

# Single Bible Study Lessons Sampler 2018

This collection contains fifteen Bible study lessons that are offered as pick-and-choose possibilities for Bible study lessons. The objective is to offer a variety of topics in a format that offers maximum flexibility.

This collection features six lessons based on articles in *102 Devotional Sermonettes* by Wilbur Koehn. One lesson is based on First Peter, and another series of lessons are from a doctrinal class book that is being readied for publication. It is planned that more lessons from this book will be available in the coming months.

To purchase a PDF suitable for copying for the congregation, go to our website or call or email and request the lesson desired. (The product code for website reference is provided below.) The cost is \$4.00 each lesson, and you may make as many copies as desired for your congregation.

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## **102 Devotional Sermonettes**

*The Importance of the New Birth, 14576*

*The Grace of God unto Salvation, 14574*

*What Is Bearing Our Cross? 14571*

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## **Doctrinal Class Lessons**

*The Bible, 14582*

*The Creation and the Fall of Man, 14583*

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*Nonconformity to the World, 14578*

*The Church and State, Nonresistance, The Swearing of Oaths, 14579*

*Pride and Humility, 14580*

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# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## The Importance of the New Birth

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“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

Additional scriptures:

Titus 3:4-5

Ephesians 2:8-9

The new birth is a miracle prompted by the Holy Spirit. It is not a mere metaphor but an actual reality. It is at the cross of Christ that the new birth takes place.

The new birth is more than a reformation. It is conversion from a life of self to a life for the Lord. It means a change of spirit and attitude and ambition. It means refraining from sin and living a godly life. Instead of hate there will be love, instead of greed there will be generosity, instead of pride there will be humility, instead of malice there will be kindness, instead of filth there will be purity.

This new birth is not only a change of lifestyle, but it is an entering into eternal life. The new birth is a work of the Holy Ghost. As the physical birth brings a new life into the world, so the spiritual new birth brings a new life into the kingdom of God.

As a natural birth is a miracle, so the new birth is also a great spiritual miracle. It cannot be earned by any work of man. It is a gift from the Lord. Any person saved is saved by the grace of God. This gift of grace is obtained by the medium of faith. A sinner is not saved by his faith; rather, it is his faith that embraces the grace of God that saves him.

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### Points for discussion

- Discuss God’s work in bringing conviction for sin or calling the lost one to salvation.
- What is man’s part and what is God’s part in
  - remorse and repentance
  - confession and making restitution
  - leaving the old environment
  - accepting the new life in Christ
- What are the important factors to look for in proving converts?
- Are some conversion experiences “smaller,” such as in case of young teenagers?
- Discuss the importance of the new birth for the church of God.
- Discuss the importance of continuing to live the converted life.

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## The Grace of God unto Salvation

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“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11).

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved) (Eph. 2:4-5).

Grace is opportunity to perform a duty, to repay a debt, to make restitution, and to worship and serve God. It is the time provided to make peace with God. Also, it is added strength to carry out difficult tasks.

Generally grace is undeserved. In its true sense it cannot be purchased or worked for. All of grace is a gift from God.

Grace can be wisely and carefully used, or it can be wasted and misused. It is in the opportune time of grace that deeds of kindness and witness should be performed. The time of grace can be squandered away. The opportunity to make good can be lost by carelessness.

When grace is recklessly wasted, it becomes easier to waste even more of it. As time goes by and grace is not used, the heart is hardened and becomes calloused to the promptings of grace. Thus, there are those who have wasted a lifetime of grace who find it difficult in later years to repent and come out of deep-rooted habits.

But God is longsuffering and compassionate and will offer His grace to the long and hard-hearted sinner. If he will humble himself and repent, he is promised that God will receive him and forgive him and give him hope.

It is dangerous to waste the day of grace. God’s word tells us, “My spirit shall not always strive with man” (Gen. 6:3). One day God’s grace will be forever withdrawn. Grace may then be desperately sought but shall not be found. Men will call to the rocks and mountains to hide them from God, but to no avail. Those who have not used the grace of God wisely will tremble when they will appear before the almighty Judge to answer for their carelessness.

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### Points for discussion

- Are there conditions that man must meet to to receive grace?
- Discuss how to grow in grace. See 2 Peter 3:18.
- Discuss how we frustrate the grace of God. See Galatians 2:21. This verse is in the context of Paul’s writings about Christians and the Law. What is the equivalent in our Christian lives today?



