**Lesson One: Hi*S*tory of Inspiration**

1. What is the Bible? How would *you* describe it?

2. What does the Bible say about itself? Read Revelation 1:1-3, 9-19 and answer the following questions:

a. Who wrote the book of Revelation? (cf. Rev. 1:9)

b. Who told the author of Revelation what to write? (cf. Rev. 1:1)

c. How much of the Bible is God’s Word? (1 Corinthians 2:13)

d. Why was the author of Revelation to write what he did? (cf. Rev. 1:3, 19)

3. How does the Bible prepare us for salvation? Read Revelation 3:14-22 and answer the following questions:

a. What did Jesus say was wrong with the Laodiceans? (cf. Rev. 3:17)

b. Why did Jesus point out this fault in the Laodiceans? (cf. Rev. 3:19)

c. What remedy did Jesus offer the Laodiceans? (cf. Rev. 3:18, 20)

4. Since the Bible is God’s Word, how should we treat it? What do the following passages tell us?

a. Revelation 10:1, 2, 8-11 –

b. Revelation 22:18, 19 –

5. According to the underlined portion of the following passages, how else should we approach the study of the Bible?

a. “*Then Samuel said, ‘Speak [Lord], for your servant is listening’*” (1 Samuel 3:10).

b. “*But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart*” (Luke 2:19).

c. “*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock*” (Matthew 7:24).

Making Hi*S*tory My Story

1. What is wrong with these statements?

A. The Bible contains God’s Word.

B. The Bible is without error when it tells us how to be saved.

2. Circle the correct statements.

A. There are three distinct Persons in the Trinity.

B. The three Persons are three gods.

C. The three Persons are of equal majesty and power.

D. The Son and the Spirit receive their authority from the Father.

E. The Father was first, then the Son, then the Holy Spirit.

F. There is only one God, who has revealed himself in three Persons but is one in essence.

3. Memorize 2 Peter 1:21. “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

4. Memorize Romans 3:20. “*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin*.”

**Lesson Two: Hi*S*tory of Creation**

1. How did the universe get here? How would *you* explain it?

2. What does the *Bible* say about the creation of the universe? Read Genesis 1:1, 2 and answer the following question: Who created the universe?

3. Read Genesis 1:3. How did God create the universe?

4. Read Genesis 1:31-2:2. How long did it take God to create the universe?

5. Respond: Dr. Roger C. Wiens, a theistic evolutionist, once wrote: “*…it is more important to agree on the Rock of Ages than on the age of rocks*.”

6. Read Genesis 1:1-5. What did God create on Day One of Creation?

7. Read Genesis 1:6-8. What did God create on Day Two of Creation?

8. Read Genesis 1:9-13. What did God create on Day Three of Creation?

9. Read Genesis 1:14-19. What did God create on Day Four of Creation?

10. Read Genesis 1:20-23. What did God create on Day Five of Creation?

11. Read Genesis 1:24-31. What did God create on Day Six of Creation?

12. How does Genesis1:24 show that God did not use the process of evolution to give the world the creatures it has today?

13. In Genesis 1:27, God said that he would create mankind in his own image. According to the underlined portion of the following passages, what does that mean?

“*Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ﻿10﻿ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator*” (Colossians 3:9, 10).

“*…put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ﻿23﻿ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ﻿24﻿ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness*” (Ephesians 4:22-24).

14. According to the underlinedportion of the following passage, how else, other than from nature, can one know about the existence of God?

“*﻿ [the Gentiles] show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them*” (Romans 2:15).

Making Hi*S*tory My Story

1. The *natural* knowledgeof Godis the knowledge of God that we get from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while *revealed* knowledge is the knowledge of God that we get from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Circle the correct statement.

A. The atheist denies the existence of God because he follows the guidance of his reason.

B. The atheist denies the existence of God because he wishes that there were no God.

C. The atheist denies the existence of God because he has no way of knowing whether there is a God.

3. Look up the following passages and match them with the attribute of God they best describe.

A. Jeremiah 23:24 holy

B. Psalm 90:2 eternal

C. Leviticus 19:2 omnipotent (all-powerful)

D. 1 John 4:8 just

E. Matthew 19:26 love

F. Deuteronomy 32:4 omnipresent (ever-present)

G. John 21:17 omniscient (all-knowing)

4. Respond: From the Bible we learn that God made all things; from the theory of evolution we learn *how* God made everything.

5. Memorize the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed: “*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth*.”

6. Memorize the following prayers used before and after meals.

A. Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

B. Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures forever. Amen.

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

**Lesson Three: Hi*S*tory of Corruption**

1. Read Genesis 2:18-25 and answer the following questions:

a. How did God get Adam to realize that he was unique among God’s creatures?

b. How did God fill Adam’s desire for a companion?

2. According to the following passage, how long is marriage to last?

“*For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage*” (Romans 7:2).

According to the following passage, what is God’s attitude towards divorce?

“*I hate divorce,” says the LORD God of Israel, “and I hate a man’s covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,” says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith*” (Malachi 2:16).

According to the underlined portions of the following passages, for what reasons alone does God *allow* for divorce?

“*I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery*” (Matthew 19:9).

“*But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace*” (1 Corinthians 7:15).

3. Who can be married?

“*Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ﻿10﻿ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God*” (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10).

4. What are the blessings of marriage?

“*The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him*” (Genesis 2:18).

“*But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. ﻿3﻿ The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband…﻿5﻿ Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control*” (1 Corinthians 7:2, 3, 5).

“*Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. ﻿4﻿Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth. ﻿5Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them*” (Psalm 127:3-5a).

5. What role was Eve to play in her relationship with Adam? (cf. Genesis 2:18)

6. What different roles has God designed for husbands and wives?

“*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ﻿23﻿ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ﻿24﻿ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ﻿25﻿ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*” (Ephesians 5:22-25).

7. Read Genesis 2:15-17 and answer the following questions:

a. What did God do with Adam after he created him?

b. Martin Luther once said that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was Adam’s church, altar, and pulpit (Luther’s Works Volume 1, Genesis 2:10). What do you think he meant?

8. Read Genesis 3:1-6 and answer the following questions:

a. What two things did Satan question about God to get Eve to eat the forbidden fruit?

b. When did Eve first sin?

