of praise and worship.

Can you think of any Bible examples demonstrating the virtue of worship?

A boy said: "worship is talking to God, then listening while God speaks to you; then living like you heard what God said!"

Why do we need a day each week for worship?

Henry Ford: "We would have had our Model-A car in production six months sooner if I had forbidden my engineers to work on Sunday. It took us all week to straighten out the mistakes that they made on the day when they should have rested."

I Corinthians 14:33, 40 – These verses teach something about God and how to improve worship.

Drama of the Ages – John 4:3-6

V. 3 – Visualize on a map – Judea – Galilee.

V. 4 – How can we know that Jesus' meeting of the woman at the well was not accidental?

V. 5 – Why did the Jew by-pass Samaria on a trip? Jews going from Jerusalem to Galilee walked on the East side of the Jordan crossing near Jericho and crossing near the Sea of Galilee. The land route was up through Samaria. Who were the Samaritans? (Mixed people, half-breeds, Assyrians transplanted foreigners of other nations there, relocated leading Jews from there, thus, intermarriage mixed the races and mongrel people were refused in Temple worship therefore, Samaritans built own Temple on Mt. Gerizim – Gairizim.

V. 6 – Review the history this parcel of land – imagine the setting at the noon hour. Well about 1/2 mile from Sychar.

### I. CONTACT

#### 1. Request

V. 7 – Why did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for a drink of water? What kind of pattern for approaching sinners has Jesus left us in his encounter with this woman? Why is the experience of thirst such an appropriate symbol for spiritual longing?

V. 8 – Explain the absence of the Disciples.

#### 2. Response

V. 9 – Why was the woman somewhat abrasive with Jesus at first?

Four things on the exterior:

1. She was a woman. 2. She was of the wrong race. 3. She was of the wrong religion.

4. She was immoral, living in adultery.

Was Jesus prejudiced? Luke 10:25-37; 17:11-19.

#### 3. Reply – V. 10

Why did Jesus talk about living water? Was it possible for him to obtain any living water to demonstrate?

### II. CONTRAST

#### 1. Surprising Possibility

V. 11-12 – Was the woman Sarcastic with Jesus? Samaritans accepted first five books in Old Testament, claim Jacob as ancestor. A well dug there. Gen. 33:18-20; Josh. 24:32.

#### 2. Satisfaction – V. 13-14

Compare the provisions of Jacob and of Jesus – Illustration: Desert land, California streams of water pumped in, and vegetables grow and produce abundantly. Jesus talking about lives, barren, unproductive, hopeless – can be changed by living water. Let it happen to you!

### III. CONQUEST

#### 1. Challenge – V. 19-20

What made the woman think Jesus was a prophet? What did the woman talk about after concluding that Jesus was a prophet?

V. 16-18 – Why did she divert his attention?

#### 2. Worship – Anywhere

V. 20-21 – Are we like that, locking Jesus up in a specific location? What did Jesus teach the regarding the place and nature of worship?

Worship – Worth – Ship. Worth of God. William Temple: "Quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, feed the mind on truth of God, purge the imagination by the beauty of God, opens the heart to the love of God, devotes the will to the purpose of God."

V. 22 – Salvation found in truth. The issue is not where; it was what!

V. 23-24 – This cuts out rivalries. Worship is not our ideas but His – God hates sin, but do we cover it up?

God forgives sinners, but do we condemn them? God has no prejudices, but we will not fellowship with another race? God answers prayers, but do we ever pray?

V. 25-26 – What view did she have of the coming Messiah?

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V. 28-30 - What happened after Jesus told the woman he was The Messiah?

Brought a city full out to Jesus. How many have you brought to Jesus? Are you ready to share your joy? How can we regain the zeal of the woman.

## CONCLUSION:

Isa. 6 - (1) Awareness of God's presence, I saw the Lord. (2) Adoration, Holy, Holy, Holy. (3) Confession of sin, woe is me. (4) Assurance of Pardon, Thine iniquity is taken away. (5) The divine challenge, whom shall I send. (6) The human response, Here am I.

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## Revelation 2-3

Charlie could never discipline his two boys - ages 12 and 16. They were managed by the wife. Older boy stayed out too late and the wife wanted to suspend his driving the car. But Charlie let the boy have another set of keys behind his wife's back. Is Charlie's behavior a sign that he loves the boy more than his wife loves them? Which is more serious? Too little or too harsh discipline?

Revelation contains some letters to church's - commendable, condemnations, and conclusions.

A woman evangelist in Florida advertised for sale her Tabernacle, complete with piano, organ, pews, Sunday School rooms, and congregation! How do you put a price tag on a congregation, can you evaluate it? (You could look at their income tax bracket.)

Lessons: Two of the seven letters to churches - Asia Minor. Smyrna, and Laodicea. 2:1-7 - Ephesus - First Love Deserted. 2:12-17 - Pergamos - Praise and blame. 2:18-29 - Thyatira - Commitment and compromise. 3:7-13 - Philadelphia - Opportunity of faith.

A Letter: Think of possibility of writing a letter to a church - describe your church's successes and shortcomings so the recipient could see both a model to follow and mistakes to avoid. What should we put in such a letter? John wrote seven.

## I. COMMENDATION - 2:8-11 (Smyrna-sub)

## 1. Speaker - V. 8

Why was John told to write to a real angel at the church in Smyrna? (Pastor, Leader, Bishop).

What is the significance of the expression "The first and the last"? (Title of Christ - 1:17-18).

City - 40 North of Ephesus, trade center, beautiful city of Ionic, Temples Apollo, Zeus, homes, etc. Polycarp, martyred there in 168, he was Bishop and offered freedom in exchange for denying Christ, but he said "Fourscore and six years have I been his servant, and he hath done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who has saved me?"

## 2. Sympathy - V. 9

What kind of experience had believers at Smyrna had? How does God describe them?

Tribulation, suffering - poverty, destitute - slander, sailing - synagogue of Satan, false Jews, words against God. Tragic thing Christian people persecute each other.

Works: Some good, God takes notice of your works.

South Bronx Church parsonage - a stained-glass lampshade hung for years. Artist visited, examined and found "Tiffan Studios, N. Y. 331". The Pastor had it appraised, valued at \$15,000.00 - for years considered ordinary, unnoticed. Efforts in our churches may seem of little value, but may be priceless in His eyes.

## 3. Suffering - V. 10

How could Jesus tell believers not to fear suffering? What was the "crown of life" that the faithful would receive? What difficult days ahead did they face? Matt. 10:28. Ten Days: Brief time compared to life forever! Faithful: How do we fit into this picture? Keep on being faithful even if it costs you your life! 2 Tim. 4:8.

## 4. Spirit - V. 11

What is the second death? (Separates from God, source of all life. 20:6,11-14; Matt. 13:42, 50; Mark 9:43-48).

## II. CONDEMNATION - 3:14-19

## 1. Speaker - V. 14

What qualified Christ so that Laodicean Church should listen to Him? City: Trade, wealthy banking-manufacturing center - carpets, cloth, black wool, medicines, medical school, warm springs, and Emperor worship. Arsen: Isa. 45:16 - Valid, binding, unchanging, testimony never falls short.

## 2. Sickness - V. 15-16

What was main problem in the church? Warm water makes sick, warning what would happen. Spiritual temperature: neither cold nor hot - just utterly indifferent.

## 3. Shortcomings - V. 17

How can one be wretched, miserable, blind, and naked without knowing it? (Looking at their own efforts, wrath can produce a mental condition of spiritual blindness.)

## 4. Solutions - V. 18-19

What figurative remedies are recommended? Why did they need to repent with bank, clothes, and wealth? V. 19 - A skeptic had a paper cone on his wheel chair - "God is nowhere". A little girl visited said "I like that - God is now here!"

## III. CONSIDERATION - 3:20-22

## 1. Offering - V. 20

Who is this invitation for? Who can open the door? What is the promise?

## 2. Overcoming - V. 21

Whom will overcome sit?

## 3. Order - V. 22

What can the church do? What does that tell us about the nature of God?

City - 40 North of...  
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2. Overcoming - V. 21

Where will overcomers sit?

3. Order - V. 22

What can the church do? What does that tell us about the nature of God?

CONCLUSION:

The lukewarm church - 1. Indifferent to the Doctrine of God. 2. Indifferent to commitment. 3. Indifferent in devotion, is real, in whole-souled earnestness. 4. It was self-deceived, we can do things on our own, we can do it without God. That is the common attitude of humanism, we don't need to pray, or repent. We need to hear. V. 22.

(O-ness-ih-muss) Onesimus: Slave and Brother

Philemon (Fih-lee-mus)

Give some thought to freedom and rights. What do you understand about the rights of children - women - parents - minority groups to be? What do you know about the Legislative Program of E.R.A.

Illustrate the cost of freedom - Rom. 6:16-22; I Cor. 9:19-22; Gal. 5:13-15. Write out your answer:

- (1) Is a Christian's freedom in Christ totally free? Explain -
- (2) In what way could a Christian exercise his freedom so as to harm another person?
- (3) Is it possible for Christ's followers to render needed service to someone in his name and still fail to bring honor to Him?

Three Men:

- (1) Philemon - (Citizen of Colossae, wealthy slave owner, large home, what did he have a right to expect of his slaves?)
- (2) Onesimus - (Slave, had run away from his Master, was useful, profitable.)
- (3) Paul - (Prisoner in Rome, Apostle of Jesus Christ, won the other two men to Christ.)

The Institution of Slavery:

First - Visualize a wash basin, pitcher of water, several towels. As you entered the room a slave poured a small amount of water over your hands and then dried them with a towel.

1. How did it feel to be met and served by another?
2. Did the experience create any feelings within you toward the one who served you?
3. When you are served by someone else in some manner, does that call for some kind of response in action from you?
4. How does such service harmonize with our freedom in Christ?

What do we know about the slaves in America? Slaves of the Roman World had no rights - (Roman Senator was killed by one of his slaves.) The law said all of a murdered Master's slaves must be put to death. 400 slaves were put to death! Fear used to keep in check. One third of the population of Rome was slaves.

Onesimus a fugitive slave. Fled to Rome. Met Paul. Was won to Christ - took a letter back to his owner. Col. 4:7-9.