- From a *Messenger of Truth* article: “What is a weak Christian? Is it a Christian who does not have a lot of the grace of God in his life?” What impedes or diminishes grace in the Christian’s life? What increases or restores grace?
- Thoughts from *Bible Doctrine and Practice*:
  - “The severity with which God looks upon sin is one of the great lessons of Scripture” (p. 88).
  - “The love of God is incomprehensible. It is through that love that grace was given” (p. 90).
  - “It takes grace to come to God, and grace to remain in Him” (p. 91).

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## What Is Bearing Our Cross?

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"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matt. 16:24).

Christ will recognize the faithful disciple by his cross bearing. Many people desire to follow Christ without bearing their cross. It is not the normal misfortune and disappointment in life that is the cross Christ is talking about. All people experience such hardships.

The cross that Christ spoke about in Matthew 16 is the affliction that comes by doing right and living for Christ. This may mean ridicule and even at times persecution. It means giving up some rights that are legally ours but not in keeping with the meek spirit of Christ. Taking up the cross will deny our proud nature its jurisdiction.

This cross bearing is also bearing the cross of sin. To accept our human weaknesses and at the same time despise them is cross bearing. It was the sin of man that led Christ to Gethsemane and then put Him on the cross. Christ joyfully endured the cross and despised the shame of the cross to die for us (Heb. 12:2).

As Christ bore the cross of our sins and died on it, we, too, must bear our particular cross. To be saved, each must assume the responsibility of his humanity. Whatever it is that sin has wrought in our life and nature must become a very personal responsibility. The sins of our nature—pride, anger, jealousy, lust, covetousness, greed, and whatever else has beset us—are our cross.

To take up the cross will mean to deny one's self. This means that to protect one's ego, to exercise personal rights, to pursue carnal pleasure, to exercise vengeance, and to promote status and position in the world will be foregone by taking up the cross.

The rewards of cross bearing are many. These include the peace of God, the hope of eternal life, and the blessing of being a disciple of Christ. "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

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### Points for discussion

- Can a Christian be saved who is not willing to bear his cross?
- How can we glory in the cross? Discuss Galatians 6:14. How can we be crucified unto the world?
- Discuss cross bearing in our time of comfort, ease of living, and being appreciated in our communities.
- It sometimes said that 40–60 years ago we placed more emphasis on outward form. Should we expect a certain outward form from a sincere Christian who bears his cross out of love for Christ and His body, the church?

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## The Work of the Holy Spirit

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"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Additional scripture: John 16:8-14

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune Godhead. He is third not because He is considered to be third in importance, but rather because He is third in the function of the Godhead. First came the creation work by God the Creator. Then the redemption plan by God the Son. Then the baptism of the Holy Spirit by God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is able to do His greatest work after Calvary, both in the historical sense and in the personal Calvary experience sense.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a charismatic demonstration of sound and action; rather it is a work of indwelling in the heart of man. No one is able to leave a true witness without the power of the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit has a two-phase work. The one is to bring a message to the world. The other phase is to bring a message to the believer.

The message to the world is to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8). By means of the pulpit, the personal witness, and the impressions of the Holy Spirit, He attempts to bring the sinner to see the need of a Savior. He shows the sinner the great difference between righteousness and unrighteousness, and the terrible consequences of the judgment without Christ. He points the sinner to Calvary, the place of hope. When a sinner gives heed to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and confesses his sins, Christ and the Holy Spirit will move in and save him.

To the believer, the Holy Spirit offers to dwell in the heart and to direct his life in paths of sanctification. Without being sanctified by the Holy Spirit the believer will have a difficult road to travel. It is very important to salvation and to Christian growth to pay attention to the teaching of the Holy Spirit. No believer of his own strength is able to live good enough to merit the presence of the Holy Spirit. If he were able to so live that the Holy Spirit would abide because of that good life, he really would not have need of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will come into a heart that has been made clean by the blood of Jesus.

His message to the believer is also a message of comfort, as Christ has promised, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" (John 14:16). He also promised to give guidance. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

The Holy Spirit will not leave the believer without direction. This will include warnings of error. The Holy Spirit is very careful to keep the child of God on course. As long as the Christian will allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in his heart, he will not be lost, for God will not thrust Himself away.