9. Read Genesis 3:7-15 and answer the following questions:

a. Describe Adam and Eve’s reaction to their sin as outlined in…

Ø Genesis 3:7 –

Ø Genesis 3:8, 10 –

Ø Genesis 3:12, 13 –

b. Describe God’s reaction to Adam and Eve’s sin as outlined in…

Ø Genesis 3:9 –

Ø Genesis 3:11-14 –

Ø Genesis 3:15 –

10. Read Genesis 3:16-4:8 and answer the following question: Describe the consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin as outlined in …

Ø Genesis 3:16 –

Ø Genesis 3:17-19a –

Ø Genesis 3:19b –

Ø Genesis. 3:23, 24 –

Ø Genesis 4:8 –

Making Hi*S*tory My Story

1. Scriptural reasons for divorce are:

A. Incompatibility

B. Adultery

C. Cruelty

D. Incurable sickness

E. Malicious desertion

F. A penitentiary life sentence

 G. Habitual drunkenness

2. Respond: A Christian friend tells you that she is not happy in her marriage and is planning on filing for divorce. When you point out that God only allows for divorce in the case of marital unfaithfulness or malicious desertion, she admits that her husband is not guilty of either of these sins. Still she is intent on getting a divorce and excuses herself by saying, “God wants us to be happy doesn’t he? Well I’m not happy in this marriage so I think God will understand if I get a divorce.”

3. Agree or disagree? In this day and age when there are so many divorces, it is not a bad idea for a couple to live together before deciding whether or not to get married.

4. In this lesson from Genesis 3 we learned about the existence of Satan and angels. Read the following passages and answer the corresponding questions to learn more about them.

A. According to Hebrews 1:14, what are angels?

B. According to 2 Peter 2:4, what happened to some angels?

C. According to Matthew 25:41, what is the leader of the evil angels called?

D. According to 1 Peter 5:8, what is the goal of the evil angels’ leader?

E. According to Job 1:6-12, why don’t we have to be afraid of evil angels even though they can cause a lot of harm?

5. Memorize Psalm 51:5. “*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*”

6. Memorize Romans 6:23. “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*.”

**Lesson Four: Hi*S*tory of Salvation**

1. Read Luke 1:26-35 and answer the following questions:

a. Why was Mary surprised to hear she was going to have a baby?

b. What else was special about the child Mary would bear? (cf. Luke 1:32, 33)

2. According to the underlinedportion of the following passages, what *two* things does God demand of us for entrance into heaven?

“*﻿﻿﻿Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect*” (Matthew 5:48).

“*﻿﻿﻿For the wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23a).

3. According to the underlinedportion of the following passage, what is one reason Jesus had to be human so we could enter heaven?

“*﻿﻿﻿4﻿…God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ﻿5﻿ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons*” (Galatians 4:4b, 5).

4. According to the following passage, why else did Jesus have to be human so we could enter heaven?

“*﻿﻿﻿Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death— that is, the devil*” (Hebrews 2:14).

5. According to the underlinedportion of the following passage, why did the Savior have to be God?

“*﻿﻿﻿No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him— ﻿8﻿ the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough*” (Psalm 49:7, 8).

6. Read Luke 23:13-25. How did Jesus’ sentence affect Barabbas, the convicted murderer?

7. According to the following passage, how did Jesus’ death sentence affect *us*?

“*﻿﻿﻿God made [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God*” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

8. According to the following passage, for how many people did Jesus die, and therefore win them forgiveness of sins?

“*﻿﻿﻿He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world*” (1 John 2:2).

9. Read Luke 24:1-12, 36-44. Respond: The disciples could have made up the story regarding Jesus’ resurrection.

10. According to the following passages, why is Jesus’ resurrection so important for us?

A. 1 Corinthians 15:17 –

B. John 14:19 –

Making Hi*S*tory My Story

1. True or False? Jesus paid for the sins of only those people who believe in him.

2. True or False? Jesus came to show us that God is love and has nothing against us.

3. Before Jesus died he said: “It is finished” (John 19:30). How could you use those words to comfort a suffering Christian who said: “God must be punishing me for my sins”?

4. We learned that forty days after his resurrection Jesus ascended to heaven. Read the following passages and answer the corresponding questions to learn more about the Ascension.

A. According to Mark 16:19, Jesus ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of God. How does Ephesians 1:20-23 help you understand what this means?

B. According to Ephesians 4:10, where is Jesus now that he ascended?

5. Memorize John 3:16: “*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*.”

6. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21: “*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*”

7. Memorize the Second Article: “*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead*.”

 **Lesson Five: Hi*S*tory of Conversion**

1. Read Acts 2:1-13. What happened to Jesus’ disciples on the day of Pentecost?

2. According to the following passage, who is the Holy Spirit?

“*﻿﻿[Peter said] ‘Ananias…you have lied to the Holy Spirit …You have not lied to men but to God’*” (Acts 5:3, 4).

3. Read Acts 2:22-24, 36-41. God worked through Peter’s sermon and 3,000 people came to believe in Jesus! They repented and were baptized. How exactly did this change come about?

“…*no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit*” (1 Corinthians 12:3).

4. According to the following passages, why does the Holy Spirit have to bring us to faith in Jesus?

“*The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned*” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

“*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins*” (Ephesians 2:1).

“*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast*” (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

5. According to the underlined portion of the following passages, *how* does the Holy Spirit bring us to faith in Jesus?

“*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ*” (Romans 10:17).

“*﻿38﻿ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:38).

6. According to the following passage, how many people does God want converted to the faith?

“*[God]* *wants all [people] to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth*” (1 Timothy 2:4).

7. According to the following passage, why are all people not saved?

“﻿﻿*You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!*” (Acts 7:51)

8. Read Acts 2:42-47 and answer the following question: What did the Holy Spirit move the early Christians to do?

9. According to the underlined portion of the following passage, why is it important that Christians continue to study God’s Word?

“*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ﻿3﻿ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good*” (1 Peter 2:2, 3).

10. According to the underlined portion of the following passage, what else does the Holy Spirit work in us through the Gospel?

“*It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ﻿4﻿ that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ﻿5﻿ not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; ﻿6﻿ and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him...﻿7﻿ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ﻿8﻿ Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit*” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

11. Read Acts 2:38, 39 again. What does Peter say is the purpose of Baptism?

12. For whose benefit is Baptism?

“…*make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*” (Matthew 28:19).

“*I was…sinful from the time my mother conceived me*” (Ps. 51:5).

