



Christian Life Foundations

Welcome to year three in Christian Life Foundations! We are glad you are a part of our program. These lessons have been designed to give you a "Firm Foundation" in the basics of Christian beliefs. It is our desire that these lessons will be more than an assignment to you. We hope they will become a part of your life and build a closer relationship between you and the Lord. For this to happen it will take time. We suggest that you complete one section of the lesson outline per day (perhaps as your devotions for the day). Also please notice the reminder at the beginning of most lessons indicating how long the Life Application section of each lesson will take. Application of what we are learning is essential and really, the whole purpose of Bible study. Be sure to start soon enough to complete this properly. May God bless you as you explore His Word!

REVIEWING RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are of greatest importance for the Christian. After all, our very Christian faith itself is based on a relationship with Jesus Christ, in contrast to any other religious system which depends instead on performance or certain "good deeds." Our relationship with Christ, in turn, affects all of life's other relationships. This study will take a look at what the Bible tells us about each of these relationships.



I. Relationship with God

A. How do the following verses describe the Christian's relation to God?

Romans 8:15 & 16

This happens when we _____.
(John 1:12)

John 15:15

Romans 8:17 and Titus 3:7 both describe us as
_____.

B. What does 1 Peter 1:3 & 4 say is so special about our inheritance?

C. Looking at 1 John 3:1-3, God the Father calls us _____; we know that someday _____; and when we have this hope, we should _____.

D. Looking back, before we were saved, how were we "related" to God? See Ephesians 2:12.

E. How does Ephesians 2:13 describe our previous and our present condition? We were _____; now, we are _____.

F. Romans 5:10 and Colossians 1:21 & 22 also describe this "before and after" condition. How do these verses state it?

G. 1 Corinthians 3:9 uses three words to describe our relation to God as Christians. What are these words?

H. Ephesians 2:10 says we are His (God's) _____. The word actually means we are His "poem"! Maybe you aren't into poetry that much, but what special thing do you think this might mean?

I. In 1 Peter 2:9, we are said to be what four things?

J. What does 2 Timothy 2:12 say about our ultimate destiny: to _____ with him.

K. And, to get from here to where we are going, what does God want from us, according to both Matthew 25:21 and 1 Corinthians 4:1? That we be _____.
What does this word mean to you, in actual practice?

L. Our relationship with God carries some definite RESPONSIBILITIES. What are some of these as recorded in the following verses?

John 15:16

Hebrews 10:22

Hebrews 10:36

Hebrews 12:7 - To accept _____ as God's sons.

Titus 2:12 - We should deny (say "no" to) what?

How should we live? (3 things)

Romans 12:1 We should _____ our bodies to God as _____.

II. Relationship with yourself

A. What warning is given in Romans 12:3?

Is this a common human weakness?

B. What did Paul have to admit about himself in Romans 7:18?

C. What did Jesus tell us in John 15:5 about our own ability?

D. In Galatians 6:3, how might we deceive ourselves?

E. In 1 Corinthians 10:12, what is the danger in thinking we are "ok"?

F. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7. In your own words tell why Paul needed a "thorn in the flesh" to trouble him.

G. In Ephesians 3:8, what opinion did Paul have about himself?

Why did Paul feel this way? For the answer, look at 1 Corinthians 15:9.

H. All this sounds quite negative so far and yet...

What do the following verses say about our position in God's eyes? (In each verse/passage, look for the idea of "He...us", either written or implied, indicating how we are seen by God.)

Ephesians 1:3-9

Ephesians 2:4-6

Philippians 4:13

Colossians 2:9 & 10

1 John 4:12, 15, 16

Jude 24

I. What makes the difference between what we are naturally (in the first set of verses) and what these other verses say about us? Read Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 2:13; then write in your own words what these verses are saying about us.

III. Relationship to Others



A. Family members:

1. In Ephesians 6:1-3, what two words summarize our duty toward our parents?

2. How does 1 Timothy 5:8 show us the importance of "providing" for our family members?

3. What does Matthew 18:21 & 22 say we must be willing to always do to others near us?

4. In 1 John 4:20, how is our attitude to our "brother" linked with our attitude to God?

5. According to 1 John 3:10 & 15, why is it wrong to hate our brother?

B. Fellow believers:

1. What does Philippians 2:4 say we should be doing?

2. What responsibility is commanded to us in Galatians 6:2?

3. What two things should we do for others in Hebrews 10:24 & 25?

4. Instead of putting each other down, what does Ephesians 4:29 say we should do with our words?

5. 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 is part of Paul's teaching about Christians being the Body of Christ. What do these verses specifically say about what we do for each other?