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## Points for discussion

- When is the Holy Spirit received?
- Discuss  
the work of the Holy Spirit as Comforter. Where and when does He comfort us?  
the work of guiding the believer into all truth.
- What limits or increases the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives? *See* Ephesians 4:30  
and 1 Thessalonians 5:19.
- What are the evidences of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life? *See* Galatians 5:22–23.
- Should we look for the Holy Spirit's direction or nudges in our work and activities  
throughout the day?

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## The Will

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“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:12-13).

The will is the power to make choices and decisions. A will is also the stamina that sees a task through to completion. Without a will a person would be without purpose and use. All achievements have come about by a persistent will. No worthwhile accomplishment has come about without a will to see it through. All persons have a constitution of will that is a part of their character. To rightly fill a God-given place, the will must be brought into a godly balance.

An unchecked will can be harmful and destructive. On the other hand, a disciplined will is productive. Christ brought His own will into discipline. In order to bring the plan of salvation to completion, He prayed to His Father, “Not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42).

We note there are wills of various descriptions. There is the untamed will, the broken will, the suppressed will, and the disciplined will. The untamed will is the will that has not learned to submit to any power but its own. This will is ruthless in removing any obstacle in its way. It intends to reach its goal at any cost. The broken will is so passive that it sets no goals. It will yield principle and is unable to make decisions. The broken will comes into being by too harsh discipline at some critical point in its development. The suppressed will is held in by another will stronger than his. A disciplined will is the will that is strong enough to stick to the right, pliable enough not to quarrel, yielding enough to yield the right of way to another traveler coming in his lane. The working out of our salvation applies to the disciplined will.

In molding a disciplined will, parents, teachers, and leaders play a great part. The individual has a great part also. From time to time he must use his will to mold his own will into a useful one. This can be done by the grace of God. May our prayer be that of the Lord’s, “Not my will, but thine, be done.”

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### Points for discussion

- How are determination and commitment related to the will becoming yielded?
- How do we bring our will into subjection to God, right living, or truth?
- Discuss putting ourselves in the way of temptation. Does temptation weaken the will?





- Discuss the strong-willed person. What is good? Not good?
- Is strength of will linked to temperament? Does an easy-going person have a weak will?
- Are most children, in reality, strong-willed? How is the will molded?

### **An additional perspective on the will**

The chapter “The Child’s Will,” pp. 137–146, in *Child Nurture for the Christian Home* (Gospel Publishers, 2016) deals with the will from a little different perspective. Read this chapter if you can find the time. Some points for consideration and discussion:

- “We should think of the faculty of the will as good and beneficial. Indeed, it is a parental duty to nurture this aspect of their child’s will so that it may function in a healthy way.” (p. 138)
- “A person does nothing without the assent of the will.” (p. 138)
- “The inherent selfishness in every person is at the bottom of the self-will. Selfishness and self-will can hardly be separated. The self-will is that stubborn bent that insists on getting one’s own way.” (p. 140)
- “Self-will should not be equated with virtues that are needed in life, such as perseverance.” (p. 141)

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# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## What Is Holy Matrimony?

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"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matt. 19:4-6).

Holy matrimony is an institution made by God. It is holy because God made it so. He made it holy for the well-being of mankind. It is meant to create a holy union between two holy people. It brings a male and female into a union so exquisite and enduring that only death has the authority to break it.

There is much that couples must do to fulfill the requirements of holy matrimony. These are sanctity prior to marriage, sanctity during the time of the marriage, and sanctity through the years of married life.

Holy matrimony is a state of righteous and pure living for the duration of the marriage. Matrimony, even though begun in a righteous condition, can degenerate. When excesses, selfishness, and unfaithfulness take control, the beautiful and holy institution will lose its purity.

Holy matrimony has not lost its holy propriety even in a world that has slipped into moral decay. Even a marriage that was ill-begotten becomes a holy thing when a new birth takes place. Then the virtues of holy matrimony enter into that union. The same values of purity are then in effect that are in a marriage begun in the Lord.

The foundation of holy matrimony is a faith in God and pure and righteous living.

The results of holy matrimony: It is the bright light in a dark night. It helps to establish the soundest of moral values. It prepares the succeeding generation for the future and is the foundation for a prosperous nation. The rewards for both the present and eternity are infinite for those who will uphold holy matrimony.