“*People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them...anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it*” (Luke 18:15, 17).

13. According to the underlined portion of the following passages, how can Baptism do such powerful things?

“…*just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ﻿26﻿ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word*” (Ephesians 5:25b, 26).

Making Hi*S*tory My Story

1. Agree or disagree? Jesus died on the cross for us. It is up to us now to put our faith in him for salvation.

2. Circle the correct statement.

A. The Holy Spirit alone can convert us.

B. The Holy Spirit converts us with our cooperation.

3. In this lesson we learned that we don’t choose God, he chooses us. Read the following passages and answer the corresponding questions to learn more about the doctrine of “Election.” According to Ephesians 1:4, *when* did God choose us to be his?

4. According to Ephesians 1:5, *why* did God choose us to be his?

5. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14, how do we know whether or not God has chosen *us*?

6. According to Romans 8:28-32 and John 10:27-29, why is it comforting to know that God chooses us?

7. According to 2 Peter 1:10, 11, what false confidence must we not have as God’s chosen people?

8. Circle the correct statement.

A. Baptism is no more than a sign or confession on the part of the baptized person that by faith he has obtained forgiveness of sins.

B. Baptism offers, gives, and seals unto us the forgiveness of all our sins.

C. Baptism only removes original sin and those sins which were committed before Baptism.

9. Explain: Having their children baptized is only one of many spiritual responsibilities God has given to parents.

10. Read Romans 6:4, 6, 11, 12. Baptism killed our debt of sin, but it also killed our sinful nature’s control over us. Wy do we want to remember that fact?

11. Memorize Acts 2:38, 39: “*Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ﻿39﻿ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call*.”

12. Memorize Matthew 28:19, 20: “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ﻿20﻿ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*.”

13. Memorize 1 Corinthians 12:3: “*Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit*.”

14. Memorize Ephesians 2:1, 8-10: “*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins…﻿8﻿ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ﻿9﻿ not by works, so that no one can boast. ﻿10﻿ For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*.”

**Lesson Six: Hi*S*tory of Holy Communion**

1. What is the Lord’s Supper? (cf. Matthew 26:26-28)

2. What are the blessings of Holy Communion?

 Matthew 26:28

Luke 22:20

3. How should we prepare for this special meal?

1 Corinthians 11:28

Psalm 51:17

Hebrews 10:26-29

Romans 16:17

4. How often should one receive Holy Communion?

1 Corinthians 11:25

Romans 7:19

Making Hi*S*tory My Story

1. Which of the following statements regarding Holy Communion accurately reflects biblical teaching? What is wrong with the other three statements?

A. “*Just as the water of baptism is not changed into Christ's blood and does not itself wash away sins but is simply God's sign and assurance, so too the bread of the Lord's Supper is not changed into the actual body of Christ even though it is called the body of Christ in keeping with the nature and language of sacraments.*”

B. “*At the heart of [Holy Communion] are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's Body and Blood…the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and is offered in an unbloody manner.*”

C. “*Each Mass is a sacrifice in which something new is being offered, the constant accumulation of what the members of Christ offer with and in him. In this way, in each sacrifice, the members of the Body add their own merits to the metrics of Christ.*”

D. “*We believe that all who join in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper receive the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine…[believers] also receive the forgiveness of sins…*”

2. Circle the correct statement(s).

A. All communicants receive Christ’s body and blood.

B. Only believing communicants receive Christ’s body and blood.

C. All communicants receive the benefit of forgiveness.

D. Only believing communicants receive the benefit of forgiveness.

3. The Gospel which we hear and read brings us the assurance that all our sins are forgiven. The Lord’s Supper makes that assurance *doubly* sure*.* How does it do this?

4. List at least two things that will move a Christian to receive the Lord’s Supper often.

5. Agree or disagree? We should not go to Communion if we have sinned that day.

6. Many think that the practice of “close(d) communion” is unloving because it prevents some people from taking the Lord’s Supper temporarily. On the basis of what we have learned, explain how practicing close(d) communion actually shows love for God’s Word and for the individual that we ask to wait?

7. Evaluate: Sue has been away from her home church for a number of weeks because of business. It’s Sunday and she would really like to receive Holy Communion. She decides to find the closest church that believes that Jesus’ body and blood is present in, with, and under the bread and wine and receive Communion there.

8. Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:16: “*Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?*”

9. Memorize 1 Corinthians 11:29: “*For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself*.”

**Lesson Seven: Hi*S*tory of Prayer**

1. How would *you* explain prayer to a four-year-old?

2. How does the following passage define prayer?

“﻿*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer*” (Psalm 19:14).

3. According to the following passage, to whom alone should we pray?

﻿“*15﻿ The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. ﻿16﻿ They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; ﻿17﻿ they have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths. ﻿18﻿ Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. ﻿19 O house of Israel, praise the LORD*” (Psalm 135:15-19a).

4. What does the following passage say about prayers to the dead (like “Saint” Mary)?

﻿“*16﻿ But you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name*” (Isaiah 63:16).

5. What does the following passage say about prayers *for* the dead?

﻿“*Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment*” (Hebrews 9:27).

6. According to the following passage, what blocks our prayers?

“*If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable*” (Proverbs 28:9).

7. For what exactly does God want us to pray? Read Matthew 6:9-15 and answer the following questions regarding the Lord’s Prayer.

a. The Lord’s Prayer begins with the address: “Our Father in heaven.” According to the following passage, why is it comforting to know that God wants us to address him as “our Father”?

﻿

“*9﻿Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ﻿10﻿ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ﻿11﻿ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*” (Matthew 7:9-11)

b. According to the following passage, what added comfort do we receive by praying to “our Father in heaven”?

﻿“*20Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine*” (Ephesians 3:20a).

c. The Lord’s Prayer continues with seven petitions (requests). In the 1st Petition we ask that God’s name be hallowed. If “hallowed” means “to keep holy,” and God’s name refers to his reputation, what are we asking when we pray “hallowed be your name”?

d. In the 2nd Petition we pray, “Your kingdom come.” According to the following passage, where primarily are we asking God to establish his kingdom?

“﻿*20﻿ Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, ﻿21﻿ nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you’*” (Luke 17:20, 21).

e. According to the following passage, *how* does God’s kingdom come?

“*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.  16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God*” (Colossians 3:15, 16).

f. According to the following passage, what other kingdom of God do we pray will come quickly?

