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GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

**A STUDY
THROUGH THE
GOSPELS**

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Introduction

How much do you know about Jesus the Christ, the Son of God? Do you believe that He is the Christ, the Son of God? When it comes to Jesus, there are many different views that people have. When Jesus asked His disciples in Matthew 16:13-14 what people said about Him, they gave Him various answers.

During His ministry Jesus was accused by some to have a demon, John 10:20. There were others who couldn't see who He really was, because they simply saw the boy of Joseph and Mary.

What about you? If someone were to ask you who is Jesus, what would you say?

How can one really learn about Jesus? Where can we go to learn about His life, His teaching, His miracles, His death, and His resurrection? The answer is the Bible.

This workbook will assist you in learning facts about Jesus. More importantly, it will help you to know what Jesus desires from us in our lives. The information in this booklet will come from the gospels. The word *Gospel* means good news. There are four books in the New Testament that are referred to as the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). These four books provide us with the most information about Jesus than any other book/s in the world!

If you want to get to know Jesus, then you must open up your Bible. As we dive into our study you will learn a lot about Jesus and the Bible. As you study, I want you to be thinking about one question that you will need to answer.

“If Jesus is the Son of God, will you submit to Him no matter what the cost may be?”

Be thinking about this as we study. Jesus wants you to submit to Him. Salvation is free, but there is a cost if you decide to follow Him. Read Luke 14:25-27.

Before we begin please answer this question: “Are you saved?” YES/NO. If YES, please write in the space what you did and believed to be saved.

The Certainty of These Things

As we begin our study concerning the life of Jesus, it's important to know that we can trust what we read in the Bible. The Bible claims to be "inspired by God," 2 Timothy 3:16-17. That means that the Scriptures are "God-breathed." God is the author of Scripture. It was God who gave direction in giving the Scripture. What's written in the scriptures are from God Himself. These are the very words of God!

In fact, as we begin our study, you will see the great confidence Luke wanted his readers to have the details concerning the life of Jesus. Listen to what he wrote in Luke 1:1-4:

"Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who **from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word**, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so **that you may know the exact truth** about the things you have been taught." What can we learn about the certainty of the things recorded for us in the book of Luke concerning Jesus?

I. What Is Recorded about Jesus Is True

A. Luke carefully recorded the events detailing the life of Jesus for a man named Theophilus.

1. Luke received information from those who were eyewitnesses of Jesus, Luke 1:2. Those eyewitnesses were the apostles who were with Jesus in the first century, Luke 24:33-48. Luke's account of the life of Jesus was written around 60–62 A.D.
2. Eyewitness testimony is the most powerful kind of testimony. While Luke was not one of the apostles, he was able to learn about Jesus from them. As a result, he could with great confidence write out in consecutive order the details concerning the life of Jesus. He was also guided by the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 3:3-5. Therefore, we can trust his words. This is the exact truth concerning Jesus.
3. What should we conclude from this point? **That we can trust what is written for us in scripture.**

B. The gospel of Luke shows the life of Jesus intertwined in history.

1. Jesus really did live. There are some who may deny this, but to do so goes against history. Virtually all scholars agree that Jesus lived. What's written about Him is not fiction. A careful reading of Luke will help you to see that Luke recorded numerous leaders and politicians that lived in the days of Jesus. For example:
 - a. Read Luke 2:1-2. Who is mentioned here? _____
 - b. Read Luke 3:1-2. Who is mentioned here? _____
 - c. Read Luke 23:1-13,21,24. Who is mentioned here? _____
2. It could be easy for us to see if Luke was making these names up. We can fact check these places and these people to see if they really did live. What's the point? The point is that the life of Jesus is a part of history. He walked and lived on earth.

C. A Jewish historian named Flavius Josephus wrote about Jesus in the first century.

1. Josephus lived from 37–100; he became the greatest Jewish historian of his time and wrote about Jesus. In one of his works called *Antiquities of the Jews*, which he finished around 93 A.D., book 18, chapter 3, and section 3 said this about Jesus: *At this time (the time of Pilate) there was a wise man who was called Jesus. His conduct was good and (he) was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive; accordingly he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.* **Why do we need to know this information?**

- a. Others spoke of Jesus outside of the Bible.
 - b. Josephus was not a Christian, yet he wouldn't deny that Jesus really did live.
 - c. Just as Josephus spoke of Pilate so did Luke, Luke 23:1-13, 20, 24.
2. What Luke recorded about Jesus was written in the first century. What Josephus wrote about Jesus was in the first century. Including Josephus and his writings according to Frank Turek in his book, *"I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist."*, there are 10 known non-Christian writers who mention Jesus within 150 years of His life. By contrast, over the same 150 years, there are 9 non-Christian sources who mention Tiberius Caesar, the Roman emperor at the time of Jesus. So, discounting all the Christian sources, Jesus is actually mentioned by one more source than the Roman emperor. We can learn from these sources that:
- a. Jesus lived during time of Tiberius Caesar.
 - b. He lived a virtuous life.
 - c. He was a wonder-worker.
 - d. He had a brother named James.
 - e. He was acclaimed to be the Messiah.
 - f. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
 - g. He was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover.
 - h. Darkness and an earthquake occurred when he died.
 - i. His disciples believed He rose from the dead.
 - j. His disciples were willing to die for their belief.
 - k. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome.
 - l. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshiped Jesus as God.