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### Points for discussion

- Discuss how the following enhance or subtract from God's blessing upon a marriage:
  - The approach to marriage
  - The time of the engagement
  - The wedding
  - The roles of husband and wife
- How flexible or rigid are the roles of husband and wife?
- How difficult is it for a husband and wife to change patterns of their interaction in succeeding years?
- How can realistic expectations about marriage be fostered for youth growing up?
- When does a marriage that is beset with struggles lose the status of holy matrimony?

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

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### Suffering

#### A Lesson from the First Epistle of Peter

The epistles of Peter are not so doctrinal in nature but are more like an aged, kindly father giving his counsel, many times in a practical sense, as to how to walk the Christian way. It appears the subject of suffering must have been tugging on his heart and mind, for he returns to that subject several times in his first epistle. He was acquainted with this subject by experience and observation. In the first recorded instance of persecution of Jesus's followers, he rejoiced that he was counted worthy to suffer for Jesus's sake. Then James was killed, and Peter himself was put in prison and expected to be executed but was miraculously delivered. Then Stephen was stoned. What other sufferings he saw and experienced in his long life we can only imagine. Let us consider what he says about the subject.

1 Peter 1:6–7 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

2:19–24 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

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

3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

The world is full of suffering humanity. Millions in Africa are displaced by war and famine, eking out an existence in crowded, unsanitary camps without basic needs. Other millions are enslaved in upper tier countries as well as the lower. Other millions are under the heel of oppressive governments. Still others share their lives with uncaring, cruel partners. Countless children suffer as only the weak can suffer when among the evil strong. Many who do not suffer visibly suffer with depression.

The appetites of many are denied, not through self-denial but because of being incapable of attaining what they desire. If one lets his mind be absorbed in contemplation, truly the whole creation groaneth and travaileth.

The Christian suffers many things together with the world. He suffers sickness, pain, financial reverses, death, the ravages of old age. Then there is the sorrow when loved ones go astray, when one cannot seem to have victory over besetting sins, when it feels like something is amiss between myself and my brother. The Christian has exposed himself to sufferings by virtue of the soft heart that the Spirit gives him when he is born again.

As we consider this lesson, may we lift our eyes to another dimension of suffering. This is the suffering the Christian endures because he is a Christian. Because of his devotion to God he exposes himself to the hatred of the evil powers about him. Someone may take advantage of the Christian depending on the faith of the Christian to spare him from any repercussions. It may be a job opportunity lost because of educational requirements unmet because of our faith. It

may be a decision that goes against the flesh because of our devotion to God. Others may misunderstand us because we believe that God means just what He says, and therefore we cannot take the liberties the nominal Christian feels free to take.

There is a common thread in what Peter has to say. The suffering that is acceptable to God is the suffering that comes to us as a result of our faith. God is honored when we bear it patiently and faithfully. May we allow ourselves to be purified by the suffering we experience.

In our suffering, we can look to Jesus. He endured suffering and agony beyond that of His followers. Had He not left heaven and fulfilled the plan God had for Him, He would not have known suffering. But He left heaven, He suffered, and because He suffered, we have redemption and the promise of eternal life.

### **For thought and discussion**

1. Do I feel that because I am a Christian I should be spared some of the sufferings that humanity shares?
2. Does God owe me something because I have denied myself?
3. What effect does it have on a Christian's spiritual life if he begins to feel that his share of the normal sufferings of mankind are more than he deserves and are a form of persecution?
4. Is suffering in general an effort on God's part to draw people to Him, or is it just part of the price of living?
5. As we consider what others have experienced in ages past, has our definition of suffering changed? Are our temptations just as lethal, simply in another dimension?
6. What does the phrase in 1 Peter 4:1 mean, "for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin"?

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## The Bible

The Bible is composed of sixty-six books written over a period of about 1600 years. God inspired approximately forty men to write it. They occupied different stations in life, from kings to captives, and from the educated to the unlearned. In the Bible, we see a beautiful revelation of God's will for humanity.