﻿“*Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world*” (Matthew 25:34).

g. In the 3rd Petition we pray, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” God’s will is that all be saved (1 Timothy 2:3, 4) and that all live godly lives (1 Thessalonians 4:3). If this is God’s will, why do we pray that it be done? Can’t God do whatever he wants?

h. In the 4th Petition Jesus tells us to pray for “daily” bread. Why not pray for a month’s worth of bread and be done with it? What important spiritual truth is Jesus teaching us by directing us to pray for our “daily” bread? Read the following passage to help you answer the question.

﻿“*25﻿Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear… ﻿26﻿ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?… ﻿﻿31﻿ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ﻿32﻿ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ﻿33﻿ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well﻿*” (Matthew 6:25a, 26, 31-33)*.*

i. In light of the following passage, what interpretation below is the best way to understand the 5th Petition: “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”?

﻿“*32﻿ Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ﻿33﻿ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ﻿34﻿ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ﻿35﻿ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart*” (Matthew 18:32-35).

1) God will forgive our sins only after we forgive the sins of others.

2) If we appreciates that God’s forgiveness, we will want to forgive others.

j. According to the following passage, what does God promise about the temptations we face?

“*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it*” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

k. In the 7th Petition we pray, “Deliver us from evil.” Why do we need not fear the devil or his work??

﻿﻿“*14Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil*” (Hebrews 2:14).

﻿ “*19But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ﻿20﻿ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives*” (Genesis 50:19, 20).

1. Look at the seven petitions of the Lord’s Prayer again in your Bible (Matthew 6:9-13). In how many of these petitions do we ask God for spiritual blessings? In how many of these petitions do we ask God for physical blessings? What does this say about how our own prayers should be balanced?

1. Although not an original part of the Lord’s Prayer, why is the doxology (“*For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever*”) a fitting summary of the Lord’s Prayer?

10. If you’re not in the habit already, pray the Lord’s Prayer everyday. But don’t just say the prayer; pray through it by answering the questions below after each petition.

a. What blessings are we seeking?

b. What evils are we seeking to escape?

c. What gifts are we thanking God for?

d. What sins do we need to confess?

11. We don’t always have to use other people’s words when we pray. We can also pray with our own words. Here is a formula that will help you pray in your own words.

**P**

**R**

**A**

**Y**

12. For whom should we intercede? Use the following memory aid to help direct your prayers of intercession.

 **Making Hi*S*tory My Story**

1. Agree or disagree? Although God wants us to bring our concerns to him in prayer, he does not answer every prayer.

2. When we pray “Hallowed be Your name,” we are asking…

a. that we would never mispronounce God’s name.

b. that God’s Word would be taught in its truth and purity among us.

c. that God would keep his promises.

3. When we pray “Your kingdom come,” we are asking…

a. Christ’s kingdom of power to come to this world.

b. Christ’s kingdom of grace to rule in our hearts and increase our faith.

c. Christ’s kingdom of glory to come quickly.

d. All of the above.

e. b & c.

4. When we pray “Your will be done,” we are asking…

a. that God’s name be hallowed among us and that our faith in him be strengthened.

b. that Satan’s plans be foiled.

c. that God keep all of his promises.

d. All of the above.

5. What significance is there that Jesus directed us to pray for our daily “bread” and not our daily “cake”?

6. When we pray “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,” we are…

a. reminding ourselves that a believer will want to forgive others as God has forgiven us.

b. thanking God that we are not like others who refuse to forgive.

c. asking God to forgive us because we have forgiven others.

7. When we pray “Lead us not into temptation,” we are asking…

a. God to help us so we are not overcome by situations that might lead us to sin or believe something false.

b. God to stop tempting us.

c. God to take us to heaven.

8. When we pray “Deliver us from evil,” we trust that God will do this by…

a. making sure nothing unpleasant ever happens to us.

b. keeping the devil away from us.

c. keeping harm away from us and, when he does let it come, making sure it works for our good.

9. When we pray “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,” we are saying:

a. “Heavenly Father, you’ve got it all! I am confident you can and will answer what I have just prayed.”

b. “Heavenly Father, you rule in heaven and I hope one day you will take me there.”

10. Memorize Psalm 50:15: “*and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me*.”

**Lesson Eight: Hi*S*tory of Worship**

1. Read Exodus 19:1-6. Why did God give the Israelites his commandments (cf. v. 6)?

2. Read Exodus 19:16-23. How did God appear to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai?

3. Why did God appear to the Israelites the way he did?

4. Read Exodus 20:1-11. The 1st Commandment states: “You shall have no other gods before me.” This command obviously prohibits praying to idols. According to the following passage what else does God consider to be idolatry?

“*For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God*” (Ephesians 5:5).

5. Why is the following passage a good explanation of the 1st Commandment (“You shall have no other gods before me.”)?

“*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding*” (Proverbs 3:5).

6. How is worrying a sin against the 1st Commandment?

﻿“*So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ﻿32﻿ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ﻿33﻿ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*” (Matthew 6:31-33).

7. In the 2nd Commandment God says: “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.” According to the following passage, how *does* God want his name used?

“…*call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me*” (Psalm 50:15).

8. How does God *not* want his name used?

“*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse*” (Romans 12:14).

“*Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD*” (Leviticus 19:12).

“*And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one*” (Matthew 5:36-37).

“*These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me*” (Matthew 15:8).

9. God’s name is more than the titles he has (Almighty, Jehovah, I Am, etc.); it includes his reputation. In other words, God’s name is everything he has told us about himself in the Bible. What do the following passages say about how God wants us to treat his reputation?

“*Yes,” declares the LORD, “I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, ‘The LORD declares*” (Jeremiah 23:31).

10. Through God’s name (his reputation) we also learn about ourselves and our future. So what else does God forbid with the 2nd Commandment?

“*Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God*” (Leviticus 19:31).

11. In the 3rd Commandment God said: “Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.” Read Exodus 20:8-11 again. What were the Israelites to do on the Sabbath?

12. If the Israelites were to refrain from working on the Sabbath (Saturday), why don’t we continue to do the same?

“*Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ﻿17﻿ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ*” (Colossians 2:16, 17).

13. How does the spirit of the 3rd Commandment still apply to New Testament believers?

“*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching*” (Hebrews 10:25).