D. We have accurate copies of what men like Luke and the apostles wrote concerning Jesus.

- 1. When we speak of the New Testament documents, we are referring to 27 books. These were written by the end of the first century.
 - a. In 2 Peter 3:14-16, the apostle Peter referenced Paul's writing as scripture (divine writings).
 - b. In 1 Timothy 5:18, the apostle Paul referred to Luke's writing as scripture (divine writings).
- 2. It is true that none of the original documents remain. We have only copies of the original writings called manuscripts. Yet there are thousands of copies written in Greek (5,800 complete or fragmented), (10,000 in Latin), and (9,000 in various languages like Syriac, Coptic, Latin, Arabic).
 - a. The earliest manuscript is the John Ryland's fragment (called this because it is housed in the John Ryland's Library in Manchester, England). It's dated between 117–138 A.D.
 - b. It was found in Egypt—across the Mediterranean from its probable place of composition in Asia Minor—demonstrating that John's gospel was copied and had spread quite some distance by the early second century.

E. Four reasons we know the New Testament writers told the truth.

- 1. The New Testament writers included embarrassing details about themselves.
 - a. The tendency of most authors is to leave out embarrassing details. The apostles didn't.
 - b. Read John 12:16, Mark 14:32-41, and Matthew 16:23. What embarrassing details do you see?

- 2. The New Testament writers included embarrassing details and difficult sayings of Jesus.
 - a. They wrote things about Jesus that seem to place him in a bad light.
 - b. Read Mark 3:21; John 7:5, 12, and 6:66. What details are included in these verses?

3. The New Testament writers left in demanding sayings of Jesus.
 - a. If these stories were all made up, the writers didn't make life easier for themselves.
 - b. Read Matthew 5:28, 32, 44-45. What did Jesus teach in these verses?

4. The New Testament writers include events related to the resurrection that they would not have invented. Write out your thoughts after point c.
 - a. Read Luke 23:50; Matthew 27:57-61. Who did the writers include in the burial of Jesus?
 - b. Read John 20:1. Who was first to the tomb of Jesus? What's the significance of this?
 - c. Read Acts 6:7. Who do we find converted in this verse? What's the significance of this?
5. There is much more that we could discuss with respect to the certainty of the things that we have recorded for us in the New Testament regarding Jesus. The evidence is clear. We can trust what we have, Luke 1:1-4.

Getting to Know Jesus

Basic Facts about the Gospels

We can trust the information that we have in the New Testament about the life of Jesus. For one to know who Jesus is, they must turn to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, commonly referred to as the four gospels. Sometimes people want to know the answer to the following question: "Why are there four books that speak of the life of Jesus?" Have you ever heard that question before? If so, how would you answer it? Write out your answer in the space below.

This may be one of many questions people have about the gospels. In this lesson, we will consider this question along with discussing other details about the four gospels.

I. Some Basic Facts about the Gospels**A. Let's first begin with some basic facts about Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.**

1. These four books provide us with details of the life of Jesus. For example, read Matthew 1:1. Who does Matthew say this book is about?
2. Four different men wrote these four books. Two of them, Matthew and John, were apostles, Matthew 10:1-2. Luke and Mark could be described as prophets. Like the apostles, they were guided by the Holy Spirit with what they would write, Ephesians 3:3-5.
 - a. Luke was a close companion of the apostle Paul. It was Luke who penned the book of Acts. Read Acts 21. Circle the word "we" whenever you see it. How many times do you see it? This helps us to see that Luke was with Paul throughout his ministry.
 - b. Mark was also a close companion of the apostles, Acts 12:12, 15:36-41; 1 Peter 5:13.
3. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are often referred to as the **Synoptic Gospels**. Their accounts of Jesus are similar or parallel with one another. The book of John does not contradict the other three, but it does present the life of Jesus from a different perspective. All four books were written before the end of the first century. Paul in the first century referenced the writings of Luke, 1 Timothy 5:18.

B. The ultimate purpose of the gospels is to help people to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

1. Read John 20:30-31. Why did John write these things about Jesus? _____
2. They provide us with some of the details of His life and ministry. Not every single fact about His life is given. For example, read the account from Luke regarding the birth of Jesus and His early years.
 - a. Read Luke 2:1-7. How old is Jesus according to these verses?
 - b. Read Luke 2:21. How old is Jesus according to these verses?
 - c. Read Luke 2:41-42. How old is Jesus according to these verses?
 - d. Read Luke 3:23. How old is Jesus according to these verses?