Paul wrote to Philemon. V. 1-2 - Traditional salutation. V. 3 - Grace - Normal Greek greeting. Peace - Jewish greeting. V. 4-6 - Prayer of Thanksgiving and intercession. V. 7 - Compassionate action.

I. PLEA: PHILEMON - 1:8-11

1. Choice

V. 8 - What was the basis for Paul's appeal, that Philemon do as he wished?

Why did Paul ignore the injustice of slavery and write about love and brotherhood in Christ as he wrote to Philemon?

What part should Christians take in correcting social injustices?

Both men are under the authority of Christ. Paul felt that Philemon would do right or the proper and fitting thing.

V. 9 - The Christian acts in the best interest of the other person. (1) Mutual love. (2) Ambassador for Christ. (3) For the sake of Jesus. Philemon evidently owed his conversion to Paul's ministry.

2. Conversion - V. 10

What was unusual about the fact that Onesimus was converted in Rome and not in Colossae? (Thousand miles from a Christian Master who had not persuaded him to follow Christ)

V. 10 - There is no inappropriate time of evangelism.

3. Change - V. 11

In what ways might Onesimus have been unprofitable to Philemon? His name - meant useful or profitable and the slave had not lived up to his name. Col. 4:9. Is it possible that he might have stolen from his Master?

II. PLAN: PHILEMON - 1:12-14

1. Reception - V. 12

On what basis did Paul want Philemon to receive Onesimus again? Rom. 8:28. Paul is sending the slave to face judgment - will he be killed? Crippled? Paralyzed?

Does external appearance help? A writer took a post in N. Y.'s Grand Central Station, begging for train fare. First hour - dressed in 3 piece suit, white shirt, polished shoes, no tie! Hard luck story - asked 75 cents train fare. 60 minutes - \$7.23. Second hour - told same story, but this time wore a tie - \$26.00 plus two offers of extra money. The tie - more successful, more palatable.

2. Retention - V. 13

The slave was useful to Paul, why didn't he keep him there? Responsible Christians see needs elsewhere.

3. Restraint - V. 14

No high pressure methods.

III. PARTNER: PHILEMON - 1:15:18

1. Acceptance - V. 15

How did Paul put the best face he could on the slave's escape? What parallel to the case of Onesimus is found in Genesis? Gen. 45:4-8, 50:15-21.

V. 16 - What kind of adjustments did Philemon and Onesimus have to make?

2. Accounting - V. 17-18

How did Paul handle the problem of stealing from Philemon? Conversion didn't change the facts of

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How did Paul handle the problem of stealing from Philemon? Conversion didn't change the facts of his past wrong-doing. Wrong had to be righted, restitution made. V. 19 - Indebtedness. V. 20 - The letter - a brother's request to a brother on behalf of a brother.

#### CONCLUSION:

Why didn't the New Testament writers condemn the institution of slavery? Discuss some possible ways that people change after Jesus Christ becomes their Lord and Saviour.

## TEACHING ABOUT PRIORITIES

Luke 12

List some key attitudes toward material wealth. List five of the most important things or persons in your life.

Let's pretend: We advance to final Sweepstakes on T. V. - Won grand prize, but have a choice, 2 doors:

- (1) Dead to Alaska oil wells - Cadillac - New Home - \$500,000.
- (2) Drunken dervish brought in off the streets.

Which prize is most valuable? What if you were the person behind the second door? Then which door would you choose? Which door would God choose?

For one day, rate activities on scale 1 to 10 in importance.

1. Watching the day's news on T. V.
2. Doing your day's vocational task.
3. Eating at least two meals.
4. Reading the Bible.
5. Providing benevolent service to someone.
6. Participating in a favorite leisure activity.
7. Talking to family or friends.
8. Completing personal errands or business matters.
9. Working on home or car.

(A priority, the act of putting value on one thing before another. Give 3 points if item occupies more than 1 hour per day; 2 points for 1/2 to 1 hour; 1 point if 1 to 30 minutes; 0 if no time. Consider this for one week, look at point total to see relative priority.)

### I. REBUKING GREED

#### 1. Request

V. 13 - Should a teacher of justice become involved in administration of justice?  
Why is it dangerous for Christians to assume that God wants them to be rich?  
Tension between brothers. Deut. 21:17 - Elder 2/3, Younger 1/3.

#### 2. Refusal - V. 14

Did Jesus think that the man who claimed half of his brother's inheritance was unworthy of receiving it?  
Name the true cause of the problem. Jesus refused to honor material possessions as valuable.

#### 3. Reminder - V. 15

Beware - military word, be on guard duty. Never drop your guard in reference to covetousness. Covetousness - wishing, reaching for more.

### II. RICH FOOL

#### 1. Condition - V. 16-19

V. 16 - Why was the rich farmer foolish? Describe the situation with the farm success.

V. 17 - What is wrong with complacency?

V. 18-19 - How many times the first person pronouns (I, my) - What is wrong with that?

In God's economy man works to provide for self, the needy, and God's family. Am I like that man? Evaluate.

1. What do you do first when the company gives you a pay raise?
2. What are your first thoughts about what to do with the money when promoted to a higher salary bracket?
3. How do you react when someone else gets a pay raise - like the preacher?
4. What is your reaction to a stewardship campaign in the church.
5. How are you planning your economy and energy in your retirement?
6. To whom and for what purposes will you leave your estate after you die?

Does our money belong to us? Do we judge by externals? Magazine industry depends on impulse buying.  
John Lennon was killed - his picture on cover - sales boost.

#### 2. Change - V. 20

How may treasure be sent on ahead to Heaven? Why a "fool"? Without thought or understanding. Who would own what he had?

#### 3. Comparison - V. 21

What does it mean to be rich towards God? I Tim. 6:17-19.

Preparing for the future with perishable things. V. 22-31 - Dealing with anxiety. V. 32-34 - Heavenly treasure.

### III. RETURNING LORD

#### 1. Illustration - V. 35

V. 35-36 - Waiting, but ready. How are we to wait? Be dressed in readiness and your lamps alight.

V. 37-38 - Working, but ready. Matt. 24:27.

V. 39-40 - Watching, but ready. Why is Christ's return eminent?

People work for extras, not worth broken homes. Items to buy for a man who has everything.

CONCLUSION:

(A priority, the act of putting value on time using points. 1 point per day; 2 points for 1/2 to 1 hour; 1 point if 1 to 30 minutes; 0 if no time. Consider this for one week. Look at point total to see relative priority.)

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## CONCLUSION:

If Jesus should come back soon, what are some "little things" we would want to have in order? How can we develop a constant sense of expectancy concerning Jesus' return? How can we develop a constant awareness that our money and our possessions belong to God and not ourselves?

identities: Have you ever been mistaken about some one's identity? Do you remember a time when you  
 - watched rumors or spoke to the wrong person?

Knofel Station almost got arrested at a Religious Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. On the first day of the Convention at the intersection of a busy sidewalk - the sign blinking don't walk. As he waited, he noticed a music teacher he had not seen in ten years standing in front. Instead of saying, Hello - he decided a fun loving way. He placed his hand into the side pocket of his suit jacket (faking a pick-pocket attempt). The man grabbed Station's hand, still inside the pocket, faced him eyeball to eyeball. He realized it was not the music teacher but a total stranger, who had nothing to do with the Convention. Then it was time to explain a case of mistaken identity - embarrassed.

Revelation 6:16 - Mistaken identity of Jesus, so embarrassed, hide.

Suppose you have Jesus confused as to identity? Tragic story of a blizzard. A farmer went out to feed his stock, lost his way back to the house, wandered for hours, died a few feet from his door steps. A parable of millions who fail to discover The Messiah.

Jews looked for a Messiah. A group of Essenes, lived near the Jordan, where John preached. They left the Temple, thought the priesthood was corrupt, they allowed no women in the small village, study the Scripture daily, some took thirty ritual baths a day in fear of being unclean, expectations of Messiah coming.

Visualize a container of vegetable or olive oil. Here is a key ingredient in practice of anointing. Oil poured on the head.

I Samuel 10:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 30:30 \_\_\_\_\_

I Kings 19:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Term Messiah - one who is anointed, Lord's anointed.

How would you have announced The Messiah? The Federal Government of the U. S. spent \$128 million for advertising in 1978. Most of the cost - \$96 million went for Armed Forces Recruiting efforts.

Jesus Christ and His Church needs someone to tell his claims in this advertising age. Are we making his identity clear to others, or are we obscuring it? How can we become the best advertisers?

Two years ago, Jesus put away his carpenter tools, left his work bench, walked to Jordan to be baptized. Now he is known in all Palestine, throngs followed him. Matthew 14:13-21. Some leaders grasp positions through physical prowess or mental cunning. Jesus, a great spiritual leader, popularity on the skirts, Pharisees making powerful attacks - He is enroute to a retreat.

Mark 8:22-26 - Stops to heal a blind man. What great object lesson is this to the Disciples? First touch - V. 24. Not see clearly. Second touch - V. 25. We need this touch, see our own sin!

#### I. CONFESSIONS - Mark 8:27

##### 1. Men's Opinion - V. 27-28

If Jesus knew how men evaluated him, why did he ask His Disciples? What was wrong with thinking Jesus was a resurrected Prophet? Why would Jesus ask such a question as "whom do men say that I am". How would the Disciples know what people were thinking about Jesus? Why would some think He was John the Baptist? Why would some say Elijah?

What would we answer Jesus? Do you know people at school, or a club - have you asked them what they think of Jesus? People are confused today.

##### 2. God's Opinion - V. 29

Why did Peter answer for all the Apostles? Do you believe all the Apostles would have concurred with Peter's reply? Why or why not?

Just what did Peter say? (Christ, Greek word for the Hebrew Messiah which was the Jewish title of the one expected. John 1:41, 49.

Later - Peter put on trial would deny ever heard of Jesus. When are we put to our strongest test?

Reformation - Martin Bask, learned truth of Jesus, but not confess openly, wrote on parchment "O Merciful Christ, I know that it is only by the atoning of Thy precious blood that I can be saved. I acknowledge your sufferings for me, I love you! I love you!" He hid it behind a stone in the wall of his castle. It was not found for more than 100 years.