### The inspired message of God to the world and His children

- ☐ 2 Peter 1:19–21      God is the author; the Word is not of private interpretation
- ☐ Revelation 22:18–19      The judgments on adding or taking away
- ☐ Galatians 1:8–9      Only one gospel
- ☐ John 12:48      God's Word judges
- ☐ 2 Timothy 3:15–17      It is the guide unto salvation

### The relationship between the Old and New Testaments

- ☐ Matthew 5:17      Jesus fulfilled the law and the commandments
- ☐ John 1:17      The law and the gospel
- ☐ Galatians 3:24–26      The law a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ

### Additional scriptures

- ☐ John 5:39      Search the Scriptures
- ☐ 1 Peter 2:2      Desire the milk of the Word for growth
- ☐ Hebrews 4:12      The Word of God is alive and powerful
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 14:37      The commandments of the Lord
- ☐ 2 Peter 3:15–16      Twisting the Scriptures brings destruction

**Additional study**      *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 59–72  
                                 *Principles of Faith*, pp. 16–18

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Notes

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## Questions

1. The Word of God is alive (Hebrews 4:12). What does this mean? How does the Word help divide and discern our thoughts and intents?
2. Psalm 119:11 says, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Discuss how this is done. How does having the Word in our heart affect our daily lives?
3. How much do you love the Word? See Psalm 119:97. How much time do you think Christians should give to reading and studying the Word?
4. Discuss helps for studying the Word, such as Bible reference books, Bible dictionaries, Bible handbooks, and devotional books. What have you found helpful?



# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## The Creation and the Fall of Man

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“God created all things by His word. He spoke the words, ‘Let there be light,’ and it was so. The Bible gives a clear account of God’s wonderful work that far surpasses the confused theories of men . . . God has preserved two powerful witnesses to show all mankind His power and truth. These witnesses are the written Word of God—the Bible, and the natural creation.”<sup>1</sup>

### The creation of all things

- ☐ Genesis 1:1                      God the creator
- ☐ Hebrews 11:3                  The world spoken into existence
- ☐ Genesis 1:27                    God created man in His image
- ☐ Genesis 2:7                      Man became a living soul
- ☐ Genesis 1:31                    His creation was good

### Freedom to choose

- ☐ Genesis 2:16–17              God gave the power to choose
- ☐ Genesis 3:1–7                  The fall of man
- ☐ Romans 3:10, 23              All have sinned

### The result of sin

- ☐ Genesis 3:16–19              A hard life
- ☐ Genesis 3:21–24              Paradise lost
- ☐ Genesis 6:5, 11                The earth was filled with evil
- ☐ Romans 5:12                  Death passed upon all flesh
- ☐ Titus 1:15                      The mind and conscience defiled
- ☐ Titus 3:3                        Became slaves to sin

“Because of original sin, human nature has become inwardly corrupt. Because of this depravity, man’s heart, or nature, has become evil.”<sup>2</sup>

### The remedy for sin

- ☐ Genesis 3:15                    The promised redeemer
- ☐ Isaiah 53:4–7                  Jesus suffered for our sins

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<sup>1</sup> *Principles of Faith*, p. 65

<sup>2</sup> *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, p. 79

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Additional scriptures

- ☐ Genesis 5:2                      God created mankind; male and female
- ☐ Romans 5:18                    Condemnation and justification

## Additional study

*Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 73–83, 298–303  
*Principles of Faith*, pp. 65–67

## Notes

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## Questions

1. What was God's purpose for making man?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Discuss what all was broken when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden. What are the consequences for mankind?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. From the beginning, God had a plan for man's salvation. See Ephesians 1:4. Discuss God's love for mankind, man's free will, and God's desire for man, the crown of His creation, to worship Him by choice.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Discuss the orderliness of creation, the role of man and woman, and man's responsibility to care for and use the earth and its resources.

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Sin and Repentance

“Repentance is the sorrow and brokenness of that person’s spirit who realizes he has grieved and offended God. It includes honest feelings of guilt for having sinned against God and men. One cannot experience this by intellectual knowledge, but only by the Holy Ghost’s revelation and conviction. . . . The first step toward salvation is realizing that one is a sinner. Every person must come to a personal awareness of the lost state and condition caused by sin.” <sup>1</sup>

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 59:1–2      | Sin separates from God                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 3:19–20       | Repentance is necessary for pardon         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:38          | Repentance before baptism                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 2:4–5       | The grace of God leads to repentance       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 7:10 | Godly sorrow produces repentance           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 36:31      | Ashamed of sin                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1:4–5         | Confession accompanies repentance          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19:8          | Restitution springs from a repentant heart |

### Two essential things

“In true repentance two things become apparent, and they are essential: a biblical look at sin, coupled with a change of affection in the heart.” <sup>2</sup>

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 5:19–21 | Works of the flesh        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3:1–2  | Affection on things above |

### True repentance

True repentance guides us to justification by faith. It is the door to the new birth.