C. Read the first chapter of each of the gospels. Where does each book begin?

- a. Matthew:
- b. Mark:
- c. Luke:
- d. John:

- e. What is the benefit of having these four unique accounts of the life of Jesus?

- D. While there are differences in the gospels, there are no contradictions. The scriptures are inspired by God, 2 Timothy 3:16-17. A good rule to remember is when reading an event in one gospel, check the other gospels for more information. For example, read Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46; and Luke 18:35-43. Some may argue that there is a contradiction between these passages. That's not true. Additional information is found in some of the passages that is not in the other. Mark and Luke's account said that there were two blind men. Matthew said that there was one. This is not a contradiction. The scriptures are inspired by God. Therefore, there are no contradictions.

II. The Contents and Purposes of the Four Gospels

A. As we consider these biographies, we can begin to see why they were written.

1. **The gospel of Matthew** begins with the genealogy of Jesus, Matthew 1:1. What kind of audience would this be essential to? Explain below.

2. Do a quick read of the first four chapters in Matthew. How many Old Testament prophecies do you find mentioned in these chapters?
3. **The gospel of Mark** is faster paced than the other gospels. Read Mark 1 and note how many times you see the word *immediately* used.
4. The audience of this book seemed to be geared toward Gentile readers.
- Mark had to explain Jewish customs, unfamiliar to Gentiles, Mark 7:13-14.
 - He emphasized Jesus as a powerful miracle worker, Mark 1:31, 42.
 - He concluded with the gospel message being confirmed by miracles as it went beyond the Jews, Mark 16:20. Gentiles who witnessed these miracles could testify to the truth of this statement. The gospel would be for all men. It would make sense that a gospel would be directed more toward the Gentiles.
5. **The gospel of Luke** as we discussed in our last lesson tells us the purpose of why it was written, Luke 1:1-4. It's been said that this gospel focuses on the humanity of Jesus. Luke's genealogy of Jesus goes all the way back to Adam, Luke 3:32-38. Luke was a Gentile, and this book would also benefit Gentile readers to learn about the Christ.
6. **The gospel of John** also provides us with the purpose of the book, John 20:30-31.
- Jesus is described as being eternal and the Creator of all things, John 1:1-4, 14, 29.
 - John makes an appeal to the miracles of Jesus to demonstrate that Jesus is the Son of God.

III. Why Are the Gospels in Story Form?

- A. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostles and prophets as they wrote about the life of Jesus, John 16:12-13.
- Story form is a great way for people to remember things. This is how Jesus often taught. Having merely some facts about Jesus would seem to be not enough. In fact, the entire Bible is written in story form to help us to see God's plan for saving man.
 - What benefits do we receive from the fact that the gospels were written in story form?

The Names/Titles of Jesus

In Acts 3, we find the apostles Peter and John. They healed a man at the temple, Acts 3:1-11. The people were amazed after witnessing the miracle. It was then that the apostle Peter began to teach them about Jesus. What is interesting are the titles that he used as he spoke about Jesus. Read Acts 3:12-18. What titles or names did Peter use to refer to Jesus? Write them out below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Names are important. Understanding the different names or titles that the Holy Spirit used as He spoke of Jesus will help us as we learn more about our great Savior. In this lesson, we will look into the different names of Jesus that are found in the four gospels.

I. In the Book of Matthew

A. The apostle Matthew began his letter by speaking of Jesus as the Christ, Matthew 1:1.

1. As we just saw earlier, the Son of God is referred to as Jesus and Christ.
 - a. Read Matthew 1:21. What does the name *Jesus* mean? _____
 - b. The fact that the name *Jesus* was not a name given to Him by His fleshly parents demonstrates the importance of this name. This name is found 970 times in the New Testament.
2. The name or title of Christ is the same as Messiah. The term means "Anointed One." In the Old Testament, God anointed kings and priests for special roles. God chose them, 1 Samuel 24:6.

B. Also in Matthew 1, the apostle referred to Jesus as Emmanuel, Matthew 1:23.

1. Emmanuel means "God with us." Matthew referenced what the prophet Isaiah stated in Isaiah 7:14.
2. We shouldn't take the names used to refer to Jesus lightly. What can we conclude so far about Jesus? Write out your thoughts below.

II. In the Book of Mark

A. The prophet Mark began his letter by referring to Jesus as the Son of God, Mark 1:1.

1. We see this name or title used often, but what does it exactly mean?
2. The phrase "Son of..." is used throughout the scriptures. It refers to the nature of someone, or to their offspring. Below are a couple of examples to demonstrate this point.
 - a. This phrase was used to express the nature of someone. For example, in Psalms 89:22, we see the name *son of wickedness*. The psalmist used this phrase to describe a wicked man.