C. The world of sinners around us:

1. Matthew 5:13-16 says we are like what two common things to the world? Can you think of at least one application of each of these?

2. What does Jude 22 & 23 say about our attitude and action toward sinners?

3. What does 1 Peter 3:15 tell us to be always ready to do?

4. Answer the next three questions from Philippians 2:14-16:

a. What illustration from nature describes what we are in a "dark" world?

b. What example should we set for those people?

c. We set that example by being careful not to do what?

IV. Relationship to government and all authority

A. Romans 13:1 & 2 says we have a duty to do what to ruling authorities?

What reason is given for this command?

B. What does Romans 13:6 & 7 say about our duty to pay taxes (KJV tribute)?

C. What else does 1 Timothy 2:1 & 2 say about our responsibility towards those who rule over us?

What does it say would be the result of our obeying this command?



V. Summary

To summarize this lesson in relationships, read each of the following verses or passages. Beside each, write what kind of special people it talks about relating to and what it is that we are to do with and for them:

Matthew 5:44

Matthew 18:2-6

Romans 14:1-4

1 Corinthians 8:9-13

James 2:15-17



Life Application

Write one paragraph each on what you have learned from this lesson about your relationship to:

1. God
2. Yourself
3. Others

Along with what you have learned in these areas, write how you plan to apply what you have learned in a practical way in your life. Then **turn them in with your lesson.**

FUTURE EVENTS - WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Most of us are fascinated about the future. Who wouldn't like to know some details of what is going to happen later this year or next year or ten years from now or... TV programs with a future theme are very popular, and many people try to learn something from horoscopes or other ways to try to look into the future.

The Bible also tells us about the future and, unlike the other "methods," we can rely on it to tell us the truth!

I. Where not to go for information

A. Deuteronomy 18:21 & 22 give us the main test for a prophet whether he is true or false. What is the test?

B. 2 Thessalonians 2:2 says we should not believe what message?

C. According to Matthew 24:23-26, how might we be deceived by false teachers?

D. In 2 Timothy 2:17 & 18, what false message had some been proclaiming?

II. Does the Bible pass the "test," given above for true prophecy? Let's look at some predictions it has made of Christ's first coming and their fulfillment.

A. Beside each Old Testament reference on the left, write the New Testament reference from the right hand column which fulfilled it.

Psalm 16:9 & 10

Matthew 1:23

Isaiah 7:14

Matthew 2:1

Isaiah 40:3

Matthew 3:3

Isaiah 61:1 & 2

Matthew 21:5

Micah 5:2

Luke 4:17-21

Zechariah 9:9

Acts 2:26-32

B. This is only a very small sampling of prophecies made in the Bible which have ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED. Can we expect that the rest will also come true?

III. A very important subject in Old Testament prophecies is called “the Day of the Lord.”

If you have a concordance and look up how often this phrase is used, you will see that it seems to be given a lot of attention. Some things related to this “Day” have already been fulfilled but many others still await fulfillment.

A. Part of the “agenda” for the day of the Lord is the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. In fact, Paul uses that very expression to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. Beside each reference below, write what he says about it:

1 Thessalonians 5:2

1 Thessalonians 2:2

B. And Peter, in 2 Peter 3:10, repeats the statement of one of those verses. What does he say?

IV. The return of Jesus Christ to the planet earth is stated as a definite fact - in fact, a promise. Read what the following verses say about it:

A. Acts 1:11 - Who said these words, to whom? How was His coming back described here?

B. John 14:3 - Who is speaking here? What does He say in addition to the fact that he is coming back?

C. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 - What will be heard when Jesus comes again?

D. Revelation 1:7 - Who will see Him when He comes back?

V. “Signs” pointing to the coming back of Jesus Christ

The Bible states that certain things will happen shortly before and at the time Jesus returns. Let’s look at some of these: (In the Gospels, Matthew 24, Mark 13 & Luke 21 deal with this subject.)