**Making Hi*S*tory My Story**

1. Read Genesis 22:1-13. How did Abraham keep the 1st Commandment, “You shall have no other gods”?

2. We have seen that it is clearly God’s will for us to join other Christians in worshipping him. Plus, in worship God does more for us (forgives sins, strengthens faith) than we do for him (sing, pray, bring offerings). Apply these truths to the following situation: You are offered a job promotion, but it means that you will have to work almost every Sunday during church. What are your options?

3. We know it is important to frequently hear God’s Word so that we don’t fall from faith. So what could you say to your friend who has quit coming to church because he doesn’t like the pastor? (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:5, 7)

4. Memorize Hebrews 10:25. “*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching*.”

5. Memorize Proverbs 3:5: “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*”

**Lesson Nine: Hi*S*tory of Godly Living**

1. In the last lesson we focused on the First Table of the Law. Now we will turn our attention to the Second Table of the Law. Below you will find a listing of Commandments 4-10 (cf. Exodus 20:12-17). After reading each commandment, fill in the blanks.

**4th Commandment**: *Honor your father and your mother, so that it may go well with you, and that you may enjoy long life on earth*.

With the 4th Commandment God protects those in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The Fourth Commandment says that we are to honor all in authority. But how can you respect those in authority who are overbearing and rude?

1 Peter 2:18, 21 “*Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh…﻿To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps*.”

Ephesians 6:5, 7 “*Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ...Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men*…”

Romans 13:1, 2 “*Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established...Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted..*.”

1 Timothy 2:1, 2 “*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*”

Acts 5:29 “*We must obey God rather than men!*”

**5th Commandment**: *You shall not murder*.

With the 5th Commandment God protects \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Psalms 51:5 “*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*”

Psalms 31:15 “*My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.*”

**6th Commandment**: *You shall not commit adultery*.

With the 6th Commandment God protects the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**7th Commandment**: *You shall not steal*.

**9th & 10th Commandments**: *You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

With the 7th, 9th & 10th Commandments God protects \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**8th Commandment**: *You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor*.

With the 8th Commandment God protects \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 17:9 “*He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*”

2. Read Luke 10:25-37. Which commandments from the Second Table of the Law (Commandments 4-10) did the thieves in the parable break?

3. While the thieves in the parable were guilty of breaking God’s commands by doing things they should not have done (sins of commission), the priest and the Levite were also guilty of sin by failing to do what they should have done (sins of omission). What command(s) did the priest and Levite break by passing the hurt traveler without offering assistance?

4. What was impressive about the help the Samaritan gave?

5. Read Genesis 39:1-12. How did Potiphar’s wife tempt Joseph (cf. vs. 7, 10, 12)?

6. How did Joseph refrain from breaking the 6th Commandment (cf. vs. 10, 12)?

7. What reasons did Joseph give for warding off the advances of Potiphar’s wife (cf. v. 9)?

 **Making Hi*S*tory My Story**

1. Agree or disagree? Someone who commits suicide will not go to heaven.

2. Explain: Doing half-hearted work at your job is a sin against the 7th Commandment.

3. Evaluate: Gambling is a sin.

4. Memorize Matthew 22:37-40: “*Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments*.”

**Lesson Ten: Hi*S*tory of The End**

1. Read Luke 16:19-31. What happened to Lazarus and the rich man when they died?

2. What determines where we will go after we die?

“*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.  18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son*” (John 3:16-18).

3. The rich man asked Abraham for relief (cf. Luke 16:24). What does Abraham’s response (vs. 25 & 26) say to those who think that God will give a second chance to those who reject him in this life?

4. Although the story about the rich man and poor Lazarus describes the rich man’s tongue and Lazarus’ finger, what does the following passage say will actually happen to our body at death?

“*and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it*” (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

5. Read the Matthew 24:1-14 and fill in the blanks regarding the signs marking the approach of the end of the world.

a. Before the end of the world, many will claim to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5).

b. As the end draws near there will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7), and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7).

c. During the End Times, Christians will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9), and many believers will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10). Others will be deceived by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11). In general life will become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the end draws near (v. 12).

d. In spite of all the difficulties connected with the End Times, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will spread \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(how far?) before the end can come (v. 14).

6. Read Matthew 24:29-31 and answer the following questions regarding what will happen at the end of the world.

a. At the end, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will turn dark, and the stars will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 29).

b. Everyone will see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 30) descending on the clouds with his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 31).

7. What will happen to believers on Judgment Day?

“*Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—  52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed*” (1 Corinthians 15:51, 52).

 “*16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.  17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever*” (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

8. What will happen to unbelievers on Judgment Day?

“*Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ﻿and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned*” (John 5:28, 29).

“*Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels… 46 Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life*” (Matthew 25:41, 46).

9. What will happen to the earth itself on Judgment Day?

“*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare*” (2 Peter 3:10, 11).

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

10. Read Matthew 24:36-51.

a. When exactly will the end of the world come? (cf. Matthew 24:36)

b. What warning does Jesus give regarding the end’s arrival?

11. What will heaven be like? Read the following passages and fill in the blanks. .

1 John 3:2: In heaven we will be like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 13:12: In heaven we will know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Revelation 21:4: In heaven there will be no more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 16:11: They joys of heaven will last \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Making Hi*S*tory My Story**

1. In our lesson we learned that before the end, false prophets will go out and deceive many. The Bible speaks about one false prophet in particular whom the Apostle Paul calls the “man of lawlessness” and the Apostle John calls the “Antichrist.” Read the following passages and fill in the blanks to identify the Antichrist.

# A. 2 Thessalonians 2:3

3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the *rebellion* occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

 The Antichrist leads a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against God.

# B. 2 Thessalonians 2:4a

4 He will oppose and will *exalt himself over everything that is called God…*

The Antichrist elevates himself above \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# C. 2 Thessalonians 2:4b

# 4 *…*he *sets himself up in God's temple…*

 The Antichrist elevates himself in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Therefore the Antichrist is not a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# D. 2 Thessalonians 2:4c

4 *…proclaiming himself to be God*.

The Antichrist even calls himself \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# E. 2 Thessalonians 2:7, 8

7 For the secret power of lawlessness *is already at work*; but the one who now holds it backwill continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed*,* whom *the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth* *and* *destroy by the splendor of his coming*.

The Antichrist was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians. The Antichrist will keep working until \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore the Antichrist cannot be an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# F. 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10a

9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed *in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders*, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

Satan supports the Antichrist with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# G. 2 Thessalonians 2:10b

10…They perish because they *refused* *to love the truth* and so be saved.