- b. In Luke 20:34, Jesus used the phrase “The sons of this age.” He was referring to people who were devoted to this world.
 - c. The genealogies of Jesus use the phrase “son of...” to refer to one’s offspring, Matthew 1:1-14.
 - d. What then can we learn about Jesus with the name *Son of God*? Write your answer below.
3. Do a quick read of Mark 1:21-23, 5:1-7. How did the demons refer to Jesus? What did they recognize about who He was? Write out your thoughts below.

B. What do these passages concerning Jesus as the Son of God help us to understand about Him?

III. In the Book of Luke

A. In Luke 1:32, Jesus is referred by the angel Gabriel as the Son of the Most-High.

- 1. Son of the Most-High is the same as referring to Jesus as the Son of God.
- 2. The phrase Son of God is used numerous times throughout the gospels.

B. The main title Jesus used to refer to Himself was *Son of Man*.

- 1. The phrase *Son of Man* is found throughout all four gospels.
- 2. What do you think the name Son of Man demonstrated about Jesus? Read the verses below and see what you can learn from them.
 - a. Luke 5:17-26:
 - b. Luke 6:1-5:

IV. In the Book of John

A. The beginning of John’s gospel uses a name referring to Jesus that the other gospels didn’t use.

- 1. What is that name according to John 1:1,14? _____
- 2. Later in John 1:29, we hear from John the Baptist. What did he call Jesus? _____

B. Take a few moments to consider some other names that we find in the scriptures that refer to Jesus.

- 1. What other names/titles come to mind? _____
- 2. How will having a better understanding of these names help us as we consider Jesus?

Getting to Know Jesus

His Teaching

As we continue to investigate and learn about Jesus, we have to spend some time on His teaching. Indeed, Jesus was a teacher. He was a good teacher. In fact, we could describe Him as the Master Teacher. Throughout the gospels, Jesus was referred to as a teacher.

- John 3:2: "...Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher..."
- Matthew 19:16: And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?"
- Matthew 22:16: And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any."
- Matthew 22:23-24: On that day some Sadducees...came to Jesus and questioned Him, asking, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife, and raise up children for his brother...'"

The way that Jesus taught always had an impact on His listeners. He taught with reason, authority, and divine power to confirm His words. How much do you know about the teaching of Jesus? Many are surprised when they see what Jesus taught. Many are also surprised when they really get to know the teaching of Jesus on controversial topics like heaven and hell, salvation, worship, homosexuality, etc. When Jesus taught He often drove away many of His listeners. He wouldn't be popular in our society today. What about us? How will we respond as we consider the teaching of Jesus?

I. Jesus Taught with Authority from God

A. Throughout His ministry, Jesus spoke of the authority behind His teaching.

1. Read Matthew 7:28-29. After the crowd heard Jesus speak, they recognized He taught as one having authority. What do you think means?
2. Where did Jesus say that His teaching came from, John 12:48-49, 8:26? Why would this be significant?

B. The fact that the teaching of Jesus was authoritative has consequences for us today.

1. Read John 12:48-49. What is the standard by which all men will be judged?
2. How authoritative then should the teaching of Jesus be in our lives, homes, and church?

II. Jesus Taught in Ways People Would Remember

A. Throughout the gospels, we see various ways in which Jesus taught.

1. Jesus often taught through regular conversations. Read John 4:1-29.
 - a. Where was Jesus?
 - b. Who did He meet?
 - c. What did He begin to discuss with that person?

2. Jesus often used parables to teach. Read Matthew 13:1-23. What is a parable?

Note: Parables served a couple of functions.

- These stories revealed important truths to the listeners.
- They were also used to hide truth from those who had rejected the truth.

B. When Jesus had an opportunity to teach, He took advantage of it.

1. Jesus did most of His teaching through every day conversations.
2. What is it that we can learn from our Savior when it comes to talking to people about Him?

III. The Teaching of Jesus Always Produced a Response from His Audience

A. Christ's teaching often brought about either amazement or anger from His listeners.

1. Read Mark 1:23-28. How did the people respond after hearing Jesus?
2. Read Luke 4:16-22. How did the people respond after Jesus spoke?
3. Read John 7:37-47. How did the people respond to the teaching of Jesus?

B. The teaching of Jesus often brought about conflict.

1. This is not to say that Jesus was looking for fights as He taught. He taught with conviction, with power, and with compassion. Yet His words pricked the hearts of His listeners.
2. A good example of this is found in John 8:12-59.
 - a. Who was Jesus talking to?
 - b. What did He say about Himself?
 - c. How did His audience respond after hearing what Jesus said?
 - d. How did Jesus respond to those He was speaking to?
3. It was often the case that the teaching of Jesus often drove away the crowds, John 6:60-69.
4. Are you surprised at how many responded to the teaching of Jesus? Explain.

5. Many religious people are concerned about not offending their audience. How does this differ with the way that Jesus taught? Read John 4 again as Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman. What three controversial topics did He speak to her about at the well?