“True repentance is readily recognized by its fruits.” <sup>3</sup>

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15:17–18      | Recognition of sin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15:19         | Contrition         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1:9         | Confession of sin  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:2         | Forsaking of sin   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19:8          | Restitution        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 7:11 | A genuine change   |

<sup>1</sup> *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, p. 98

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p. 108

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p. 106

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

**Additional study**      *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 97–110  
                                 *Principles of Faith*, pp. 23–24

## Notes

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## Questions

1. What is the definition of  
    Sin  
    Repentance
3. Discuss repentance versus reformation.
4. What is the goal or purpose of repentance?

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## The New Birth and Conversion

“The new birth is the cornerstone of the doctrine of salvation. Having an experience of the new birth is the only entrance into the kingdom of God, and it is the first and absolute requisite for baptism into the church. . . . Conversion is the sum, or result, of conviction of sin, repentance, the new birth, and faith in Christ Jesus. It is the action and reality of turning away from one’s former life of sin to a life of holiness.” <sup>1</sup>

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 3:19        | Repentance and conversion go together     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:1–8       | Jesus explains the new birth              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Titus 3:4–6      | Renewed by the Holy Spirit                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 1:29        | Jesus is the sacrifice for sin            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 2:8–9  | Salvation received by grace through faith |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 11:28–30 | The invitation of Jesus                   |

### What is observed in a born-again person

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 5:17 | A new creature                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:1         | Lives according to the Spirit, not the flesh   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:16        | The witness of the Spirit                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 13:35         | Love   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:2–4       | Obeys the commandments and overcomes the world |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 18:3       | A childlike spirit                             |

### Additional scriptures

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 6:44          | The Father must draw              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 4:12          | Salvation is only by Jesus        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 6:11 | Washed, sanctified, and justified |

**Additional study**      *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 111–119  
                                 *Principles of Faith*, pp. 25–26

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<sup>1</sup> *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, p. 111

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Notes

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## Questions

1. An important part of conversion is the turning away from a life of sin to a life of holiness. Discuss what contributes to making a lasting change and staying faithful through trials.
2. Discuss: “All things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
3. Share your experience of new birth with the class. Is it still meaningful? Have you had to struggle with doubts at some time after your conversion?

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Baptism

“Born-again believers are admitted into the visible church through water baptism, even as they are admitted into the kingdom of God through Christ by the new birth and baptism of the Holy Spirit. . . . Baptism with water follows repentance and forgiveness of sins.”<sup>1</sup>

### Why be baptized?

- ☐ Matthew 28:19–20      Commanded by Jesus
- ☐ Matthew 3:13–17      Exemplified by Jesus
- ☐ Acts 2:41              Exemplified by the apostles
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 12:13–14      Represents spiritual baptism and unites us to the church
- ☐ 1 Peter 3:21              The answer of a good conscience

### Requisites for receiving baptism

According to the scriptures, the preparation for baptism is repentance, forgiveness of sins, and the new birth.

- ☐ Acts 8:36–37              Believe with the whole heart
- ☐ Acts 2:38                  Repentance
- ☐ Acts 3:19                  Forgiveness
- ☐ Matthew 3:5–6              Confession of sins
- ☐ John 3:3                    The new birth

### Mode of baptism?

In various cases, like on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41), in the case of Cornelius (Acts 10:47–48) and in the jail at Philippi (Acts 16:33), nothing suggests being immersed in water. To pour water on the head of the believer is in harmony with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- ☐ Acts 2:17–18              The Holy Spirit poured out
- ☐ Leviticus 8:12              Agrees with the anointing of priests and kings in the Old Testament

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<sup>1</sup> *Principles of Faith*, p. 41

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Additional scriptures

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 5:22–23 | What is seen in those desiring baptism                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9:1–18       | Example of surrender, submission, and evidence of conversion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:41–42, 47  | Believers were added to the church by baptism                |

## Additional study

*Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 195–202

*Principles of Faith*, pp. 41–42

See questions for baptismal vows at the end of this lesson.