At same time Martin Luther learned about Jesus and said, "My Lord confused me before men, I will not shrink from confessing Him before Kings."

#### II. CONFUSION - John 7:25

##### 1. Men's Question - V. 25-26.

Why were the Jews in Jerusalem confused about Christ's identity? Why do religious leaders bear double guilt when they are wrong?

##### 2. Men's Answer - V. 27

How did the crowd at the Temple evaluate Jesus? Why didn't Jesus seem to qualify to be The Messiah in many people's minds?

#### III. CONFRONTATION - John 7:28

##### 1. Christ's Claim - V. 28-29

What reason did Jesus give for their failure to recognize him as Messiah? Knew earthly origins - he also had Heavenly origins.

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##### 2. Crowd Reaction – V. 30

Do people like to be told they are wrong? Some rather destroy the truth than admit their error. Is it wise to change from sin? The crowd had a choice – Heaven or Hell – What you think of Jesus determines your final destination.

##### 3. Convert's Question – V. 31.

Were these true believers? What approach should we take toward those individuals who attempt to be neutral toward Christ?

#### CONCLUSION:

Why it is important we learn what our neighbors think of Jesus? Handel wrote 24 days and nights composing The Messiah. A servant came in, saw tears in the eyes of Handel, what is wrong? "I saw Heaven open and the Lord God sitting on His throne. What happens when you hear The Hallelujah Chorus? What would the world see in Christians if we took seriously the confession Peter made of Jesus: Thou art the Christ?"



## CHRIST'S MIRACULOUS POWER

### Mark I

Miracles provide us with a special exhibition of super-natural power. What do you think about miracles? Pretend Jesus stops by your house – what miracle would you ask him to perform?

1. What is a miracle?
2. Have you ever seen what you thought was a miracle? If so, what was it?
3. Does it take a special person to do miracles?
4. Are the miracles performed today the same as the miracles of the Bible? If not, how are they different?
5. What do miracles prove, if anything?
6. What is the biggest thing you don't understand about miracles?

#### Description of miracles.

1. Woodless – Mark 2:42; 4:41; 6:51; 7:37; Acts 3:10, 11.
2. Signs – Acts 14:3; Hebrews 2:4; 2 Cor. 12:12.
3. Powers – Acts 8:10; Hebrews 6:5; Mark 6:14.
4. Weeks – John 5:36; 7:21; 10:25.
5. Great Things – Luke 1:49.
6. Glorious Things – Luke 13:17.
7. Strange Things – Luke 5:26.
8. Wonderful Things – Matt. 21:15.
9. Marvelous Things – Psa. 78:12; 105:5.

#### Division of miracles.

1. Power over nature.
2. Power over disease.
3. Power over death.
4. Power over demons.

#### Design of miracles.

They are proofs of divine revelation, symbolize the spiritual blessings that God is able to bestow upon needy hearts. They are acts of redemption and mercy. They are illustrations of the great salvation Jesus preached. Two-fold value. Physical and spiritual.

#### Doers of miracles.

Performed directly by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit, by angels, by servants of God, and by evil agents.

Many impostors – A story might illustrate. Large busy hospital, identification tags of two new born babies were accidentally switched. Mothers, took wrong babies home. Weeks later, one mother began to suspect she had brought the wrong baby home. Returned with records and found foot prints did not match, positive proof. Mothers finally united with own infants. Many impostors in Israel claiming Messiah. Jesus proved by miracles his identity.

Mark 1:1-15 – Introduction to story of Jesus.

Mark 1:16-20 – Jesus called four fishermen.

#### I. DOCTRINE – Mark 1:21

1. Synagogue – V. 21  
What part did Capernaum play in Jesus' Galilean ministry? What type of service was held in the synagogue?
2. Surprise – V. 22  
In what way did Jesus show his superiority over the Scribes? Is authority hard to handle?

#### II. DEMONS – V. 23

1. Request – V. 23-24  
What are your thoughts on demon possession. Was the demon in the man afraid of Jesus or merely mocking him?
2. Rebuke – V. 25-26  
How did the demon express displeasure at being expelled?
3. Remarks – V. 27  
What kept the man from being hurt?  
What was the reaction of the people to the exorcism? (A 25 year old mother tried to get rid of the devil in her 20 month old son. Scalded him with hot water, put him in hot oven. Police arrived, found her standing without clothes crooning a chant over the child. The child was rushed to the hospital, 95% of his body covered with burns. Terrible things happen when Satan gains control through the occult, Ouija Boards, seances)

#### III. DELIVERANCE – V. 40

1. Request – V. 40  
What three things were apparent in the healing of the leper?
2. Release – V. 41-42  
Leviticus 13:45-46. What is known about leprosy? V. 40 – Is this a good way to make a prayer request?

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##### 3. Reminder - V. 43-44

Why not tell anyone - but first the Priest? Lev. 14:1-32. V. 45 - Should the healed leper be criticized for proclaiming his miracle?

#### CONCLUSION:

Do you know someone who has had an unusual miracle of healing, guidance, deliverance, that has impressed you? A modern miracle - Dr. Claude H. Khea - Book, "With My Song I Will Praise Him".

## YOU CAN KNOW GOD (WORSHIP)

John 4

Give your own definition of worship – Describe the things that come to mind when at worship.

List some of the various elements of worship – Does worship actually change anything?

Talk about a difficulty you were facing in which worship helped you through. Describe how the burden was shifted from your shoulders to the Lord's.

Note some values given to times of praise and worship.

Can you think of any Bible examples demonstrating the virtue of worship?

A boy said: "worship is talking to God, then listening while God speaks to you; then living like you heard what God said!"

Why do we need a day each week for worship?

Henry Ford: "We would have had our Model-A car in production six months sooner if I had forbidden my engineers to work on Sunday. It took us all week to straighten out the mistakes that they made on the day when they should have rested."

I Corinthians 14:33, 40 – These verses teach something about God and how to improve worship.

Drama of the Ages – John 4:3-6

V. 3 – Visualize on a map – Judea – Galilee.

V. 4 – How can we know that Jesus' meeting of the woman at the well was not accidental?

V. 5 – Why did the Jew by-pass Samaria on a trip? Jews going from Jerusalem to Galilee walked on the East side of the Jordan crossing near Jericho and crossing near the Sea of Galilee. The land route was up through Samaria. Who were the Samaritans? (Mixed people, half-breeds, Assyrians transplanted foreigners of other nations there, relocated leading Jews from there, thus, intermarriage mixed the races and mongrel people were refused in Temple worship therefore, Samaritans built own Temple on Mt. Gerizim – Gal-ih-zim.

V. 6 – Review the history this parcel of land – imagine the setting at the noon hour. Well about 1/2 mile from Sychar.

### I. CONTACT

#### 1. Request

V. 7 – Why did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for a drink of water? What kind of pattern for approaching sinners has Jesus left us in his encounter with this woman? Why is the experience of thirst such an appropriate symbol for spiritual longing?

V. 8 – Explain the absence of the Disciples.

#### 2. Response

V. 9 – Why was the woman somewhat abrasive with Jesus at first?

Four things on the exterior:

1. She was a woman.
2. She was of the wrong race.
3. She was of the wrong religion.
4. She was immoral, living in adultery.

Was Jesus prejudiced? Luke 10:25-37; 17:11-19.

#### 3. Reply – V. 10

Why did Jesus talk about living water? Was it possible for him to obtain any living water to demonstrate?

### II. CONTRAST

#### 1. Surprising Possibility

V. 11-12 – Was the woman Sarcastic with Jesus? Samaritans accepted first five books in Old Testament, Claim Jacob as ancestor. A well dug there. Gen. 33:18-20; Josh. 24:32.

#### 2. Satisfaction – V. 13-14

Compare the provisions of Jacob and of Jesus – Illustration: Desert land, California streams of water pumped in, and vegetables grow and produce abundantly. Jesus talking about lives, barren, unproductive, hopeless – can be changed by living water. Let it happen to you!

### III. CONQUEST

#### 1. Challenge – V. 19-20

What made the woman think Jesus was a prophet? What did the woman talk about after concluding that Jesus was a prophet?

V. 16-18 – Why did she divert his attention?

#### 2. Worship – Anywhere

V. 20-21 – Are we like that, locking Jesus up in a specific location? What did Jesus teach the regarding the place and nature of worship?

Word Worship – Worth – Ship. Worth of God. William Temple: "Quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, feed the mind on truth of God, purge the imagination by the beauty of God, opens the heart to the love of God, devotes the will to the purpose of God."

V. 22 – Salvation found in truth. The issue is not where; it was what!

V. 23-24 – This cuts out rivalries. Worship is not our ideas but His – God hates sin, but do we cover it up? God forgives sinners, but do we condemn them? God has no prejudices, but we will not fellowship with another race? God answers prayers, but do we ever pray?

V. 25-26 – What view did she have of the coming Messiah?



## JESUS AS SERVANT

Luke 22, John 13

### The Greatest:

1. Who was the greatest President of the United States.
2. Who is the greatest living baseball player.
3. What is the greatest state in the union.
4. What is the greatest vocation.
5. Who is the greatest living American woman.
6. What is the greatest possible meal.

What is the actual criteria of greatness?

Personal Service Inventory: Rate, Plus + often, zero 0 occasionally, minus - never.

1. Look for opportunities to serve the needs of other people without expecting anything in return.
2. Given an opportunity to choose between a position of prominence in the church and a place of service, I would choose the place of service.
3. I engage regularly in the service activities of Christian ministry, such as hospital visiting, nursing homes, in time of death and encouraging through crisis. Also, phoning, writing, teaching the Bible and sharing love.
4. I do favors for other people because I want to rather than because I want them indebted to me or want to use the favor as a way of manipulating people.
5. I find purpose and meaning in helping those who cannot help themselves such as the severely handicapped and mentally retarded.
6. I seek to share my faith in Christ with someone every week.
7. I am pleased more by doing a kind act that most people probably do not know about than by doing something that will cause people to look up to me.
8. I give my time, money, talent, and energy in service for Christ and my fellowman without any thought of reward, honor, or praise.
9. I am willing to sacrifice my desires and ambitions in order to serve the needs of others when necessary.
10. Whenever I receive recognition for Christian service, I can resist the temptation to think highly of myself and to wield my power for selfish purpose.