 The Antichrist and his followers will be judged and will perish because they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

#  So who or what is the Antichrist? (We’ll actually answer this question in class.)

2. Memorize John 11:25, 26: “*Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”*

**Lesson Eleven: Hi*S*tory of The Church**

1. Draw a picture to explain the word “church.”

2. How does your picture of the “church” compare with the Apostle Paul’s description?

“﻿*19﻿ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, ﻿20﻿ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ﻿21﻿ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ﻿22﻿ And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit*” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

3. What kind of people will we find in the *visible* church (a congregation)?

﻿“*Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ﻿48﻿ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ﻿49﻿ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous*” (Matthew 13:47-49).

4. How does God want visible congregations to act? Read Revelation 2:1-7. What did Jesus say was good about the church in Ephesus?

5. Why does Jesus want us to test for false prophets?

“*But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves*” (2 Peter 2:1).

6. How should a Christian test for false prophets?

“*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.  5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.  6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood*” (1 John 4:1, 5, 6).

“*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ﻿19﻿ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*” (Matthew 28:19, 20).

7. What are we to do when we have identified a false prophet?

“*I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.  18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people*” (Romans 16:17, 18).

“*Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ﻿If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him.﻿ Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work*” (2 John 9-11).

8. What does the following passage say to those who think that practicing the doctrine of church fellowship (worshipping and supporting only those that teach the truth in all its purity) is unloving?

“*As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer  4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God’s work—which is by faith.  5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith*” (1 Timothy 1:3-5).

9. Read Revelation 2:18-29 and answer the following questions about the church in Thyatira.

a. What did Jesus say was bad about the church in Thyatira?

b. What had the failure to carry out church discipline in Thyatira done to the congregation?

c. What is one to do when a fellow Christian sins?

“*If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.  16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’  17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. 18 “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven*” (Matthew 18:15-18).

d. What is a Christian to do when a sinner repents?

“*The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him.  7 Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.  8 I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.  10 If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake*” (2 Corinthians 2:6-8, 10).

e. How will we know when a sinner has repented?

“*Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD*” (Psalm 32:5a).

“*The man who says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him… Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. No one who is born of God will continue to sin*” (1 John 2:3, 4, 6).

“*But when [John the Baptist] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance’*” (Matthew 3:7, 8).

10. Read Revelation 3:7-10. What did Jesus say was good about the church in Philadelphia.

11. What does Jesus want the Church to be doing until he reappears?

“*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ﻿and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*” (Matthew 28:19, 20

*Addendum*

**A Brief History Of The Christian Church**

The Early Christian Church

(30 A.D. to 100 A.D.)

 On **Pentecost**, the birthday of the Christian Church, the Holy Spirit converts three thousand souls through Peter’s sermon at Jerusalem. The infant Church grows rapidly and after the martyrdom of **Stephen,** a persecution scatters Christians throughout Judea and Samaria, extending the kingdom of Christ to these regions.

**Peter** now receives a vision through which God impresses on him that the Gospel is not intended only for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles.

Meanwhile the exalted Christ appears to **Saul** who was a persecutor of Christians and converts him, changing his name to **Paul.** Jesus tells Paul that he is to be His apostle to the Gentiles. Meanwhile another persecution breaks out in Jerusalem and the apostle James is killed. Peter, too, is imprisoned, but is miraculously delivered and with other apostles carries on the work of the Lord among the Jews. Paul with his helpers makes three extensive missionary journeys, preaching the Gospel in a large number of Gentile cities and founding many congregations. Finally Paul is taken to Rome as a prisoner but even there he declares the crucified and risen Christ until he seals his testimony with his blood.

It seems that only one of the apostles died a natural death: **John**, who wrote the last book of the Bible about 95 A.D. (Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.) These faithful witnesses literally consumed themselves in the service of Christ and His Gospel and what was the result? Paul wrote, “*But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: ‘Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world’”* (Romans 10:18).

Persecutions, Internal Conflicts, Rise to Power, and the Reformation of the Church

(100 A.D. to 1517 A.D.)

 BLOOD: The apostles are dead, but the Church of Jesus Christ marches on. Faithful pastors, some of them disciples of the Twelve, continue the work already begun in Palestine, Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, Italy, and Spain. Zealous missionaries carry the banner of the Cross to new places such as Arabia, Egypt, North Africa, southern France, and the region along the Danube. Christians everywhere bear witness to the Savior and many souls are won for Him.

 To stem the marvelous growth of Christianity, the devil sets out to persecute the Church. Beginning with the torture and slaughter of Roman Christians by Emperor **Nero** in 64 A.D., there are ten bloody persecutions in two and a half centuries. Untold numbers of loyal confessors are beheaded, crucified, thrown before wild beasts, or coated with pitch and burned as living torches. But all the cruel power of the devil cannot crush the Church of Christ. The courage, even joy, with which the Christians suffer and die for their Savior makes a deep impression upon others and many more are converted. Thus the blood of martyrs becomes the seed of the Church. Finally, in 313 A.D., Emperor Constantine himself embraces the faith, and not long after Christianity becomes the religion of the state.

 CONFLICT: Having been unsuccessful in destroying Christianity by persecution, the devil now raises false teachers from within the Church. **Arius** denies the deity of Christ by teaching that the Son of God is not eternal and equal with the Father, but that He is God’s first creation. The **Council of Nicaea**, held in 325 A.D., rejects this heresy and adopts the Nicene Creed, which declares that Jesus Christ is “God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father.” The foremost defender of the faith at this time is **Athanasius**, after whom the great Trinitarian confession of the sixth century, the Athanasian Creed, is later named. (The best known of all Christian confessions, the **Apostles’ Creed**, appeared as early as the first or second century.) In the fifth century, **Pelagius** attacks the doctrine of original sin and teaches that man can convert and save himself. Now it is **Augustine** who takes the lead in the battle for the truth and insists that we are by nature altogether incapable of good and owe our salvation solely to the grace of God. About this time the Gospel is brought to Ireland; in succeeding centuries to Scotland, England, Germany, Denmark and France, and still later to Russia and Norway. Thus, in spite of bitter conflicts within, the Church of Christ continues its conquering march through the world.