A. Looking at Matthew 24,

1. What does verse 5 say to look for?

2. Verses 6 & 7 suggest what kinds of things will be in the news?

3. What will also happen according to verses 10 & 11?

4. Verse 12: What else will happen to many Christians?

5. In verse 14, what good thing will happen at that time?

6. How many of the above happenings do you think are actually occurring today?

B. Next, turn to 2 Timothy 3:1-5 where the apostle Paul in the last letter he wrote describes conditions in the “last days”.

1. List at least 10 things he states in these verses describing “last days” people.

2. Beside each item in the following list, write Paul’s words from those verses which best describe that item.

a. Billions of dollars spent on entertainment -

b. Playing the stock market for all it’s worth -

c. Be good to yourself; “look out for #1” -

d. Large scale abortion figures -

e. Alcohol and drug addiction -

f. Large numbers of lawsuits between people -

g. Total disrespect and disregard for authority -

h. Ridiculing religion and belief in God -

i. Churches where the Bible is not really taught nor the Gospel preached -

VI. What are some things that will happen when Jesus comes again?

A. 1 Corinthians 15:51 - What will happen to all Christians, dead or alive?

B. Next, look at 1 Thessalonians 4:16 & 17.

1. What is the first action stated in these verses?

2. What will be the first thing to happen from earth?

3. What will happen then?

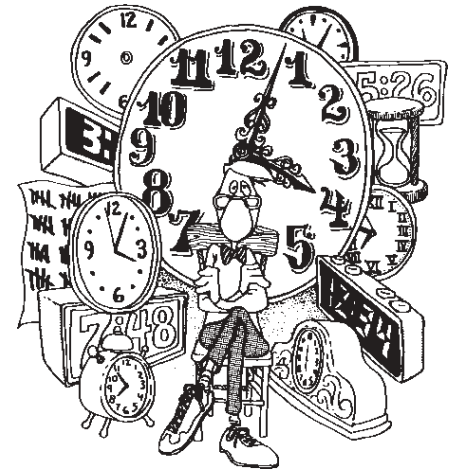
C. 2 Thessalonians 2 gives us some more details that will happen about the same time.

1. What does Paul say here must happen before that “day” comes? (verse 3)

2. What title does John give this person in 1 John 2:18?
3. Why is he called by that title?
4. Back to 2 Thess. 2, what does verse 9 say about the source of his power, etc.?
5. What will this person have the power (or ability) to do? (verse 9)
6. How does verse 4 describe this man's attitude towards God?

VII. Well, then, why is it taking so long? In 2 Peter 3:3-10, the apostle Peter describes the Second Coming and some people's reactions to it.

- A. How are these people described in verse 3, and what is their main interest?
- B. What do they say about Christ's promise of His coming again? (verse 4)
- C. What does time mean to God, according to verse 8?
- D. Verse 9: If God is not slow to keep His promises, then what is the reason for this long delay?



VIII. What does the Second Coming of Jesus Christ mean for the Christian?

- A. According to 2 Peter 3:11 & 12, how should our lives be affected by the Second Coming?
- B. Look at 1 John 2:28. What attitude should be the way we face His coming?
- C. What is the opposite attitude we do not want to be experiencing?
- D. John goes on to say (1 John 3:2) that we will experience two things when Jesus comes again. What are these two mentioned here?
- E. Revelation 22:12 tells about something else the Christian will have on that day. What is it?

F. In 2 Timothy 4:8, what name does Paul give to the Christian's reward?

G. In Matthew 25:21 & 23, find and write the encouraging words which will go with the giving of rewards.

H. And finally back to 2 Peter 3:13, what else does the Christian look forward to, and how is it going to be different from his/her present experience?

I. Paul sums it all up in Titus 2:13 by saying we are waiting for (looking for) what?

IX. Christ's Second Coming is also a time of JUDGMENT, and we will now conclude by looking briefly at this angle.

A. Revelation 20:11-15 describes the great judgment that is coming.

1. Who are to be judged at that time?
2. What will be the basis for judgment?
3. What sentence will be carried out on those found guilty?
4. What is the only way this passage suggests avoiding that sentence?



B. 2 Corinthians 5:10 tells about another judgment which involves Christians this time. What is the basis for judgment this time?