Servant: Help us form a definition of the word.

Read Philippians 2:5-11 What does a servant look like? Isaiah 53. Figure of suffering servant.

### I. PROSPECTIVE - Luke 22:24

#### 1. Argument.

V. 24 - Last week, last meal with Disciples. What caused them to argue about who was greatest among them?

V. 14 - Apostles had been seated.

V. 15-16 - The meal had begun.

V. 24 - A dispute arose - literally means ("to love strife").

Not just a discussion to pass time of day, not the first time they had talked about it either. What about us in the church today? Do we get more concerned about our place of dignity, than about our service to others? Do we keep count of how many people get to sing a solo or how often a person's name appears in the church paper? I never noticed anybody feeling slighted, because he wasn't asked to carry out the garbage, or wash dishes after a fellowship. Now who wants to stand in line to become great?

#### 2. Authority - V. 25

How could a pagan King in ancient times, if evil, be called a benefactor? Ancient rulers liked to be known as great. Example - Augustus Caesar was called God on a denarius; Tiberius Caesar, "one who deserved to be adorned" on a copper coin; Ptolemy I & II of Egypt wore the title "Benefactor".

#### 3. Advice - V. 26-27

Why did Jesus say the rulers in his kingdom would have to be servants? Why could not the Disciples accept this rule? "Greatest" people at a church fellowship are usually the women. They prepare the food, serve the tables, and clean up all the mess! Few have butlers and maids, greatness, not how people are serving you but how many are you serving! Guest recline on couches and servants began the meal by washing their feet, and bow by each guest so that guests could wipe their greasy hands in the servant's hair. (Only a fool would elect the servant's role - but Jesus lived in contrast to the worldly concept of greatness.)

### II. PERFORMANCE - John 13:1

#### 1. Comparison - V. 1-2

How could Jesus treat Judas the same as the other Disciples?

#### 2. Confidence - V. 3-5

Teaching turned into demonstration - washes feet. Motto: "Be humble, or you'll stumble."

#### 3. Contention - V. 6-7

Why did Peter at first refuse to let Jesus wash his feet? V. 8-9 - Peter felt a need.

### III. PERTINENCE - John 13

#### 1. Inquiry - V. 12

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Why did Jesus say he was Master and Lord? Did Jesus expect believers to continue washing one another's feet? Since foot washing is not a custom in our society by what equivalent practices can we demonstrate our readiness to serve?

#### CONCLUSION:

List some service that members can offer - Mark 9:35. Question today - Be served or be servant!

## TEACHING ABOUT PRIORITIES

### Luke 12

List some key attitudes toward material wealth. List five of the most important things or persons in your life. Let's pretend: We advance to final Sweepstakes on T. V. - Won grand prize, but have a choice, 2 doors:

- (1) Deal to Alaskan oil wells - Cadillac - New House - \$500,000.
- (2) Drunken derelict brought in off the streets.

Which prize is most valuable? What if you were the person behind the second door? Then which door would you choose? Which door would God choose?

For one day, rate activities on scale 1 to 10 in importance.

1. Watching the day's news on T. V.
2. Doing your day's vocational task.
3. Eating at least two meals.
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(A priority, the act of putting value on one thing before another. Give 3 points if item occupies more than 1 hour per day; 2 points for 1/2 to 1 hour; 1 point if 1 to 30 minutes; 0 if no time. Consider this for one week, look at point total to see relative priority.)

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##### 1. Request

V. 13 - Should a teacher of justice become involved in administration of justice?

Why is it dangerous for Christians to assume that God wants them to be rich?

Tension between brothers. Deut. 21:17 - Elder 2/3, Younger 1/3.

##### 2. Refusal - V. 14

Did Jesus think that the man who claimed half of his brother's inheritance was unworthy of receiving it?

Name the true cause of the problem. Jesus refused to honor material possessions as valuable.

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Beware - military word, be on guard duty. Never drop your guard in reference to covetousness. Covetousness - wishing, reaching for more.

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##### 1. Condition - V. 16-19

V. 16 - Why was the rich farmer foolish? Describe the situation with the farm success.

V. 17 - What is wrong with complacency?

V. 18-19 - How many times the first person pronouns (I, my) -- What is wrong with that?

In God's economy man works to provide for self, the needy, and God's family. Am I like that man? Evaluate.

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Does our money belong to us? Do we judge by externals? Magazine industry depends on impulse buying. John Lennon was killed - his picture on cover - sales boost.

##### 2. Change - V. 20

How may treasure be sent on ahead to Heaven? Why a "fool"? Without thought or understanding, who would own what he had?

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What does it mean to be rich towards God? 1 Tim. 6:17-19.

Preparing for the future with perishable things. V. 22-31 - Dealing with anxiety. V. 32-34 - Heavenly treasure.

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##### 1. Illustration - V. 35

V. 35-36 - Waiting, but ready. How are we to wait? Be dressed in readiness and your lamps alight.

V. 37-38 - Working, but ready. Matt. 24:27.

V. 39-40 - Watching, but ready. Why is Christ's return eminent?

People work for extras, not worth broken homes. Items to buy for a man who has everything.

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If Jesus should come back soon, what are some "little things" we would want to have in order? How can we develop a constant sense of expectancy concerning Jesus' return? How can we develop a constant awareness that our money and our possessions belong to God and not ourselves?



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V. 37-38 - Working, but ready. Matt. 24:27.

V. 39-40 - Watching, but ready. Why is Christ's return eminent?

People work for extras, not worth broken homes. Items to buy for a man who has everything.

## CONCLUSION:

If Jesus should come back soon, what are some "little things" we would want to have in order? How can we develop a constant sense of expectancy concerning Jesus' return? How can we develop a constant awareness that our money and our possessions belong to God and not ourselves?

Express your feeling in defining fellowship. List several characteristics of fellowship. Name various fruits and vegetables that grow on vines.

Discuss the vital relationship of the vine, its branches, and the fruit.

Jesus used symbols in teaching: His "I am's" - How do they relate to us?

John 8:12	_____	John 11:25	_____
John 10:9	_____	John 14:6	_____
John 10:11	_____	John 15:1	_____

Why does a vine provide a fitting symbol for relationship between Christ and His followers? (First century: They met together at least once a week, read the Word of God, prayed, shared one-tenth of their income, sang hymns, and willing to die for their faith.)

#### I. CONNECTION - John 15:1

##### 1. Control - V. 1

Isaiah 5:1-7 - Is there a possible connection between these Scriptures? Israel as God's vine. Psa. 80:8-16. Jer. 2:21. Ezek. 15:1-8.

Temple: Over the entrance hung a cluster of grapes on a vine. Jesus talked about the vine often. Mark 12:1-12. Luke 20:9-19.

What did the vineyard in Jesus' discourse represent?

Husbandman: God the Father - vinedresser - garden. Needed attention. Vine: Jesus describes himself as grapevine.

##### 2. Care - V. 2

What did Jesus say would happen to fruitless followers? What basic things make up the function of the branches? How can we tell what kind of fruit a branch is bearing? Healthy branches produce, dead wood, fruitless are cut away.

##### 3. Cleansing - V. 3

How did Jesus cleanse His Disciples through the Word spoken to them?

(Wonderful - Eph. 5:25-26 A producing branch is purged by the Word so it can bear more fruit. Process of maturity. Describes clearing away whatever would hinder growth or progress.)

A vine gets a fungus or insects. They spread rapidly. God will clean out those blockages. 1 Peter 1:6-7, 2:1-3. What can we do to co-operate with the Lord in pruning from our lives anything that hinders fruit bearing?

#### II. CONDITION

##### 1. Fruit - V. 4-5

What kind of fruit did Jesus say his followers would produce, if connected to Him? Gal. 5:22-23.

Why is it important that we emphasize that abiding in Christ involves abiding in His church?

Give your thoughts on the word "abide" -

Abiding in Christ a Christian will -

(What would happen if a fruit grower sprays only one side of his trees, prunes only one side.)

##### 2. Fire - V. 6

What two options are open?

#### III. CONTINUATION

##### 1. Prayer - V. 7

What guidelines do Christians need to obtain positive responses in prayer? 1 John 5:14, James 5:16.

##### 2. Production - V. 8

How can believers glorify God by bearing much fruit?

##### 3. Perseverance - V. 9-10

How can believers continue within the circle of divine love?

List many Commandments of Jesus as you can.

##### 4. Purpose - V. 11

What is the promised results for abiding in Christ? V. 12-15.

#### CONCLUSION:

Wonder of history when the church seemed almost dead, out of its body has sprung new life. There are fruit inspectors all around us. What are they seeing in you? Can they see what vine you are attached to? How can we check to see if our fruitage for the Lord is increasing?

## YOU CAN KNOW GOD (WORSHIP)

John 4

- Give your own definition of worship – Describe the things that come to mind when at worship.
- List some of the various elements of worship – does worship actually change anything?
- Talk about a difficulty you were facing in which worship helped you through. Describe how the burden was shifted from your shoulders to the Lord's.
- Note some values given to times of praise and worship.
- Can you think of any Bible examples demonstrating the virtue of worship?
- A boy said: "worship is talking to God, then listening while God speaks to you; then living like you heard what God said!"
- Why do we need a day each week for worship?
- Henry Ford: "We would have had our Model-A car in production six months sooner if I had forbidden my engineers to work on Sunday. It took us all week to straighten out the mistakes that they made on the day when they should have rested."

I Corinthians 14:33, 40 – These verses teach something about God and how to improve worship.  
Drama of the Ages – John 4:3-6

- V. 3 – Visualize on a map – Judea – Galilee.
- V. 4 – How can we know that Jesus' meeting of the woman at the well was not accidental?
- V. 5 – Why did the Jew by-pass Samaria on a trip? Jews going from Jerusalem to Galilee walked on the East side of the Jordan crossing near Jericho and crossing near the Sea of Galilee. The land route was up through Samaria. Who were the Samaritans? (Mixed people, half-breeds, Assyrians transplanted foreigners of other nations there, educated leading Jews from there, thus, intermarriage mixed the races and mongrel people were refuted in Temple worship, therefore, Samaritans built own Temple on Mt. Gerizim – Gal-*tharim*.)
- V. 6 – Review the history this parcel of land – imagine the setting at the noon hour. Well about 1/2 mile from Sychar.