 POWER: Foiled again, the devil tries still another mode of attack. Already under Constantine, when Christianity became the favored religion, a lust for power became evident among the clergy. Some ministers were raised above others and called “bishops” or overseers. Gradually the bishops in larger cities begin to exercise more influence than other bishops. Then the bishops of Rome and Constantinople become the most powerful bishops. When both desire to be supreme ruler in the church, a split occurs and Christendom is divided into the **Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church.** (1054 A.D.) The bishop of Rome calls himself “pope,” meaning father, and declares himself the successor of Peter (who was neither pope nor bishop), the representative of Christ, and the visible head of the Church. He forbids priests to marry, maintains that he himself is not subject to any ruler, and even claims the authority to appoint and remove emperors. At this time monasteries, which were already in existence since about the third century, increase greatly in number and wealth.

 DARKNESS: With the rise of the papacy, the light of the Gospel is hidden under an ever-growing mass of false doctrines and a deep darkness settles upon the Church. The Bible is upstaged by tradition, the decrees of councils, and especially the pronouncements of the pope. People are directed to rely partly on their own works for salvation, rather than solely on the grace of God in Christ. Jesus is pictured not as a loving Savior, but as a stern judge who must be approached through the Virgin Mary and other saints. Purgatory, communion under one kind, and the sale of indulgences creep into the Church. In short, it seems as if the devil is successful in bringing about the final ruin of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther and the Reformation. The Evangelical Lutheran Church.

(1517 to 1760)

 LIGHT: But the Lord of the Church has said, “The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” God still has charge of His own in the midst of the darkness and their cry for deliverance is heard. While attempts to reform the Church fail when the enemies of the truth silence **Huss** by burning him and **Savanarola** by hanging him, the truth prevails through a monk named Martin Luther. On the 31st day of October in 1517, Luther nails to a church door ninety-five theses condemning the sale of indulgences. This begins the Reformation.

 LUTHER: **Martin Luther** was born at Eisleben, Germany, on November 10, 1483, nine years before the discovery of America by Columbus. For nearly thirty years he seeks peace of heart in the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church, but does not find it. He begins a study of law at a university, but in a further attempt to find peace from his sins he enters a monastery. There he prays, slaves, and fasts until he wastes away to little more than skin and bones, and yet still he moans, “Oh, when will you be pious and do enough that God will be merciful to you?” An old monk advises Luther to trust in Christ for his salvation. This advice shines a small ray of light into Luther’s soul. Thereafter Luther intensely studies the Scriptures, as a priest and later as a doctor of divinity. While delving into the Epistle to the Romans Luther finds the truth that sets him free, and millions through him: “Man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the Law.” Concerning his “discovery” of God’s grace Luther would later write, “Then the whole Scripture was opened to me and also heaven itself. Immediately I felt as if born anew, as if I had found the open gate of paradise.”

 REFORMATION: While teaching and preaching the newly found truth at Wittenberg, Luther becomes greatly disturbed over the way people act after they buy **indulgences**, or letters of pardon, from a traveling monk by the name of **Tetzel**. This man, who has been sent by the pope to raise money for St. Peter’s Church in Rome, leads the people to believe that they can *purchase* the forgiveness of sins and need not repent. Luther is moved to publish ninety-five theses against the sale of indulgences. Despite this action, he has no intention of starting a reformation. He considers himself a faithful son of the Church, and thinks he is doing the pope a favor by standing for the truth of the Bible. But hardly have Luther’s theses been posted when thousands hail them with delight. The pope becomes uneasy and tries to silence the “Monk of Wittenberg” with threats. But Luther sees the light with ever greater clearness, and in 1521 when he is ordered to appear before the **Diet at Worms**, he disregards the advice of his friends, who fear for his life, and says, “God is with me, and I will go even if there are as many devils at Worms as there are shingles on the roofs of the houses.” Standing before the emperor and the leaders of the state and Church, Luther is given no opportunity to show that his teachings are those of the Bible and the early Christian Church, but is simply told to recant, or take back, all he has said and written. His answer is this: “Unless I am convinced by testimonies of the Scriptures, I cannot and will not recant. Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise. God help me! Amen.”

 BOOKS: Luther is now declared an outlaw but powerful friends hide him in a castle called the **Wartburg**. Here he begins his monumental translation of the Bible into the language of his people. Returning to Wittenberg at the risk of his life, he spreads the pure Gospel through many sermons and books. Students flock to hear his fearless preaching and to be prepared by him and his learned co-worker, **Melanchthon**, as faithful ministers of the Word of God. In 1529, Luther publishes his **Small Catechism** for the instruction of children and the common people. He also composes many hymns, among them the great battle hymn of the Reformation, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” Luther then issues a hymnbook, and soon the restored Gospel is everywhere singing itself into the hearts of people. The Lutheran Church becomes known as the “Singing Church,” a reputation that it enjoys to this day.

 CONFESSIONS: Meanwhile the emperor does his utmost to suppress the preaching of the Gospel. At the Diet of Spires in 1529 the “Lutherans,” so nicknamed by their opponents, protest against his acts; hence they also come to be known as “Protestants.” In 1530 at the **Diet of Augsburg**, they present a confession of their “Evangelical” (true to the Gospel) belief, known as the Augsburg Confession. Fifty years later the **Book of Concord**, containing all the confessional writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, is published and signed by 51 princes, 35 cities and 9000 theologians. It includes the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, the two Catechisms, and the formula of Concord. About this time Lutheranism finds a welcome in Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Lapland and the Baltic Provinces, and influences the people of Scotland and England.

 SECTS: Shortly after Luther begins the Reformation, sects such as the **Anabaptists** reject infant Baptism and rebaptize any Christians who join their group. They also maintain that baptism is not valid unless administered by immersion. The Baptists and others have held these doctrines to the present time. Two Swiss reformers, **Zwingli and Calvin**, disturb the Church with false teachings, especially with regard to the Lord’s Supper. At a meeting between Luther and Zwingli, held at **Marburg** in 1529, Zwingli, following the guidance of reason, insists that Christ’s body and blood cannot be truly present in the Sacrament. Zwingli claims that the words of Christ, “This is My body,” must be interpreted to mean, “This *represents* My body.” Over against this, Luther maintains the Scriptural doctrine of the real presence, declaring that when Christ said, “This *is* My body,” He meant what He said, and that no one has the right to twist God’s Word. Zwingli continues in his error and he and Calvin become the fathers of the many and various Reformed churches of our time. **Knox** of Scotland perpetuates the false teachings of Calvin in the Presbyterian Church; **Cranmer** of England brings about the formation of the Church of England, or Episcopal Church, and later **John Wesley**, also of England, organizes the Methodist Church. (The King James Version of the Bible appears in 1611.)