C. 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 says more about this judgment.

1. What is this judgment about as stated here?
2. What might a Christian lose at this judgment?
3. How is this loss described?
4. Can a Christian gain or lose his/her salvation at this judgment? Study verse 15 for your answer.
5. How do verses 10-12 describe our life's work, and what kind of things are mentioned that would survive the judgment?



SURVEYING THE SCRIPTURES - BOOKS OF LAW AND HISTORY

In this unit of study, we will be looking over large areas of the Bible to discover what general themes are there and how these truths can be applied to our lives in the present time.

In studying the 17 books of Law and History, we are actually covering the entire time period of the Old Testament. To help you get the whole picture of this time period, this lesson includes a "time-line". Refer to it as you study the sequence of events; notice also where the books of the OT come on the line.

The Books of Law (Genesis to Deuteronomy)

These books lay the foundation for our understanding of the rest of the Bible so that every important teaching can be found here, stated or illustrated. For example, we can only fully understand what Christ's death on the cross means when we look at the background of the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis, the Passover in Exodus, the system of sacrifice in Leviticus, etc.

These books are mainly to teach us about God so that we may know Him in a definite way. As He communicates with mankind and expresses His will and commands to men, we can come to know much about Him. Though we have already had a lesson about God in this course, we will now look particularly at what the books of Law tell us about who God is and what He does.

I. Who God Is...

A. In Genesis 14:19, what title is given to God?

B. What does this title suggest about God's right to rule over His creation?

C. In Genesis 15:1, God tells Abraham that He is two things. What are they?

- 1.
- 2.

D. What do these two things say about God's purposes for mankind, including yourself?

E. Genesis 16:13 quotes Hagar as calling God what title?

F. How would that title encourage her and also yourself?

G. If you gave God a "special name" based on what you know of Him in your personal experience, what would that name be?

H. In Exodus 3:6, how does God identify Himself to Moses?

I. What does this show about God's desire to be linked with man?

II. What God Does...

In these books, God expresses Himself through explaining His purposes, giving some promises and establishing a relationship based on a covenant or several covenants.

A. In Genesis 1:26 & 28 what was God's purpose for man in general?

B. In Genesis 6:13, 17-18 what did God tell Noah about His purpose for bringing the flood on the earth?

C. What covenant-promise did God make with Noah after the flood? (See Genesis 9:8-11.)



D. Genesis 12:2 & 3 gives one of God's most important promises in all of the Scripture. Describe its importance by answering the following:

1. What would happen to Abraham himself?

2. How would other people regard Abraham?

3. How does God identify Himself with Abraham's people?

4. How large of a group of people would be affected by what happened to Abraham?

5. What is the final meaning of this promise of blessing for all? (See Galatians 3:8, 9 & 14 to help you.)

E. In Genesis 45:7, what was God's purpose in allowing Joseph to go through what he did?

F. Exodus 9:16 states what purpose for God's dealings with Pharaoh in Egypt?

G. And in Exodus 9:29, what does God want people to know through His acts?

H. From these last three answers, what can you learn personally about God and His dealings with you and others?

I. The Book of Deuteronomy is, in a special way, the Book of God's Covenant with His people. What do the following verses say about God's or man's part in this covenant?

- Deut. 4:2 -
- Deut. 4:9 -
- Deut. 4:23 -
- Deut. 4:31 -
- Deut. 6:23 -
- Deut. 7:7 & 8 -
- Deut. 7:19 -
- Deut. 15:6 -
- Deut. 30:19 & 20 -



THE BOOKS OF HISTORY (Joshua to Esther)

Just as the books of Law show us what God wants us to know about Himself through His names, commands, laws and covenant, so the books of History emphasize the lives of real people and how they responded to what they knew of God in

either a good or a bad way.



For each name and reference listed below, write:

1. How the verses describe the person
2. What that person's life can teach you about your personal walk with God

The first one is done for you as an example.

A. Joshua (Joshua 24:15)

1. Committed to serving the Lord with his household.
2. I need to make such a determined stand to serve Him.

B. Achan (Joshua 7:25)

- 1.
- 2.

C. Caleb (Joshua 14:8, 9, 14)

- 1.
- 2.

D. Gideon (Judges 6:12)

- 1.
- 2.

E. Samson (Judges 16:20)

- 1.
- 2.