### I. CONTACT

#### 1. Request

- V. 7 – Why did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for a drink of water? What kind of pattern for approaching sinners has Jesus left us in his encounter with this woman? Why is the experience of thirst such an appropriate symbol for spiritual longing?
- V. 8 – Explain the absence of the Disciples.

#### 2. Response

- V. 9 – Why was the woman somewhat abrasive with Jesus at first?  
Four things on the exterior:  
1. She was a woman. 2. She was of the wrong race. 3. She was of the wrong religion.  
4. She was immoral, living in adultery.  
Was Jesus prejudiced? Luke 10:25-37; 17:11-19.

#### 3. Reply – V. 10

- Why did Jesus talk about living water? Was it possible for him to obtain any living water to demonstrate?

### II. CONTRAST

#### 1. Surprising Possibility

- V. 11-12 – Was the woman Sarcastic with Jesus? Samaritans accepted first five books in Old Testament, claim Jacob as ancestor. A well dug there. Gen. 33:18-20; Josh. 24:32.

#### 2. Satisfaction – V. 13-14

- Compare the provisions of Jacob and of Jesus – Illustration: Desert land, California streams of water pumped in, and vegetables grow and produce abundantly. Jesus talking about lives, barren, unproductive, hopeless – can be changed by living water. Let it happen to you!

### III. CONQUEST

#### 1. Challenge – V. 19-20

- What made the woman think Jesus was a prophet? What did the woman talk about after concluding that Jesus was a prophet?  
V. 16-18 – Why did she divert his attention?

#### 2. Worship – Anywhere

- V. 20-21 – Are we like that, locking Jesus up in a specific location? What did Jesus teach the regarding the place and nature of worship?  
Word Worship – Worth – Ship. Worth of God. William Temple: "Quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, feed the mind on truth of God, purge the imagination by the beauty of God, open the heart to the love of God, devote the will to the purpose of God."  
V. 22 – Salvation found in truth. The issue is not where, it was what!  
V. 23-24 – This cuts out rivalries. Worship is not our ideas but His – God hates sin, but do we cover it up? God forgives sinners, but do we condemn them? God has no prejudices, but we will not fellowship with another race? God answers prayers, but do we ever pray?  
V. 25-26 – What view did she have of the coming Messiah?  
V. 27-28 – How did she know Jesus was the Messiah?

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V. 25-26 - What view did she have of the coming Messiah?

V. 28-30 - What happened after Jesus told the woman he was The Messiah?

Brought a city full out to Jesus. How many have you brought to Jesus? Are you ready to share your joy? How can we regain the zeal of the woman.

## CONCLUSION:

Isa. 6 - (1) Awareness of God's presence, I saw the Lord. (2) Adoration, Holy, Holy, Holy. (3) Confession of sin, woe is me. (4) Assurance of Pardon, Thine iniquity is taken away. (5) The divine challenge, whom shall I send. (6) The human response, Here am I.

A woman riding a city bus noticed a church sign: "Put Christ back into Christmas." Her reaction, "Even churches are sticking their noses into Christmas." How do we go about fulfilling that slogan?

Mavis was having trouble getting the Christmas Spirit. Her favorite uncle had died in a nursing home Thanksgiving. Her husband's parents, with whom she had strained relations, were coming for Christmas. There were extra household chores, cooking to be done, and the children wanted more for Christmas than the family could afford. It seemed like anything but "the season to be jolly." She is having a battle with depression.

Why do Holidays often seem to put unusual stress on many people? How can the family make such times happier and less stressful? In your own experience is the real meaning of Christmas sometimes lost? Do you have special customs which keep the birth of Jesus central at Christmas?

Identify an incident in the lesson today in which the following motive or emotion is exemplified:

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Fear       | 5. Excitement     |
| 2. Submission | 6. Resolve        |
| 3. Greed      | 7. Disappointment |
| 4. Surprise   | 8. Courage        |

Do you know your pedigree? Are you proud of your ancestors?

Jesus' genealogy shows grace is greater than circumstances. Matthew 1:1-16 traces Jesus' family tree to Abraham. Few black spots in it. V. 10 - Manasseh did more evil than pagan nations. (2 Kings 21:11,12). Tamar V. 3 - Guilty of incest. Rahab V. 5 - A harlot. Bathsheba - V. 6 An adulteress.

Jesus a bridge - Priest (means bridge builder). Duty to link God and man. A bridge fills a gap. Chesapeake Bay Bridge is one of longest and beautiful in the world (17 miles).

## I. CENSUS - Luke 2:1-5

### 1. Royal Decree - V. 1.

Did God move Caesar to order a census just to get Mary to Bethlehem for Christ's birth?

Where did taxation originate - we get our income tax forms next week. Egypt took a census every 14 years. Recall some events leading up to the birth - John the Baptist - census.

V. 2-3 - What was the purpose of registering all the inhabitants and why go to his ancestral city?

### 2. Royal Decendant - V. 4-5.

Where Joseph and Mary married or engaged when they went to Bethlehem?

Micah 5:2 - Jewish custom, engaged man could claim his wife at any time. Matthew 1:18-20 informed of the child because of the Holy Spirit.

If you had planned this what arrangements would you have made? With whom would you have entrusted the valuable treasure? (Mature, wealthy couple, etc.) How could she possibly make the trip? Each person must go on register.

## II. CRISIS

### 1. Delivery - V. 6-7A

Why was Jesus' birth in a stable consistent with His later ministry? Why was the incarnation of God in Christ a great theological significance?

### 2. Denial - V. 7B

Should people be condemned for not giving Joseph and Mary a room in the inn? Have you ever been faced with a "no vacancy" sign. What kind of place was an inn?

## III. CHORUS

### 1. Appearance - V. 8-9

Why did the Angel reveal the birth to lowly shepherds? Why didn't Barbara Walters get the scoop for an interview, or some King?

### 2. Announcement - V. 10-12

How did the Angels counteract their fear? In what way did most Jews expect the Messiah to be their Savior? What is the difference in the Savior and a new deal or great society movement?

### 3. Agreement - V. 13-14

What is the significance of the message given by the angelic host? What meaning does the word "Peace" convey? How can we give peace to others? A river that flows between Canada and the United States is stone and steel bridge - "Peace Bridge". Two nations for years without war.

Loads and burdens carried from one country to the other. The Babe of Bethlehem is also a bridge.

## CONCLUSION:

V. 15-17 - Can we respond to it? A rich man forced into bankruptcy, ready to end his life, stepped into a church on Wednesday night. A small group was testifying. A truck driver told how he first heard of the birth of Christ from his five year old son who attended Sunday School with a neighbor boy. The man told how God sent in swaddling clothes instead of rich garments the Savior. Put him in a manger instead of a Cathedral. He closed by saying that's my kind of God, and you find Him in a place you might never think of finding him. The stranger, at the end of his life, found his way to God and thanked

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## GOD PRESERVES HIS PEOPLE

### Genesis 50

Joseph was Jacob's favorite son. He went through tragedy and turned it into victory. Do you know of a situation where tragedy was turned into victory?

Some keys to Joseph's success:

- Gen. 40:8 - He depended on \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. 41:38 - His life revealed \_\_\_\_\_ to others.
- Gen. 50:19 - He had an awareness of \_\_\_\_\_ ways.
- Gen. 50:20 - He realized \_\_\_\_\_ could bring good out of evil.

The key to Joseph's service:

1. Potiphar's Servant - Gen. 39:1-20.
2. The Jailor's Servant - Gen. 39:21-23.
3. Pharaoh's Servant - Gen. 41:14, 39-44.
4. The People's Servant - Gen. 41:46, 53-57.
5. His Brother's Servant - Gen. 42:5-6, 25; 45:1-5.
6. God's Servant - Gen. 45:7-8.

Joseph sold into slavery - famine - Jacob (130 Years Old) and Family of seventy persons moved to Egypt.

Richard Allen, born a slave in Phil., Feb. 14, 1760, his owner Benjamin Chew - leading lawyer. He sold Richard his father, mother, plus 4 other children to a friend in Dover, Del. He was well treated. Allen's owner heard sermons of traveling preachers who condemned the institution of slavery. He suggested Richard and his brothers buy their freedom. Richard was 17 years old - he became a free man. He could go where he wished. The first years were hard, few opportunities to work, first job a wood cutter, soon cutting a cord of wood a day. Second job was in a brickyard. Third job - a wagon driver hauling salt, and later he learned the trade of making shoes. Converted the year he gained his freedom, a member of St. George's Church. Discontented, sit separate section and could not receive communion until white members had been served. He began to preach outdoors to both whites and blacks - known as The African Preacher. 1794 he opened the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The denomination grew - he was elected as its head. He died 1831.

Joseph was sold for 20 pieces of silver - Jesus for 30. Joseph redeemed his brothers. Paul refers to sinners as slaves to sin. Rom. 6:22.

Cruel sale - Gen. 37:12-36 - Dothan.

Brothers meet again - Gen. 42:1-9.

Testing his brothers - 42:24 - Simeon is taken.

Ultimate Test - 42:36.

Identity Revealed - 45:1-7.

Father sent for - 45:19, 27.

Death of Jacob and burial - 50:1-14.

#### I. CONCERN - 50:15

##### 1. Peril - V. 15

Prov. 28:1 - After perhaps 35 years had passed since they sold him into slavery, and now 17 years of kindness. Why did his brothers think that he might hate them and hurt them, or pay them back?

Why do people hold and nurse a grudge? What does malice and revenge do to a person's peace of mind?

##### 2. Plan

V. 16-17 - Why was the report of their father's request apparently false. Why did Joseph weep when he heard the request of his brothers?

Note: They sent a message saying Jacob wanted you to forgive the brothers. Joseph wept with grief for his brothers - they were distrustful of his forgiveness even though he had forgiven them. His weeping was for pity for them. If the father had known the whole story - he would have spoke about forgiveness in person.

##### 3. Prostration - V. 18

Why did Joseph's brothers hate him? What temptation did Joseph resist following his father's death?

Dream is fulfilled - 37:5-9.