IV. The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached

A. We can't conclude our lesson without talking about the Sermon on the Mount.

1. We find the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Read it through and identify the topics that Jesus discussed in this sermon.

2. What controversial topics do we find in this sermon from Jesus? How do you think many might respond to them upon hearing them? Explain.

3. What do you find challenging to your faith as you consider the Sermon on the Mount?

Getting to Know Jesus

The Miracles of Jesus

“When was the last time you were truly amazed by something?” By amazed, I mean something that maybe made you say, “Wow!” Some may say...

- a. “I was amazed to see the Cowboys actually win a playoff game.”
- b. “I was amazed to hear that a celebrity had died.”
- c. “I was amazed that I did so well on my exam.”

When was the last time you were amazed at the miracles of Jesus? I ask this question because amazement was the common response from people when they witnessed the miracles of Jesus, [Mark 1:21-27, 2:8-12, 5:41-42](#). What about us? Are we still amazed when we read the miracles of Jesus? I will confess that there have been times where I have read the text, closed my Bible, and moved on. But may I suggest that as we read about Jesus and His miracles that we take the time to seriously consider them? After all, they were written for a reason. They should bring amazement and so much more. They should cause us to believe Jesus is the Son of God. This is why the miracles have been recorded for us, [John 20:30-31](#). When you read the book of Acts, you will see how the disciples when they preached Jesus spoke about the miracle of the resurrection.

Before we go any further, how many of the miracles of Jesus can you list? Write them in the space below.

I. Some Facts about Miracles

A. People are often confused when it comes to miracles. Here are some basic things to know.

1. A *miracle* was a supernatural act from God. Miracles are unusual and unique, easily recognizable, events that came from the Lord. A miracle is “a special act of God that interrupts the normal course of events. Natural laws describe what happens regularly, by natural causes; miracles, describe what happens rarely, by supernatural causes.” (Quote From Frank Turek).
2. The miracles Jesus performed were not a magic trick (pulling a rabbit from a hat). Magic deals with a sleight of hand or misleading the mind. The miracles Jesus performed were real. Some other thoughts to consider when thinking about the miracles of Jesus.
 - a. They are not to be confused to something that is psychosomatic. There are studies of people who take a placebo drug in a clinical trial and they get better. How does that work? I read in a book of a preacher who went to preach at another congregation. The man thought he was allergic to blooming flowers. So, he began to take drugs to alleviate the symptoms. When he got to the church building he saw flowers near the pulpit. He began to sneeze and his eyes watered. He told one of the guys, “I won’t be able to preach with these flowers here because my allergy is acting up. So, would you please move them?” The man then responded, “They’re fake!” The allergies went away. This is not to be confused with the miracles of Jesus. While the mind is powerful, our minds can’t cure a severed spinal cord or amputated limb. A true miracle would have to occur for those conditions to be cured.
 - b. Not to be confused with something that is an anomaly. An anomaly is unexplained freak of nature. The miracles of Jesus are totally different. People saw them, tasted them, and heard the miracles of Jesus.
 1. When Jesus turned water into wine in [John 2:1-11](#). That wasn’t a magic trick.
 2. The apostles saw Jesus walk on water, [Mark 6:45-51](#). That was not in their minds.
 3. Jesus fed thousands with only a little bit of fish, [John 6:9-14](#). This wasn’t magic.
 4. Jesus healed a man who had been ill for 38 years, [John 5:1-11](#). This was not magic.

5. Jesus brought the dead back to life multiple times, Luke 7:11-17.
6. Jesus rose from the dead, John 20:1-6. That was not an anomaly. This was something that Jesus had predicted He would do.
7. **The miracles of Jesus proved He is the Son of God.** The miracles of Jesus point us to His identity, Acts 2:22. They demonstrate that Jesus was more than a carpenter. They prove that He had power on earth to forgive sins. The only one who has that power is God. They point to His identity as God in the flesh, Mark 2:7-12. The miracles testified that Jesus is the Son of God, John 5:30-39. John the Baptist spoke the truth and testified who Jesus was. The Father did the same. The Old Testament scriptures pointed to His identity and so did the miracles that He performed.
8. **The miracles of Jesus demonstrated His power over all things.** Jesus never struggled when it came to performing a miracle. He didn't need any do overs. He never doubted whether He would be able to get the job done. Jesus had power over all things!
9. He had power over the spiritual realm, Mark 1:23-25.
10. He had power over the elements, John 2:1-11.
11. He had power over sickness, Mark 1:29-31.
12. He had power over death, Luke 7:11-17.

B. The miracles of Jesus are to read and consider very carefully.

II. What Will We Do with the Miracles of Jesus?

A. It's odd to consider that many quickly dismiss the miracles of Jesus.

1. But that's exactly what happened in the days of Jesus. Many rejected His power. Many refused to truly believe in Him. After healing a man who had been ill for 38 years, some of the Jews were more interested in catching Jesus, instead of really taking into consideration what they saw. They saw a man walking who could not walk for 38 years, John 5:16.
2. Then there were others who instead of being filled with awe were filled with anger toward Jesus after a miracle and wanted to kill Him, John 11:45-46, 53.
3. They didn't appreciate the miracles this man performed. They didn't carefully consider what those miracles meant. What about us?