F. Jewish Nation (Judges 21:25)

- 1.
- 2.

G. Ruth (Ruth 1:16 & 17)

- 1.
- 2.

H. Samuel (1 Samuel 3:19-21)

- 1.
- 2.

I. Saul (1 Samuel 13:13 & 14; 15:22 & 23)

- 1.
- 2.

J. David (1 Kings 14:8; Acts 13:22)

- 1.
- 2.

K. Solomon (1 Kings 10:23 & 24; Nehemiah 13:26)

- 1.
- 2.

L. Jeroboam (1 Kings 14:15; 15:30)

- 1.
- 2.

M. Ahab (1 Kings 16:30-33)

- 1.
- 2.

N. Asa (1 Kings 15:14)

- 1.
- 2.

O. Elijah (1 Kings 17:24)

- 1.
- 2.

P. Elisha (2 Kings 4:8 & 9)

- 1.
- 2.

Q. Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:3, 5-7)

- 1.
- 2.

R. Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1, 2, 6, 9)

- 1.
- 2.



S. Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 17:6, 20:30)

- 1.
- 2.

T. Ezra (Ezra 7:6)

- 1.
- 2.

U. Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:8; 13:14)

- 1.
- 2.

Life Application - SURVEY OF LAW AND HISTORY

No month-long journal to write this time! Does that make you feel good? Instead here is what we'd like you to do:

1. Read over the following comparisons of a command or principle stated in the books of Law and the example of obedience or disobedience to it from the books of History.
2. Choose three of these comparisons. For each of those three, write a paragraph telling of how you have responded to that command or principle and what you have learned from the Bible example of the person who responded to it.
3. **Turn in these paragraphs with your lesson.**

For example: You may take the command of Exodus 20:17 against coveting and tell of a time when you were tempted to covet something that someone else had or when you actually did covet it. Using the example of Ahab's coveting the vineyard, you might learn the lesson of the danger of letting a coveting spirit take its natural course, where you might even "destroy" the other person in order to get it.

LAW

Exodus 20:17 - Command not to covet anything belonging to another.

Exodus 20:12 - Command to honor one's father and mother.

Exodus 23:2 - Principle stated - Do not follow a crowd to do evil.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 - Principle - Our responsibility is to pass on the knowledge we have of God to others for whom we are answerable.

Deuteronomy 8:12-14 - Warning against success leading to pride and an attitude of self-sufficiency.

Deuteronomy 6:24 & 25 - God urges His people to obey all His commands always.

HISTORY

1 Kings 21 - King Ahab's coveting of the vineyard belonging to Naboth and what he did to get it.

2 Samuel 15 - Absalom's rejection of and rebellion against his father, David.

2 Chronicles 24:17 & 18 - Joash is persuaded by officials to leave God and His ways.

Judges 2:10 - A new generation growing up with no knowledge of God. Results seen in the rest of the book of Judges.

2 Chronicles 32:25 - Even the good king Hezekiah had a pride problem.

1 Samuel 15 - Saul disobeys a command & tries to cover sin with sacrifice. Vs. 22 reminds that obedience is better than an act of sacrifice.

SURVEYING THE SCRIPTURES BOOKS OF POETRY AND PROPHECY



In this lesson, we continue looking at large sections of the Bible discovering what great themes are there and what we can gain from them in a more specific study. As always, we want to relate these truths to our own lives and learn to live in application of them.

This study covers the books from Job to Malachi, a total of 22 books. There is very little historical narrative here, but all of these books come in the framework of the period of history already covered from Genesis to Esther. These books give us a fascinating picture of what people said and how they felt as they looked forward to those events of history, lived through those events or looked back on them.

I. THE BOOKS OF POETRY (Job to Song of Solomon)

Most poetry, from whatever people, expresses what is in the heart and mind of the writer. A great poet will actually make you feel as he feels when he writes it whether the feelings are those of gladness, sorrow, anger, fear, victory, discouragement, gratitude or whatever else. Hebrew poetry is especially expressive and beautiful, but remember it loses something by being in English instead of the original Hebrew. Here, perhaps more than any other section of the Bible, it is valuable to read in several different versions to see which one (or ones) best expresses it to you.

A. JOB

1. The first two chapters tell us the circumstances under which the rest of the book happened. In your own words, tell briefly the main problem which Job had to deal with.