Probably told them to rise and face him! If you had been Joseph would you have been tempted to get revenge?

#### II. COMFORT

##### 1. Perspective - 19-20.

What divine perspective did Joseph have on his brother's sin against him? Deut. 32:35; Heb. 10:30.

##### 2. Promise - V. 21.

What promise did Joseph make to his brothers to reassure them?

#### III. CONCLUSION

##### 1. Old Age - V. 22-23.

How long did Joseph live in Egypt? How did Joseph spend his old age? (Age 17 sold as slave, 30 prime minister, 39 Hebrew clan joined him, 56 his father died, total 93 years in Egypt, died 110.)

##### 2. Oath - V. 24-25

How may we show our faith as we live under the Covenant of Grace? In what way was the command to take his bones to Canaan an act of faith? Heb. 11:22.

##### 3. Obedience - V. 26



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Was Joseph's command honored? Ex. 13:19; Josh. 24:32.

Remember: Why Joseph was able to forgive his brothers? Why is it difficult for you to forgive when you have been offended? How can we find grace to forgive? In what way does Joseph show us how to be forgiving? How urgent is it for us to learn to initiate forgiveness? Matt. 6:12, 14, 15. Eph. 4:32. What part did integrity - unselfish - communication - opportunity play in practicing forgiveness.

Read Hebrews 6:13-20. How is hope like an anchor - V. 19? April 14, 1944 Harbor of Bombay, India, ship loaded with explosives caught fire. Fire brigade went aboard but stood idle while their leader ran ashore to call for more help, almost one hour passed. The captain recommended it be sunk, the Dock Manager thought it should be towed out to sea. The Captain called his company's insurer for advice. Docks were crowded with spectators. Without warning the ship blew up, killing 66 firemen. A second explosion, pieces of metal traveled 3,000 feet in the air, fragments set fire to docks, office buildings, homes in mile area. The explosion caused a tidal wave which lifted a nearby ship and sent it onto the crowded docks. 27 ships were burned, 1,500 people were killed, hospitals filled, and took 6 months to rebuild docks. It happened on a sunny April afternoon - the passage in Hebrews reminds us God's promise is unchanging. Never proves false - uncertainty on every side - Abraham had a sure anchor. Hymn - "Jesus, Lover Of My Soul" - by C. Wesley - second stanza "Other refuge have I none: Hangs my helpless soul on Thee . . ."

Trace Abraham's Journey - Ur - Haran - Canaan. Explain why He was willing to set out on such a trip without even knowing where he was going? Do people make trips like this today - you like to know when you are going and why.

Have you ever had an experience in which you felt that God was speaking to you? How did God speak? Was it easy to believe that God would work out all the problems involved in your situation? Discuss some ways God speaks to us today as through His Word, a sermon, prayer, or a friend.

Read Genesis 11:29-12:4 - Find answers to:

1. What promises were made to Abram?
2. What was Abram to do to claim God's promise and what did he do?
3. What obstacles would confront Abram's descendants?

Remember Abram born about 350 years after the flood, grew up in Ur (Chief God The Moon), His father worshipped false gods - Joshua 24:2. God called him to separate himself - Acts 7:2-3. He moved 500 miles up to Haran with his wife, father, and nephew.

#### I. PREDICTED SON - 13:1

##### 1. Contact - V. 1

"After What Things?" Chapter 14. Story of raid, capture Lot. Note - Source of Abram's fear - why say fear not? Source of Abram's strength. Why did God give reassurance to Abram in a vision? Isa. 40:10, Jer. 31:16.

##### 2. Complaint - V. 2-3

What did Abram say to God regarding great rewards or blessings? Eliczer of Damascus - steward, servant - ancient law. Master could adopt his slave as heir. Gen. 24:2-6.

##### 3. Comfort - V. 4-5

How did God deal with Abram's assumption that Eliczer would be his heir? Hagar, Sara's maid had a son Ishmael. (Gen. 16) Abram was 86 - He was still running ahead of God. He must wait until 100. Gen. 21:1-5.

V. 5 - Why did God have Abram look at the starry sky? Estimated naked eye can see about two to five thousand at a given point. Total number of stars in the Milky Way galaxy is calculated to be about one hundred billion! Gen. 22:17 - Grains of sand on seashore.

##### 4. Credit - V. 6

Why did Paul quote this verse in Gal. 3:6 and then elaborate on it? His righteousness was a rightness with God which expressed itself in obedience. Gen. 12:1; Heb. 11:8-9. Birth of Isaac - Gen. 17:17, 21:1-5. Discipline of waiting - Romans 4:3-5. James 2:20-24. Faith has always pleased the Lord.

#### II. PREDICTED BONDAGE - V. 7-12

##### 1. Sacrifice - V. 7-11

God instructed a sacrifice for The Covenant. Divided carcasses of 3 grown animals - passageway between two birds on across from the other. Lev. 1:17. Contracting parties (Jer. 34:18) passed between, Solomons pledge of unity. Abram drove birds of prey away.

##### 2. Sleep - V. 12-13

Have you ever experienced the horror of great darkness? What information did God give him in this revelation?

V. 14 - What connection does this verse have with 12:3? Exod. 11:1-3; 12:35-36.

V. 15 - Promise of a natural death. Gen. 23, 25:8-10. Burial place.

#### III. PREDICTED HOME - V. 14

##### 1. Personal Word - V. 14-17

V. 14 - Why did God allow pagan peoples in Canaan to live in deep degradation? Amorites a term used in general way to describe inhabitants. Four generations - 1 Chronicles 6:1-3. Jacob - Gen. 46:1-6 - went down to Egypt (Levi's son Kohath and grandson Amram plus Amram's son Moses makes four.)

V. 17 - Read V. 9-10. Fine of God passed between those pieces. He gave Abram the divine guarantee.

##### 2. Palestine - V. 18

Has this verse been fulfilled? 1 Kings 4:21 - Solomon's Kingdom reached those dimensions. Is the world waiting for a man wholly consecrated to his service? Gal. 3:6-16.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. What obstacles would comfort Abram's descendants?

Remember Abram born about 350 years after the flood, grew up in Ur (Chief God The Moon). His father worshipped false gods - Joshua 24:2. God called him to separate himself - Acts 7:2-3. He moved 500 miles up to Haran with his wife, father, and nephew.

I. PREDICTED SON - 15:1

1. Contact - V. 1

"After What Things?" Chapter 14. Story of raid, capture Lot. Note - Source of Abram's fear - why say fear not? Source of Abram's strength. Why did God give reassurance to Abram in a vision? Isa. 40:10, Jer. 31:16.

2. Complaint - V. 2-3

What did Abram say to God regarding great rewards or blessings? Elisha of Damascus - steward, servant - ancient laws. Master could adopt his slave as heir. Gen. 24:2-6.

3. Comfort - V. 4-5

How did God deal with Abram's assumption that Elisha would be his heir? Hagar, Sara's maid had a son Ishmael. (Gen. 16) Abram was 85 - He was still running ahead of God. He must wait until 100. Gen. 21:1-5.  
V. 5 - Why did God have Abram look at the starry sky? Estimated naked eye can see about two to five thousand at a given point. Total number of stars in the Milky Way galaxy is calculated to be about one hundred billion!  
Gen. 22:17 - Grains of sand on seashore.

4. Credit - V. 6

Why did Paul quote this verse in Gal. 3:6 and then elaborate on it? His righteousness was a righteousness with God which expressed itself in obedience. Gen. 12:1; Heb. 11:8-9. Birth of Isaac - Gen. 17:17, 21:1-5. Discipline of waiting - Romans 4:3-5. James 2:20-24. Faith has always pleased the Lord.

II. PREDICTED BONDAGE - V. 7-12

1. Sacrifice - V. 7-11

God instructed a sacrifice for The Covenant. Divided carcasses of 3 grown animals - passageway between two birds on arcs from the other. Lev. 1:17. Contracting parties (Jer. 34:18) passed between. Solemn pledge of unity. Abram dove birds of prey away.

2. Sleep - V. 12-13

Have you ever experienced the horror of great darkness? What information did God give him in this revelation?  
V. 14 - What connection does this verse have with 12:3? Exod. 11:1-3; 12:35-36.  
V. 15 - Promise of a natural death. Gen. 23, 25:8-10. Burial place.

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Has this verse been fulfilled? 1 Kings 4:21 - Solomon's Kingdom reached those dimensions. Is the world waiting for a man wholly consecrated to his service? Gal. 3:6-16.

CONCLUSION:

How is the Christian life like Abraham's life? How does God demonstrate his guidance in our lives today? How do we distinguish God's guidance from our own desires or the work of Satan? How are we to respond to God's guidance? What are the results when a Christian acknowledges and follows God's guidance?

How are people today like the Israelites at Sinai? If all have sinned, as Romans 3:23 says, why is God willing to forgive sin? How is a Christian, who already has accepted Christ, to find forgiveness of sin?

Comment on three words: Faithfulness — Wrath — Mercy

The Greeks of Athens, 400 years before birth of Christ developed a code or system of laws. The assembly met each year. And all the laws were reviewed, section by section. Ordinary citizens could propose substitutes. Each citizen was expected to be his own expert in legal matters. New judges were chosen each year from among the citizens. Women and children could not be witnesses except in cases of murder. Juries were very large numbering from 200 to possibly 6,000 in important cases. After the trial, the jury voted immediately, for the members were not allowed to discuss the case among themselves. The ancient Greek legal system — like ours — was imperfect, it was developed and practiced by human beings.

Heart of the Jewish law:

#### Our Relation to God

- Worship no other Gods
- Don't make idols
- Don't take God's name in vain
- Keep the Sabbath Holy

#### Relation to Others

- Honor your parents
- Don't kill
- Don't commit adultery
- Don't steal
- Don't bear false witness
- Don't covet.

Jesus gave a summary — Mark 12:30-31.

Grumbling people — God led Abraham from us. All people could see God at work in the plagues. Three days after freedom began to grumble — Water 15:22-27.

Did God's people thereafter trust him fully? They grumble about food — 12:32. *Manna, quail* — 16.

Grumble in the desert — Water — 17:1-7.

Three months after leaving Egypt, camp at Sinai, Law of Ten Commandments — 19-20.