B. What will we do with His miracles?

1. Jesus tells us what we should do with His miracles. How about we listen to Him?
 - a. **We should believe them**, John 20:28-31. We have them recorded for us for that reason. We should believe in Him so that we will be blessed and have eternal life! While some might think it naïve to believe in the miracles of Jesus, my question would be why? They were seen by hundreds of people. They were recorded by eyewitnesses, Luke 1:1-4. Even the enemies of Jesus knew He performed these signs, John 12:42. What should you do with the miracles of Jesus? Read them. Believe in them and in the one who performed them.
 - b. **They should change us.** When Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda, He told the man to "sin no more..." John 5:14. His life was supposed to change because of what Jesus had done. When the apostles knew Jesus had been raised from the dead, their lives changed, Acts 2:11. After Paul spoke to Jesus on the road to Damascus, his life was changed forever, Acts 9:1-9.
2. The miracles of Jesus certainly changed the lives upon whom they were directed toward. And they should change ours. But have they? Our lives should be changed forever! Is that where you are? If not, maybe you should go back and do some more reading on the miracles of Jesus. Maybe you should consider them more carefully, as you consider this man named Jesus.
3. After what you have learned so far, do you believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?

The Death, Burial, and Resurrection

Hopefully so far you have learned a great deal about Jesus. This is the aim of this study. In this lesson, we will look at the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus spoke a lot about His death, burial, and resurrection. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is what the apostles preached. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-5, Paul said, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve."

I. The Death of Jesus

A. Jesus spoke about the fact that He would one day die.

1. The Bible says in Matthew 16:21, "From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."
2. In John 3:16-17, Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." We can see why Jesus would have to die. So that he could save the world from sin.
3. In John 1:29, when a prophet named John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Jesus came to take away the sin of the world.
4. In Matthew 1:21, it says, "She will bear a Son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

B. Jesus would die a horrific death.

1. All four of the gospels speak about his death. Read Matthew chapter 27. Write below what Jesus experienced as he died on the cross.

2. Jesus died on the cross. Some allege that He didn't die but was merely unconscious. But all four gospels make it clear that He died.
 - a. Matthew 27:50: "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit."
 - b. Mark 15:37: "And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last."
 - c. Luke 23:46: "And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last."
 - d. John 19:30: "Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."
3. Jesus died. He died for me. He died for you.
4. The death of Jesus demonstrates how much God truly loves us. We should have been the ones who were on the cross. Jesus lived a sinless life according to 1 Peter 2:22. A man who is described as a centurion who saw Jesus die described Jesus as being an innocent man, Luke 23:47. Indeed he was. We have sinned, Romans 3:23. But Jesus would pay the price for our sins. God is love, 1 John 4:8. He was the only one who could truly pay the price.

5. Is this your first time actually reading about the death of Jesus? If so, has it caused you to think any differently about Jesus? _____
6. Even if this isn't your first-time learning about the death of Jesus, it should still have an impact on you. What kind of impact has it had on you? _____

II. The Burial of Jesus

A. After the death of Jesus, we see that He was buried. He died on a Friday the day before the Sabbath.

1. Matthew 27:57-62: "When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave. Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate."
2. Mark 15:40-47: Write out any additional details you see from this account.
3. Luke 23:50-56: Write out any additional details you see from this account.
4. John 19:38-42: Write out any additional details you see from this account.

B. Jesus was not in the grave for a literal 72 hours. He was in the grave for 3 days, however.

1. There's no contradiction here. The Jews counted a part of a day as a day. So if Jesus died on a Friday, was laid in the tomb, was in the tomb all day Saturday, and then rose from the grave early on the first day of the week, that is three days.
2. This is what we see concerning His burial.
 - a. John 2:19, 21 "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." But he was speaking of the temple of his body.
 - b. Mark 8:31: "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."
 - c. Matthew 27:62-63: "Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day..."

III. The Resurrection of Jesus

A. Jesus rose from the grave on the first day of the week.

1. All four gospels give us the resurrection story. Take a few minutes and read each of them. Then write out what you learn concerning the resurrection, Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-10; John 20:1-8.
2. The resurrection of Jesus was a miracle. The tomb where He laid is now empty. The enemies of Jesus could not refute that the tomb was empty, Matthew 28:11-15. The enemies of Jesus made up a lie about what happened. Why do you think the apostle Matthew would include this in his gospel?