2. As you read the following verses, state what feeling Job was expressing in them:

a. 3:25 & 26

b. 6:8 & 9

c. 7:4

d. 9:33 & 34

e. 19:25 & 26

f. 23:15 & 16

3. How many of these feelings can you identify within your own experience?

4. How might the story of Job help you through the worst of these feelings?

B. PSALMS

1. This was the "song book" of the Jewish people; but more, it gives us the whole range of Hebrew poetry and of every kind of human feeling and emotion. As we read many of the Psalms, we can clearly picture in our minds the very thoughts and feelings of the writers. Let us look first at some examples of Hebrew poetry. (To answer the following questions, do not write the whole verse but only what is asked for!)



- a. Sometimes the two lines in a verse say the same thing but perhaps in a slightly different way. In Psalm 19:1, what words from each half of the verse mean basically the same thing?

What words are similar from each half of Psalm 15:1?

- b. Sometimes the two lines will say the opposite thing as in these examples:
What contrasts can you find in the lines of Psalm 20:7?

What is being contrasted in Psalm 1:6?

- c. Sometimes the two lines will be about the same subject but the second adds something to the first.

What is the main subject of Psalm 29:4, and what two things are said about it?

In Psalm 118:8 & 9, what is the main subject, and what is added in verse 9?

- d. Sometimes a phrase will be repeated in several verses together or several times in a psalm.

In Psalm 115:9-11, what are the repeated words?

In Psalms 42 & 43, what verse is repeated three times over? (Just give the reference of the verses.)

In your own words, what is the subject of this repeated verse?

2. What were the actual circumstances of writing some of the Psalms? For each of the following references, write briefly what you think may have been happening when the writer wrote it.

Ps 3:1 & 2 -

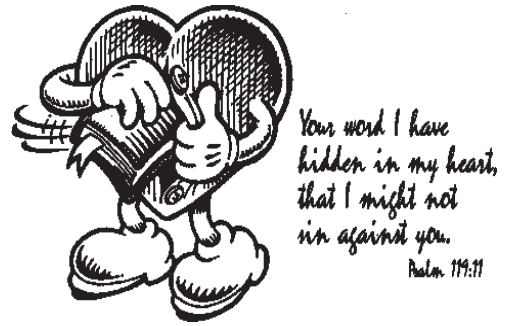
Ps 6:1-3 -

Ps 8:1-9 -

Ps 32:1-5 -

Ps 52:1-4 -

Ps 73:1-14 -



3. The Psalms also looked ahead to the time when Christ would come. With each of these references, tell what event in the life of Christ is being prophesied.

Ps 16:10 -

Ps 22:1 -

Ps 22:7 & 8 -

Ps 69:20 & 21 -

C. THE "WISDOM" LITERATURE: PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, SONG OF SOLOMON

1. What do the following verses from Proverbs say about wisdom itself?

Prov. 2:6 -

Prov. 2:12 -

Prov. 3:13 & 14 -

Prov. 3:19 -

Prov. 4:7 -

Prov. 9:10 -



2. What subject is dealt with in each of the following verses/passages?

Prov. 1:10-16 -

Prov. 6:9-11 -

Prov. 6:20-26 -

Prov. 10:19 -

Prov. 11:13 -

Prov. 14:29 -

Prov. 16:11 -

Prov. 19:17 -

3. What words can you find in the following verses in Ecclesiastes which show a pessimistic (looking on the bad side) of life? Use one word or phrase for each.

Eccl. 1:2 -

Eccl. 1:13 -

Eccl. 4:1 -

Eccl. 5:10 -

Eccl. 6:12 -

Eccl. 8:7 -

In your own words, why do you think the writer felt that way about life?

II. THE BOOKS OF PROPHECY

A. The prophets' messages generally emphasized two main themes: God's judgment for their sins and restoration after the judgments. For each of the following, indicate which of these is the subject there. You could use the initials J or R.

Isaiah 10:1-4

Isaiah 2:3 & 4

Jeremiah 31:3

Jeremiah 8:20-9:3

Amos 3:1-6

Joel 2:25

Micah 7:18

Haggai 1:5-11

Zeph. 3:17

B. Another important topic in the prophets was the coming of Christ (the Messiah). What do each of the following verses predict about Him?