Moses on the Mount. Get plans for Tabernacle. Gone 40 days. 19:8; 24:7. Don't know what has become of him.

Golden Calf — 32:1-8. Why did they make the idol — how was it made, what kind of celebration was going on? V. 6, 19, 25. Why was the assembly unlawful? V. 1 — The demand unlawful.

Broken Covenant — 32:15-24 — What happened to the tablets — V. 19? How was the image dealt with.

## I. INTENTION — 32:9

### 1. Anger — V. 9-10

Why was God angry enough to threaten the existence of Israel?

What alternative did God offer Moses which he did not accept?

How would you describe a stiff-necked people? (Pioneer farmer had a large ox that he used for making logs out of the woods. He was hard to work, when he placed the yoke upon him, he stiffened his front feet, braced his neck, and resisted as long as possible. He named the ox Israel, because it made no difference how good he was to him, Israel was always stubborn and refused to co-operate with his owner.)

Some people are like that, never pull as part of team. Incredible to us, all God has done for his people, in 30 days they make a golden calf.

## II. INTERCESSION

### 1. Questioning — V. 11-12

What can we learn about persuasive praying from Moses in this instance?

### 2. Mercy Granted — V. 13-14

Importance of recalling promises. If God is perfect and makes no mistakes, why should He repent of anything?

V. 25-35 — Chaos in the camp. V. 28 — Ring-leaders guilty.

33:1-3 — Redemptive plan.

V. 14 — Presence given. 34:4 — Renews the Covenant.

## III. INHERITANCE

### 1. Proclamation — V. 5-7

How did God inspire Moses to continue leading rebellious Israel? What great words are in this proclamation?

### 2. Prayer — V. 8-9

How did Moses include himself in his prayer on behalf of Israel? V. 10 — What did God say in answer to prayer?

## CONCLUSION:

How might God punish us today for idolatry? Why is murmuring and grumbling in the church a dangerous practice? Tell why God was willing to forgive Israel? How does God forgive sin today. In what way do I need to respond to God's forgiveness?

# GOD REAFFIRMS HIS PROMISE

Exodus 3-6

Promises may be described by certain words - fill in a word for each letter.

P  
R  
O  
M  
I  
S  
E

How can we be assured that God will keep his promises to people today? How are we today to claim God's promises to us?

A King who forgot - The King of France - Louis XVI at the time of the revolution. He never expected to be King, spent his time hunting. He had two older brothers. His father and two brothers died unexpectedly, so Louis inherited the Throne. Not his nature to be good King - occupied his time with hunting and social life - appointed officials governed.

Times were changing. American Colonies defeated the British. Louis chose to defend rights of nobility, the upper class. Thousands of common people were out of work, taxes and food prices were increasing. People wanted relief, he and his family were made prisoners. He refused to co-operate with a popular assembly in giving the people a greater participation in government. August, 1792, He moved to a fortress in Paris, the King was tried and condemned to death on January 21, 1793, on a scaffold in center of Paris he was executed. During those years, Louis had many opportunities to change the direction of French history - tragically he forgot his duty.

Passage today, King of Egypt forgot what the Hebrew Joseph had done to save his nation. Christians are not to forget - 1 Cor. 6:20, 7:23.

Memory of Joseph faded with coming of new King. He was alarmed at growth of Israelites and afraid they might side with enemies in war. Ex. 1:7-14.

Great drama filled with opposition - people in bondage - Pharaoh with power.

Moses: "He's got the whole world in his hand!" Abram left Ur. Jacob was brought to Canaan. Joseph was sold to Egypt. 70 members of Jacob's family move to Egypt. Multiplying at alarming rate, new ruler had plans to control this population explosion. (Slaves - ordered baby boys drowned.) Birth of Moses, Pharaoh's daughter found him, adopted him. He defended a fellow Hebrew by slaying an Egyptian - fled to Midian - joined the family of a Priest.

Blaming Bush - Ex. 3:1-9 (What was God's plan?)

Moses Mission - Ex. 3:10-22.

V. 11 - Assessed inadequate nobody.

V. 12 - Solid proof.

V. 13-14 - Ask God's name.

V. 18 - Request a three days journey from Pharaoh. God equips his servant. Ex. 4:1-17. (God's provisions.)

V. 1-9 - Three miraculous signs.

V. 11-12 - Question not ability but availability.

V. 13-17 - Armed with faith and shepherd's staff.

Return to Egypt - 4:18-31

Heavy handed reaction - 5:1-21. Pharaoh's reaction.

V. 7 - Added responsibility.

V. 9 - Added work keep under control.

## I. COMPLAINT - 5:22

### 1. Inquiries - V. 22

Was Moses justified in blaming God for not delivering the Israelites from bondage immediately?

Question: Why had Lord treated them so badly? Why send me?

### 2. Injunction - V. 23

Why was Moses discouraged about his part in aiding the Israelites? Why does God let the wicked go on in evil deeds?

Why must Moses suffer reproach, he is trying to help them?

11. COVENANT - 6:1-9

1. Reassurance - V. 1

How did God reassure Moses regarding his mission to Egypt?

2. Remembrance - V. 2-5

By what name was God to be known to His people? Name indicates God is always living, always present, no beginning and no end. God Almighty, faithful God, redemptive God.

V. 4 - Strangers in the land, promise as permanent home.

V. 5 - In what way had God established a Covenant with Israel? Had God neglected the Covenant, persecution had begun before birth of Moses, who is now eighty. 7:7 - What about us - troubles never seem to end.

3. Redemption - 6-8

What provision of the Covenant was yet to be fulfilled? What bearing does the Covenant have on Israel today?

4. Report - V. 9

Why wouldn't they listen to Moses when he gave them God's message? People listened at first now he is misunderstood.

When I am misunderstood, I usually ---- some of the things that hurt me are --- God showed he loved and cared for me by ----.

111. CHARGE - V. 10-13

1. First Charge - V. 13A

2. Second Charge - V. 13B

Why was Moses to charge Israel and Pharaoh when neither accepted what he said?

What would you have done, God had called you to a job, and everybody was against you?

CONCLUSION:

Is it hard to keep the loyalty of people? Why do they forget when richly blessed? How can we keep our faith growing? Moses was patient even when people complained about inconvenience.

## V. 10 - Read The Golden Text. Do you agree or disagree - why?

1. Is it true that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.
2. God is pleased with and blesses the acquisition of wealth.
3. A person is responsible to God for the use of his riches only.
4. God expects his people to rest.
5. We are tenants and stewards of property, not owners.
6. The tithes is only the beginning of the use of our wealth for God.

Why is it that in many countries wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few people. Would you buy it? The owner is willing to sell, the contract reads- 1. The present owner has the right to buy back the property at any time he has sufficient money to do so. 2. The amount necessary to buy back this property will be reduced each year. 3. The land will automatically revert to the original owner in \_\_\_\_\_ years. What would you do? Would you agree to buy the property? What do you think of the terms?

Then Israel entered the Promised Land, a deed similar to this existed. God's control - a built in one to prevent extreme wealth or poverty. Every 50 years land returned to original owners. A spend thrift might sell his farm, waste the money, however, his children and grandchildren were not doomed to be slaves forever - get the farm back - law of the Jubilee.

Isaiah 5:8 - "They join house to house, field to field." This is attitude of the man - "I don't want to own all the land in the world, but just all that joins mine."

A basic stabilizing factor is widely dispersed private ownership of the land. In 1980 a group called for government action - help reverse decline of small and moderate size farms.

Are we accountable for our use of the resources of the land?

## I. REST - Lev. 25:1

## 1. Sabbath Year - V. 1

Ex. 20:8-11 - Observe each seventh day - we can vote "NO" - on the November Sunday Blue Law. Moses did not invent the laws.

V. 2 - What was a Sabbath year unto the Lord in ancient Israel? V. 3-7 - Explain how Sabbath year was observed. No plowing, planting, harvesting systematically. Grief and grief - "Dust Bowl" years in West. Buffalo slaughtered, no grass, plowed the range, dry years 1916 - wind, loosened top soil filled the air. Seventh year - he follows - faith, their need would be met.

## 2. Seven Times Seven - V. 8-9

How often was the Jubilee year to be celebrated in ancient Israel? Tension and pressure - Preparation for vacation keep track, count 49 years - next year time of Jubilee.

Atonement - self-humiliation and confession. Trumpet sound in every town and village - People came out of Egypt.

## 3. Special Instruction - V. 10-12

How were people in Israel able to survive through two years of no harvests?

V. 10 - Describe the joy. V. 11 - Why a joyful time? V. 12 - How could they make it without one year income?

## II. REMINDER

## 1. Retaining Ownership - V. 23

What basic concept underlaid the restoration of ancestral lands? The land belonged to \_\_\_\_\_  
They were managing for \_\_\_\_\_

Kansas, narrow dirt road, a sign: "God's land - I am just farming it until his return." Young farmer said this is my way of testifying to my faith. He had harvest-scarum life, came face to face with Jesus in a fox-hole in South Pacific. Resolved to give whole life to Jesus and reading The Bible - Lev. 25:23. "The land is mine; for ye are strangers." Decided to paint his motto. What would happen if each of us placed such a sign in our homes, or office, or business, or land.

## 2. Redemption - V. 24

Great symbol of Christ.

V. 25-28 - Man who sold get property back, but also right and redeem it, buy it back before that time.

## III. RELEASE

V. 35-38 - Jubilee helped the poor.

## 1. Status Defined - V. 39-40

V. 39 - Name kinds of slavery people sell themselves. Hebrew slave be free after 6 years. Ex. 21:2. If he had sold himself over and over. Jubilee he get back ancestral farm and start over.

V. 40-41 - What practical effects did the Jubilee year have in Israel?

## 2. Servants Claimed

V. 42-43

The land belonged to \_\_\_\_\_ The people belonged to \_\_\_\_\_

Sin of Ahab - I Kings 21:1-3.

## CONCLUSION

What safeguards do we have to avoid a wrong view of possessions? Would a Jubilee year work today? What effect does material things have on us if we recognize God's ownership? His lesson on ownership helped you with personal responsibilities.