3. People saw Jesus alive after His death and burial. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.
 - a. Who did Paul say Jesus appeared to?
 - b. Why is it significant that Paul said some of those who Jesus appeared to were still alive?
4. Jesus spent a significant amount of time with His apostles, Acts 1:1-3. The gospels give some of these interactions. Read John 20:28-31. What can we learn from this passage about Jesus and His resurrection?
5. Jesus spoke and ate with His apostles, John 21:1-14. What can we learn from these verses about the resurrection of Jesus?

B. The resurrection of Jesus really happened.

1. The resurrection was the foundation of the teaching of the apostles in the first century. When the church that Jesus promised to build began, the apostle Peter spoke about the life of Jesus. He spoke about His miracles, death, burial, and resurrection, Acts 2:21-37. You find this theme throughout the book of Acts.
2. Read Romans 1:4. What can we learn about the significance of the resurrection?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:12-13. What can we learn about the significance of the resurrection?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. What can we learn about the significance of the resurrection?
5. Read Romans 6:1-7. Jesus died, was buried, and was resurrected from the grave. What is it that the Christians in the first century had also done?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Thankfully, Jesus rose from the grave on the first day of the week. But if Jesus had not been raised what would be the ramifications?
7. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? YES/NO
8. Do you believe that Jesus rose from the grave on the first day of the week? YES/NO

Getting to Know Jesus

Salvation, Commitment, Church

Jesus came to save us from our sins. Sin is what separates us from God. Jesus taught that if we don't believe in Him, we will die in our sins, [John 8:23](#). The apostle Paul taught that the wages of sin is death, [Romans 6:23](#). Sin is our biggest problem. Yet we don't hear a lot about sin these days. Many preachers shy away from talking about sin. You certainly will not hear any news station talk about sin. But Jesus didn't shy away from sin. He spoke about sin, heaven, and hell. We need to continue to listen to Jesus. We need His saving grace. This is our last lesson in this particular study. As we come to a close, we will discuss salvation in Christ. If one is going to be saved, it will only be through Jesus, [John 14:6](#). Redemption from our sins is only found in Him, [Ephesians 1:7](#).

Jesus desires that all men be saved. This is what God desires, [1 Timothy 2:1-4](#). God doesn't want any person to perish and spend eternity separated from Him in hell, [2 Peter 3:9](#). No one has to go to hell. Jesus has paved the way so that we all men can be saved. But accepting the free gift of salvation from Jesus is a choice. He will not force anyone to follow Him. Following Jesus will come with a price, [Luke 9:23-24](#). It will require commitment on our part. Many want to be saved, but don't want to listen to what is that Jesus says. Jesus wants us to count the cost when it comes to following Him, [Luke 14:26-33](#). One can hear the good news about Jesus and still not be a Christian, [Acts 26:26-28](#). The apostle Paul spoke to a man named King Agrippa about Jesus. King Agrippa heard the truth concerning Jesus. It appeared he believed what he heard. Yet he didn't take action to receive God's saving grace. He almost became a Christian. Almost is not good enough. In [Acts 24:24-26](#), a man named Felix and his wife Drusilla heard the truth concerning Jesus from the apostle Paul. Yet they didn't become Christians. In fact, what they heard scared them. The truth can sometimes do that. Following the truth will come with a price. But the price is worth it. Jesus died for our sins. He loves you very much. He wants you to follow Him. This lesson will show you what you must do to be saved. Did you know a man described as the Philippian jailer asked that question to Paul in [Acts 16](#)? In [Acts 16:30](#), the jailer asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" While salvation is the free gift of God (read [Romans 6:23](#)), we must understand how we access or receive this free gift.

I. Salvation Is in Christ

A. Jesus taught that one must believe in Him to be saved.

1. Jesus taught that He is the way to God the Father and heaven, [John 14:6](#). This eliminates any other way. This may not be popular, but this is what Jesus taught. Jesus backed up what He taught with the miracles we have already discussed earlier.
2. Jesus taught that we must believe in Him or we will die in our sins, [John 8:23-24](#).
3. The book of Acts shows us people in the first century being saved by Jesus. We see how they believed in Him and confessed that Jesus is the Son of God, [Acts 8:35-37](#). Read [Romans 10:9-10](#). Are you willing to do the same?

B. Jesus taught that one must repent to be saved.

1. This is what we find in [Luke 13:1-5](#). Repentance is not doing a 360 with your life, but rather a 180. It's about change.
2. Repentance will come with a price. Read [Acts 19:17-19](#). What was it that some Christians in the city called Ephesus gave up? _____.
3. If you decide to follow Jesus, there will be some changes you will have to make. Are you willing to repent even if the price is big?

C. Jesus taught that one must be baptized to be saved.

1. Jesus taught that one must be born again, [John 3:3-5](#).
2. Jesus taught that one must believe and be baptized to be saved, [Mark 16:16](#).