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 53:1-12

Micah 5:2

Zechariah 9:9

Zechariah 11:12 & 13

Malachi 4:5

WONDERFUL • COUNSELOR • THE MIGHTY GOD • KING OF KINGS • MESSIAH

A large, stylized cursive script of the name 'Jesus' in white, set against a solid black rectangular background. The script is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the word.

THE GREAT I AM • EVERLASTING FATHER • LORD OF LORDS • PRINCE OF PEACE

C. Many of the prophets used natural things to illustrate or explain their messages. In each of the following passages, what is being used to teach some spiritual truth?

Jeremiah 13:1-11

Jeremiah 19:1-11

Jeremiah 24:1-10

Ezekiel 15:1-6

Ezekiel 34:1-10

Hosea 6:4

Joel 1:1-7

Amos 8:1 & 2

LIFE APPLICATION

Study of Old Testament Poetry & Prophecy Books

Use only the book of Psalms for this assignment.

Imagine that THREE of the situations below are true for you. For each one, look up some verses from the Psalms which would express how you might feel about that situation, how you would call upon God to help you and how you would thank Him for His help. Write out these verses in full to compile your personal psalm. When you write them up to hand in, be sure you put the reference for each verse you have copied in the margin next to that verse. Each "psalm" should be at least TEN verses. In each case, a sample verse reference is given to help you get started.

EXAMPLE: Read Jonah 2:1-9. When Jonah was in the fish's stomach, he mostly used verses from the Psalms to express himself. And he didn't even need to look 'em up!

SITUATIONS

1. For some reason, which may or may not have been your own fault, it seems that everyone at school has turned against you. Some kids falsely accuse you, make jokes at your expense and try to make you look stupid, while the rest just ignore you. You are really discouraged. (Psalm 55:1-3)
2. Your dad has just had a transfer by his international company to another country. He is taking his family with him (including you!). The trouble is that country is strongly atheistic (nobody believes in God) and there is a lot of violent crime there. You are afraid. (Psalm 53:1)
3. You take a trip to the mountains and suddenly you are overwhelmed with the greatness of God in creation; and this in turn reminds you of His goodness to you personally. You just want to praise Him, but at the same time you know that you need His forgiveness for some particular sins in your life. (Psalm 19:1, 12-14)
4. You are thinking ahead to finishing high school and going to college. You know you will really need God's help to keep close to Him, to keep a high priority on His Word, prayer and all that. Your past record in these things hasn't been too good, and it won't get any easier. (Psalm 119:9 & 10)
5. You have been given the responsibility of teaching a class, children or adults. All those in the class are new Christians, so they don't know much about the Lord. You need to encourage them, from your own experience and in other ways, to learn more about Him, to obey Him and to please Him. (Psalm 34:11)





SURVEYING THE SCRIPTURES - THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

In this lesson we are taking a "bird's eye view" of large sections of Scripture to catch the general themes, etc.

Now, we come to what may be called the "most important" part of the whole Bible: the Gospels and the Book of Acts. Here we have the account of the actual coming of Christ into our world to fulfill all that was written about Him in the Old Testament. We look at the account of His birth, life, death and resurrection and then the amazing results which followed over the next few years through His followers as the Church was begun.

I. THE GOSPELS

A. The New Testament begins with an account of the life of Christ, presented as a four-fold view to show us what He was like in a more complete way than one account could do. Study the chart below, then answer the questions which follow.

<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Jesus Seen As</u>	<u>Written For</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>	<u>Key Verse</u>
Matthew	King	Jews	Kingdom, Teaching	1:1
Mark	Servant	Romans	Action, Works	10:45
Luke	Perfect Man	Greeks	Human Links	2:52
John	God	All The World	"I Am's" (Proofs leading to belief in Him.)	20:31

B. The Old Testament has four important predictions about Christ's coming under the figure of THE BRANCH. Look up these references, and write beside each one the Gospel which tells about it, using as clues the column above.