## TEACHING ABOUT LOSTNESS

### Luke 15

DFLNOOSTU - Two words in the stories today. Share some experience you have had in being lost - relate your feelings - deep into the woods - plane gets off course, the pilot checked and got back on course and said - "I would have missed the airport by 30 miles."

Civil War - Lincoln was asked how he intended to treat the Confederates after the war - "I will treat them as if they had never been away."

V. 1-2 - Why were these stories told in Luke 15?

Jesus answer to criticism that he received sinners and spent time eating with them.

All three parables have two things in common. Is it possible to describe God's love? Rom. 8:38-39.

Which was a greater tragedy - being lost or being Prodigal.

1. Parable of Lost Sheep - 15: 3-7

How many? Describe the joy and value of one lost person.

2. Parable of Lost Coin - V. 8-10

How was it lost? What would you do if a valuable ring got lost? How would you react if you failed to find your car where you parked it? What first step would you take if your child became lost in a crowded store? Took her broom, covered entire floor, she had 9 left, why worry about one?

3. Parable of the Lost Son - 11-24.

What title is best, prodigal son, elder brother, loving father. Scottish preacher said - "It's misnamed, should be willing Father." Why did Jesus tell this story of a prodigal son?

#### I. REJECTION

1. Departure - V. 11-13

Give some clues that led to the young man being lost. Do we tend to think of lost people being among only the young and the wild?

V. 12 - What was his idea of freedom? Deut. 21:17. Did he have a right to the estate? Was it foolish to let the son have the inheritance early?

V. 13 - Where was the Fat Country? What seems to compel young adults to leave home and fall into deep sin?

The word wasted - scattered - Matt. 25:24. How? The word riotous - sinful indulgence, extravagance. V. 30.

Tells how some were devoured. Poor purchases, bad investments, etc.

2. Dejection - V. 14-16

V. 14 - How would you describe his circumstances? Why is the life of a sinner or backslider hard? Why did his money and friends depart at the same time? Myths today - "Things make you happy."

Deception: 67 year old woman, Chicago - found 10 million worth of checks on her lawn one morning. Fell from an airplane bound for a bank in Chicago's loop. Had to turn them in, all cancelled and worthless. Satan is experienced at deception.

V. 15 - Was he sure he knew how to run his life? What happens when a believer attaches himself to an unbeliever? Why was this not good employment? Lev. 11:7-8.

Some times folks looking for spiritual food go from "Field to Field", may get food that is not fit for consumption. That is reason why Cults are successful, people are saying anything. Proverbs 27:7.

V. 16 - Boy on skid row - wasted a fortune, riotous living, spent all, in want, slave to a Gentile, fed swine, eating pig feed, no one shared with him.

#### II. RESOLUTION

1. Realization

V. 17 - Waking up - How is conviction related to coming to one's self? Why must the feeling of need precede repentance? Is this a realization of his true nature? How does God deal with one who comes to his senses?

2. Repentance

V. 18 - How big is the confession? Not blame some one else.

V. 19 - Psa. 34:18. Vast difference in give and make! List some ways the young man typifies the sinner's relationship to God.

#### III. RESTORATION

1. Reunion - V. 20-21

How did the father deal with the son? List the ways in which the Father compares with the Heavenly Father in relationship to a sinner. Pictures of compassion - man of action and note son's action, did the boy rehearse his speech?

2. Rejoicing - V. 22-24

Is it fair for God to honor a wayward son whom comes back to him? How is God's yearning for the lost expressed? Gifts Father gave - 1 Robe, 2 Shoes, 3 Calf, 4 Condition of the son now \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_

3. Rebuke - V. 25-32

To whom did Jesus intend to liken the elder brother? Are such attitudes typical of some Christians today?



covered entire table, she had 9 left, why worry about it?

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What title is best, prodigal son, elder brother, loving father. Scottish preacher said - "It's misnamed, should be waiting Father." Why did Jesus tell this story of a prodigal son?

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## CONCLUSION:

How should church people deal with a backslider or a non-attending, non-going member of Sunday School or congregation? What is the best way to deal with this inactive group? The easy way is to forget them, purge the roll, never get in touch, stop ministering and let them go to Hell!

Continued growth is directly related to enrollment. Ministry is necessary for success. Every person needs to feel his church is a ministering caring fellowship. The church can do this: First, send The Messenger to each one; Second, include each one in giving by seeing that church envelopes are provided for their stewardship to God; Third, illustrate our compassion by visiting out of love; Fourth, accept a personal responsibility by praying for them; Fifth, discover ways of satisfying the human hunger for fellowship in their hearts.

The Prodigal Son did not do one thing to deserve or merit the Father's love! How would you feel if someone said, "you are not worth reaching for Christ."

Read Hebrews 6:13-20. How is hope like an anchor - V. 19? April 14, 1944 Harbor of Bombay, India, ship loaded with explosives caught fire. Fire brigade went aboard but stood idle while their leader ran ashore to call for more help, almost one hour passed. The captain recommended it be sunk, the Dock Manager thought it should be towed out to sea. The Captain called his company's insurer for advice. Decks were crowded with spectators. Without warning the ship blew up, killing 66 firemen. A second explosion, pieces of metal traveled 3,000 feet in the air, fragments set fire to docks, office buildings, homes in mile area. The explosion caused a tidal wave which lifted a nearby ship and sent it onto the crowded docks. 27 ships were burned, 1500 people were killed, hospitals filled, and took 6 months to rebuild docks. It happened on a sunny April afternoon - the passage in Hebrews reminds us God's promise is unchanging. Never proves false - uncertainty on every side - Abraham had a sure anchor. Hymn - "Jesus, Lover Of My Soul" - by C. Wesley - second stanza "Other refuge have I none: Hangs my helpless soul on Thee . . ."

Trace Abraham's Journey - Ur - Haran - Canaan. Explain why He was willing to set out on such a trip without even knowing where he was going? Do people make trips like this today - you like to know when you are going and why.

Have you ever had an experience in which you felt that God was speaking to you? How did God speak? Was it easy to believe that God would work out all the problems involved in your situation? Discuss some ways God speaks to us today as through His Word, a sermon, prayer, or a friend.

Read Genesis 11:29-12:4 - Find answers to :

1. What promises were made to Abram?
2. What was Abram to do to claim God's promise and what did he do?
3. What obstacles would confront Abram's descendants?

Remember Abram born about 350 years after the flood, grew up in Ur (Chief God The Moon), His father worshipped false gods - Joshua 24:2. God called him to separate himself - Acts 7:2-3. He moved 500 miles up to Haran with his wife, father, and nephew.

#### I. PREDICTED SON - 15:1

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"After What Things?" Chapter 14. Story of raid, capture Lot. Note - Source of Abram's fear - why say fear not? Source of Abram's strength. Why did God give reassurance to Abram in a vision? Isa. 40:10, Jer. 31:16.

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What did Abram say to God regarding great rewards or blessings? Eliezer of Damascus - steward, servant - ancient law. Master could adopt his slave as heir. Gen. 24:2-6.

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Why did Paul quote this verse in Gal. 3:6 and then elaborate on it? His righteousness was a righteousness with God which expressed itself in obedience. Gen. 12:1; Heb. 11:8-9. Birth of Isaac - Gen. 17:17, 21:1-5. Discipline of waiting - Romans 4:3-5. James 2:20-24. Faith has always pleased the Lord.

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God instructed a sacrifice for The Covenant. Divided carcasses of 3 grown animals - passageway between two birds on arcs from the other. Lev. 1:17. Contracting parties (Jer. 34:18) passed between, solemn pledge of unity. Abram drove birds of prey away.

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Have you ever experienced the horror of great darkness? What information did God give him in this revelation?

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What did Abram say to God regarding great rewards or blessings? Eliezer of Damascus - steward, servant - ancient laws. Master could adopt his slave as heir. Gen. 24:2-6.

3. Comfort - V. 4-5

How did God deal with Abram's assumption that Eliezer would be his heir? Hagar, Sara's maid had a son Ishmael. (Gen. 16) Abram was 86 - He was still running ahead of God. He must wait until 100. Gen. 21:1-5.  
V. 5 - Why did God have Abram look at the starry sky? Estimated naked eye can see about two to five thousand at a given point. Total number of stars in the Milky Way galaxy is calculated to be about one hundred billion!  
Gen. 22:17 - Grains of sand on seashore.

4. Credit - V. 6

Why did Paul quote this verse in Gal. 3:6 and then elaborate on it? His righteousness was a rightness with God which expressed itself in obedience. Gen. 12:1; Heb. 11:8-9. Birth of Isaac - Gen. 17:17, 21:1-5. Discipline of waiting - Romans 4:3-5. James 2:20-24. Faith has always pleased the Lord.

II. PREDICTED BONDAGE - V. 7-12

1. Sacrifice - V. 7-11

God instructed a sacrifice for The Covenant. Divided carcasses of 3 grown animals - passageway between two birds on across from the other. Lev. 1:17. Contracting parties (Jer. 34:18) passed between. Solemn pledge of unity. Abram drove birds of prey away.

2. Sleep - V. 12-13

Have you ever experienced the horror of great darkness? What information did God give him in this revelation?  
V. 14 - What connection does this verse have with 12:3? Exod. 11:1-3; 12:35-36.  
V. 15 - Promise of a natural death. Gen. 23, 25:8-10. Burial place.

III. PREDICTED HOME - V. 14

1. Personal Word - V. 14-17

V. 14 - Why did God allow pagan peoples in Canaan to live in deep degradation? Amorites a term used in general way to describe inhabitants. Four generations - 1 Chronicles 6:1-3. Jacob - Gen. 46:1-6 - went down to Egypt (Levi's son Kohath and grandson Amram plus Amram's son Moses makes four.)  
V. 17 - Read V. 9-10. Foe of God passed between those pieces. He gave Abram the divine guarantee.

2. Palestine - V. 18

Has this verse been fulfilled? 1 Kings 4:21 - Solomon's Kingdom reached those dimensions. Is the world waiting for a man wholly consecrated to his service? Gal. 3:6-16.

CONCLUSION:

How is the Christian life like Abraham's life? How does God demonstrate his guidance in our lives today? How do we distinguish God's guidance from our own desires or the work of Satan? How are we to respond to God's guidance? What are the results when a Christian acknowledges and follows God's guidance?