- a. Baptism means to immerse. One must be immersed in water (baptized) to be saved.
 - b. If one doesn't believe, there's no reason for them to be baptized.
 - c. According to Jesus in Mark 16:16, does salvation occur prior or after baptism?
 - d. Can a baby obey what Jesus taught in Mark 16:16? Explain.
3. In the book of Acts, this is what we see people doing to be saved.
 - a. Read Acts 2:38. What did Peter instruct people to do?
 - b. Read Acts 8:12-13. What did people in Samaria do to be saved?
 - c. Read Acts 8:29-38. What did the eunuch believe and do to be saved?
 - d. Read Acts 22:16. Was Paul saved before or after he was baptized?
 - e. Read Acts 16:30-34. What did the Philippian jailer hear and learn prior to being baptized?
 - f. Read Colossians 2:12. According to this verse, who does the work in baptism?
 - g. Read 1 Peter 3:21. What does Peter say baptism does?
 4. There's nothing special about the water. One can be baptized in a river, lake, pond (if there's enough water), a swimming pool, etc.
 - a. What's special is that God is working on the one who has faith in Him to be obedient.
 - b. What's special is that by faith one is reaching the blood of Jesus that will cleanse their sins, Ephesians 1:7.
 - c. What's special is that one will be united with Christ in baptism, Romans 6:4-5.
 - d. What's special is that one will be freed from sin, Romans 6:7.
 5. Sometimes people have a misunderstanding about baptism.
 - a. Some have been taught that baptism isn't necessary. Is that true or false?
 - b. Some have been taught that baptism is a sprinkling. Based upon what we've read, is that true or false?
 - c. Some have been taught that you just say a prayer to receive Jesus. Did you see anyone do this in the passages we read, or anyone be instructed to do that?
 - d. Some have been taught that one is saved prior to baptism. They can be baptized later to demonstrate their salvation. Is that true or false?
 6. One can't be taught wrong and saved right. Read Acts 19:1-5. There were some disciples who had a misunderstanding when it came to salvation. What did they do once they learned the truth?

II. When One is Saved, They Are Added to the Church Jesus Built

A. Jesus promised in His ministry that He would build His church, Matthew 16:18.

1. According to Matthew 16:18, how many churches did Christ promise to build?
2. Read Ephesians 1:22-23. Who is head of the church?
3. Read Ephesians 4:4. How many bodies (or churches) are there?
4. When you think church, don't think about a building, but rather people. Read Acts 5:11. Fear came upon the church. Did fear come upon a building or people?
5. When people were saved, they were added to the body of Christ, Acts 2:47. It was God who added them. All the saved are in the church that belong to Jesus.

6. The church is a big deal in the eyes of God. Read Acts 20:28. What do we learn about it?
7. When one is saved, they are to align themselves with a local group of Christians. Read Acts 9:19. After Paul was baptized, what did he do? Read Acts 9:26-27. When Paul was in Jerusalem, what did he do? Some want Christ but not His church. That's not what the scriptures teach.

B. The church of Christ followed the teaching of the apostles, Acts 2:42.

1. The church in the first century was a family. Read Acts 2:42-46; Acts 4:32-37. What do we see the Christians doing?
2. The church in the first century worshiped a certain way. Read Acts 2:42; Acts 4:32-37; Acts 12:12; Acts 20:7; 2 Corinthians 8-9; and Ephesians 5:19.
3. The church encouraged one another and at times corrected one another, Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. Why would these things be important to do?
4. The church in the first century was simple in nature and yet very important. We are to follow the pattern that we find in the New Testament.
5. The church of your choice is NOT what the apostles taught. Rather, we find Christians following a simple pattern the apostles taught. God will expect you to do the same. Not every church follows what we see in the New Testament. Therefore, not every congregation is doing the will of God.

III. Are You Ready to Follow Christ?

A. Following Jesus will require a commitment on your part.

1. At the beginning of our study, you were asked if you've been saved. How did you answer?
2. Did your answer line up with what you have read in the Bible? If not, are you ready to be saved from your sins?

B. If you've never been saved, are you ready to become a disciple of Jesus? YES/NO

1. The gospel is called GOOD NEWS for a reason. Through Jesus there's hope, salvation, forgiveness, no condemnation, and so much more.
2. If yes, then praise God! People in the first century obeyed immediately. We should as well.
3. If you answered NO, there's no pressure. Simply consider some questions:
 - a. What may be holding you back from becoming saved?
 - b. What questions or doubts do you have that may be holding you back?
 - c. Are you afraid of water and that's why you don't want to be baptized?
 - d. Are you afraid of what your family may think if you become a Christian?
 - e. Do you feel like you're too bad of a person to be saved?
4. Whatever it is, you are not the first one to have those questions or concerns. Just remember, life is short. The devil doesn't want you to become a Christian. Even if you obey, the devil will still come after you. Don't allow him to rob you of the joy you can have in Jesus.
5. Whatever you decide, be sure that you count the cost, Luke 14:24-26. Are you willing to submit to the rule and reign of Jesus? Not every disciple in the first century continued to follow Jesus, John 6:66. Some left Him. There's a choice that must be made. What choice will you make?