## Notes

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## Questions

1. What does baptism signify?
2. Why is it imperative that the church is careful in proving applicants for baptism?
3. Review the baptismal vows. What do they mean?
4. Why does the church not baptize infants?
5. Why do we practice pouring instead of immersion?



# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Nonconformity to the World

The church is a body of believers that has been called out of the world and is under the authority of Jesus Christ.

- ☐ Romans 12:2                      Be not conformed to this world
- ☐ 1 John 2:15–16                  Love not the world with its lust and pride
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 6:14–18        “Come out from among them and be ye separate”
- ☐ Ephesians 5:11–12            Have no fellowship with the works of darkness
- ☐ Galatians 5:24                  Christians have crucified the flesh
- ☐ Colossians 3:1–2                Seek things above
- ☐ Titus 2:11–12                  Renounce worldly desires
- ☐ 2 Timothy 3:1–5                The spirit of the world in the last times
- ☐ 2 John 9–11                      Beware of the influence of false doctrine

### Modesty and simplicity in all things

- ☐ Luke 16:15                      God hates what the world esteems
- ☐ Colossians 2:8                  Worldly attitudes are contrary to Christ
- ☐ 1 Peter 3:3–4                  Modesty in appearance
- ☐ Matthew 6:19–34                Separation from the world’s view of material possessions

### Additional scriptures

- ☐ John 17:14–16                  Christ’s followers are not of the world
- ☐ John 15:18–19                  Hated by the world
- ☐ 1 Peter 2:9                      A called out people to show forth His praises by their lives
- ☐ Matthew 6:24                  No one can serve two masters
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 4:3–4            They do not have light
- ☐ Hebrews 11:13                  Strangers and pilgrims
- ☐ Matthew 7:21–23                Conformed to the Father’s will

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Additional study

*Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 257–263, 270–274, 292–293

*Principles of Faith*, pp. 56–58

## Notes

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## Questions

1. What is the purpose of nonconformity? (See *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 270–271.)
2. How does nonconformity to the world affect our clothing, vehicles, and the places we go?
3. What will a nonconformed Christian's attitude be? How will it affect his attitude toward sports, entertainment, work ethic, and material possessions?
4. Can I love the things of the world without possessing them? Can I possess the things of the world without loving them?
5. In what ways could it be harmful to be close friends with people who are not Christians? What are some dangers of joining community organizations?

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## The Church and State

“The spirit of the gospel of Christ dictates that the church of God and the secular state be separate institutions.”<sup>1</sup>

- ☐ John 18:36 Christ’s followers are citizens of the heavenly kingdom
- ☐ Romans 13:1–5 Be subject to the higher powers; those powers are ordained of God
- ☐ Acts 5:29 We ought to obey God rather than men
- ☐ Matthew 20:25–26 Christians are not to be involved in government or politics

### The Christian’s responsibility to the state

- ☐ Romans 13:6–7 Christians are to pay required taxes
- ☐ Matthew 22:17–21 Render to Caesar what is his
- ☐ 1 Timothy 2:1–3 Pray for the rulers

**Additional study**     *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 234–245  
                              *Principles of Faith*, pp. 49–51

### Notes

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### Questions

1. See *Principles of Faith*, page 49. What purpose does the state serve? What is the purpose of the church of God?

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<sup>1</sup> *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, p. 234

## Sample Lesson for Bible Study

2. What should our attitude be toward officers of the law and other government officials? How should a Christian respond if he is stopped for exceeding the speed limit or other such violations?
3. How should we view payment of taxes? See Romans 13:6–7.
4. Discuss why a Christian cannot vote or serve on jury duty.
5. How can we show appreciation for our government? How patriotic can the Christian be?

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Nonresistance

Nonresistance is a principal doctrine of the New Testament. “The gospel is emphatically against strife, contention, and carnal warfare. Therefore, no believer should take part in carnal strife, whether among individuals, in suits at law, or in conflicts among nations. The doctrine of nonresistance was taught and exemplified by Christ and the apostles.” <sup>1</sup>

### Jesus instituted a new order

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 9:6      | Prince of Peace                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 2:13–14    | Peace on earth                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:38–45 | Love toward enemies                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 7:12    | The Golden Rule                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 26:52   | “Put up thy sword”—do not use force       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 18:36      | The kingdom of Jesus is not of this world |