 FAITHFUL: In spite of the departure of these and other false brethren, the Lutheran Church continues to teach God’s Word in all its purity. Luther dies on February 15, 1546, confessing his Savior to the end. The Catholics at the **Council of Trent** (1546-1563)curse the teachings of Luther but God continues to bless the preaching of His truth. **The Thirty Years’ War** (1618-1648) threatens the very existence of Protestantism but the Lord of the Church sends the great Swedish and Lutheran king, **Gustavus Adolphus**, the “Lion of the North,” to the rescue. In the midst of deep sorrow and the wounds of war the Lutheran Church learns to sing some of her greatest hymns, composed by **Paul Gerhardt**. Later, **Johann Sebastian Bach**, the master musician of all times, gives the church many rich choral treasures, while **George Handel**, another Lutheran, inspires her and others with his matchless oratorio the “Messiah.” About this time the Lutheran Church begins to do mission work in India, and Hans Egede, also a Lutheran, becomes the first to carry the Gospel to Greenland.

 GROWTH: Beginning with the early part of the seventeenth century, many and various groups of Lutherans come to America. Danes, Dutch, Swedes, Germans, Norwegians, and others settle here, seeking religious freedom. The Rev. Rasmus Jensen conducts the first Lutheran service on American soil on Hudson Bay in 1619. The first Lutheran church is erected in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1638. The first book to be translated into an American Indian language is Luther’s Small Catechism, by Campanious in 1646. Slow at first, the immigration of Lutherans gradually increases until, after 1800, thousands come each year to make their homes in North America. Self-sacrificing pastors and missionaries gather the scattered Lutherans and others who are brought to faith into congregations; and congregations unite into synods and sometimes into federations of synods.

CONCLUSION

 The Lutheran Church is not a new church; it is the original Christian Church, which came into existence on the day of Pentecost. Luther only restored the purity the Gospel and therefore we can say that *every Bible doctrine is a Lutheran doctrine.*

**Making Hi*S*tory My Story**

1. Agree or disagree? If you live in an area where there is no church that teaches God’s word in its truth and purity, it is better to go to a heterodox church (a church that mixes false teaching with the truth) than no church at all.

2. Agree or disagree? Praying with someone who belongs to a church that does not teach the truth is fine as long as that person believes in Jesus as his/her Savior. (Hint: Read Romans 16:17, 18.)

3. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, etc. ask their members to promise to “be true to myself, my God/faith, and country” while promoting religious pluralism (acceptance of all religions). Based on what you learned in this lesson, would it be OK to enroll your child in the Scouts? Explain your answer.

Read the following passages and answer the questions regarding those whom God has called to lead Christian churches.

4. What kind of person may become a pastor?

“*Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,  3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.  4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.  5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)  6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.  7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap*”(1 Timothy 3:2-7).

“*A woman should learn in quietness and full submission.  12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.  13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve*” (1 Timothy 2:11-13).

5. How does a pastor learn where he is to serve God?

“*Paul and Barnabas had leaders elected in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust*” (Acts 14:23).

6. What is the congregation’s obligation to their pastor?

“*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you*” (Hebrews 13:17).

“*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. ﻿18﻿ For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages*” (1 Timothy 5:17, 18).

7. In the last lesson we learned about church discipline and excommunication. For what sins can one be excommunicated?

8. Memorize Matthew 28:19, 20: “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*.”

9. Memorize Romans 16:17: “*I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them*.”

**Lesson Twelve: Hi*S*tory of Our Talents, Treasures, Time**

1. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What does this parable teach us about the source and number of our talents, as well as their purpose?

2. How exactly does God want us to use our talents?

“*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ﻿7﻿ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ﻿8﻿ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully*” (Romans 12:6-8).

3. Just as our talents come from God, so does our money. How does God want us to use the money (Psalm 50:9-12). So why does God want us to honor him with our offerings if he already owns everything?

“*As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ﻿2*

*He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins.  3 “I tell you the truth,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others.  4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on*” (Luke 21:2-4).

4. Christians sometimes throw into the offering plate whatever amount they happen to find in their wallet. This isn’t exactly the kind of giving God wants. Read the following passage and answer the questions concerning *planned* Christian giving.

“*Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ﻿2﻿ On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made*” (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2).

a. Christian giving is to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (how often?).

b. Christian giving is to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (by whom?).

c. Christian giving is to be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (how much?).

5. Old Testament believers were to give back 10% of their income to the Lord in an offering known as a *tithe*. How much are New Testament Christians to give back to the Lord?

“*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously*” (2 Corinthians 9:6).

“*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it*” (Malachi 3:10).

“*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ﻿10﻿ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine*” (Proverbs 3:9, 10).

6. The attitude of Christian giving is as important, if not more important, than the amount one gives. What attitude should we have when giving our offerings?

“*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

7. Our time is also a gift from God. How does 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 urge us to “reflect the flight of time” in regard to our relationships, attitudes, and possessions?

 **Making Hi*S*tory My Story**

1. Read Haggai 1:1-11. What warning does the Lord give to those who say, “I’d like to give more to the Lord, but we are already always short of money.”

2. Evaluate: Ken gives $100 a week for his offering while Betsy gives $50 dollars a week. Ken is a better giver than Betsy.

3. Agree or disagree? Fundraisers like bake-sales, car washes, turkey dinners, etc. are great ways to raise money for the church.

4. Read the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23) and answer the following questions.

1. What does the seed represent? (cf. vs. 18, 19)

1. What do the various types of soil represent? (cf. vs. 19-23)

1. What warning and encouragement does this parable provide?

5. Review all the Lesson Summaries from the *HiStory Matters* course and write down any questions you may have regarding the things you have learned.

6. Read through the membership application form and membership rite (see the addendum). Ask your leader any questions you may have regarding joining our congregation as a communicant member. Upon completion of the next lesson, you will be eligible for communicant membership in the congregation.

7. Memorize Hebrews 12:1, 2: “*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*.”

8. Memorize Proverbs 3:9, 10: “*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine*.”

9. Memorize 2 Corinthians 9:7: “*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*.”