### Teachings about nonresistance

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 6:1–8  | Better to suffer than go to law            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12:17–21      | Return good for evil                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 10:22–23     | Flee instead of resisting                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 2:20–23      | Suffer with patience                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 10:3–4 | Our warfare is spiritual instead of carnal |

“Nonresistance in time of war, or refusal to take part in war, has been a tenet of the church since the beginning of the Christian era. . . . Defenselessness is a major evidence of the true church.” <sup>2</sup>

### Additional scriptures

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:9      | Peacemakers                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:25–26  | Agree with your adversary         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 13:10 | To live by the sword brings death |

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<sup>1</sup> *Principles of Faith*, p. 53

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p. 55

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Additional study

*Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 246–256

*Principles of Faith*, pp. 53–55

Read the book *On Earth Peace* (Gospel Publishers) for an expanded discussion of nonresistance

## Notes

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## Questions

1. Hebrews 12:14 says, “Follow peace with all men.” First Peter 2:17 tells us, “Honour all men.” Discuss how we can live this way in everyday life.
2. We are often tested most by those who are the closest to us. Give examples how the doctrine of nonresistance could be challenged in family settings, the youth group, or other church settings.
3. What should a Christian do when threatened with a lawsuit?
4. Can a Christian give any kind of military service? What about noncombatant service? Can he work somewhere that requires the use of force?
5. In what ways could the doctrine of nonresistance be compromised for Christians who are members of voluntary humanitarian organizations, such as emergency medical services or firefighting forces?

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## The Swearing of Oaths

“The swearing of oaths, for any purposes and in all circumstances, is forbidden in the gospel dispensation.” <sup>1</sup>

“There are legal documents and proceedings in which an oath is requested. The Christian may give or sign a statement of affirmation attesting to the truth.” <sup>2</sup>

“In addition to forbidding any kind of oath, Jesus taught that the Christian must be true to his word.” <sup>3</sup>

- ☐ Matthew 5:33–37      Jesus’s teaching
- ☐ James 5:12          James’s teaching

### Christian honesty

- ☐ Psalm 15:14          Honesty under all circumstances
- ☐ Romans 12:17        Honest to everyone
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 8:21    Honest in all situations

**Additional study**      *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 244–245, 273–274  
                                 *Principles of Faith*, p. 52

### Notes

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### Questions

1. What is an oath? In what situations are legal oaths used today?
2. In what ways could our life and conduct compromise an affirmation?
3. Christians must be honest and dependable at all times in their speech and business dealings. “Let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay” (James 5:12). Give examples where this could be a challenge for a Christian.

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<sup>1</sup> *Principles of Faith*, p. 52

<sup>2</sup> *Bible Doctrine and Practice*, p. 245

<sup>3</sup> *Principles of Faith*, p. 52

# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Pride and Humility

Pride originated with Lucifer and is the source of all sin. It is an abomination to God and is the root cause for seeking honor, position, and fame. It is manifested in the love of riches, lifting up oneself, the desire for fashion, the use of vain adornment, and by conforming to the world. The spirit of pride causes us to love ourselves and the things of this world more than God.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 18:14       | To exalt oneself is pride              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 6:16–17 | God hates a proud look                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 16:18   | Pride goes before a fall               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 14:12–14  | Pride caused the fall of Satan         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:15–16   | Love not the things of the world       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 3:3–4    | Not the outward but the inward         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12:1–2    | Present your bodies a living sacrifice |

### Humility

Humility is found in the acceptance of the sovereignty of God and in dealing with our sinful nature. It is living in a state of quietness and peace.

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> James 4:10  | Humility enjoined                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> James 4:6   | God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 5:5 | Be clothed with humility                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12:3 | Do not think highly of oneself, but think soberly   |

### Additional scriptures

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 13:10 | Pride is the root of contention          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 3:16–24 | The bad example of the daughters of Zion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> James 2:2–9    | Cause of partiality                      |

### Additional study

*Bible Doctrine and Practice*, pp. 262–263, 286–287, 425–426  
*Principles of Faith*, pp. 63–64  
*Questions and Answers*, pp. 65–66, 86–90



# Sample Lesson for Bible Study

## Notes

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## Questions

1. What are the definitions of the words below?

Pride

Humility

2. What is spiritual pride? Discuss the danger of its deceptiveness.
3. How does pride or humility influence our appearance and deportment?
4. Discuss an independent spirit: "I will not do like everyone else is doing. I will do my own thing."