1. Isaiah 4:2 -
2. Zechariah 3:8 -
3. Jeremiah 23:5 -
4. Zechariah 6:12 & 13 -

C. Look up the following verses, and write why each illustrates the main idea of that Gospel book.

1. Matthew 2:2 -
2. Matthew 5:3 -

3. Matthew 25:34 -
4. Mark 1:32-34 -
5. Mark 9:35 -
6. Mark 10:45 -
7. Luke 2:52 -
8. Luke 5:27-32 -
9. Luke 19:10 -
10. John 1:1 -
11. John 5:17 & 18 -
12. John 20:31 -

C. Now, turn to either the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) or the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), and briefly tell how that parable shows Jesus' interest in people.

D. Then, for each of the following, write (a.) what Jesus claims to be in that verse and (b.) what need we have which Jesus meets by that claim. The first one is done for you.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. John 6:35 | (a.)
Bread of Life | (b.)
We are spiritually hungry. |
| 2. John 8:12 | | |
| 3. John 10:7 & 9 | | |
| 4. John 10:11 & 14 | | |
| 5. John 11:25 | | |
| 6. John 14:6 | | |
| 7. John 15:1 & 5 | | |

E. What do these passages say to you about Jesus?

II. THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

This book tells the exciting story of what happened in the first 30 years or so after the death and resurrection of Christ. It tells about the beginning of the Church of which we, Christians, are a part. The book does not have a natural ending since its story is still going on. Let's see, then, how it began.

A. Acts 1:8 has been called the "key verse" of the whole book. As you read this verse, answer the following questions.

1. What was to be their main occupation?
2. How would they be equipped to do this?
3. Where were they to go?

*Acts is primarily about two main characters and what they did:

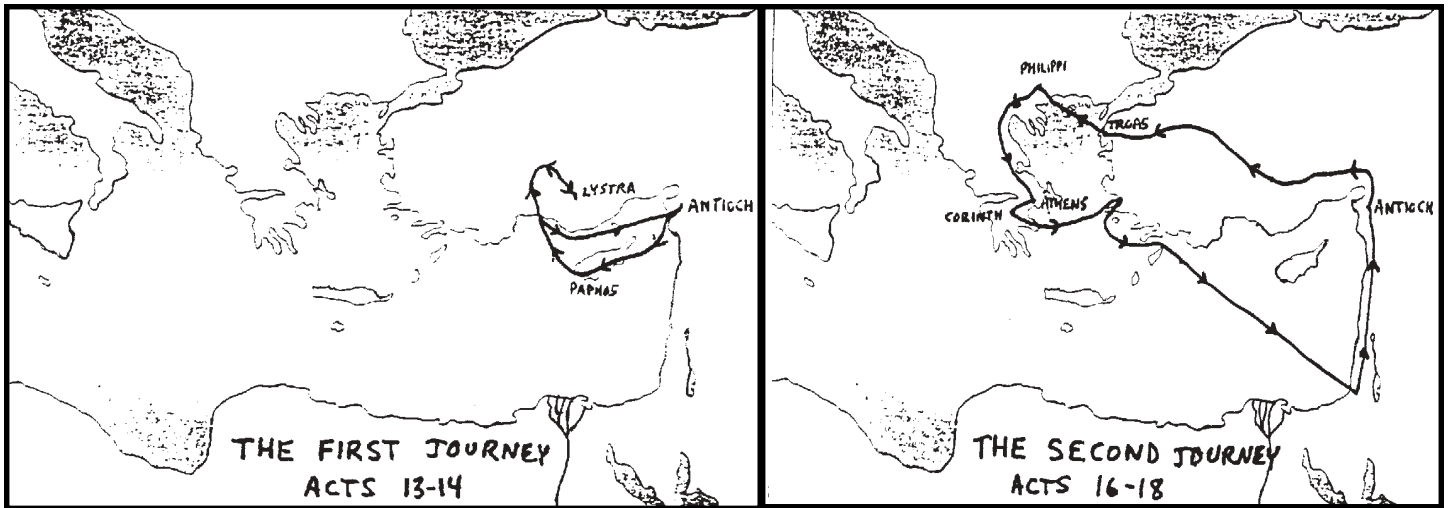
B. PETER is important in chapters 1 to 12. Briefly write what the following verses tell us about him (his character, etc.).

1. Acts 2:14 -
2. Acts 3:6 -
3. Acts 4:8 & 13 -
4. Acts 9:36-42 -
5. Acts 10:9-29 -
6. Acts 12:1-17 -

C. From chapter 13 on, PAUL becomes the important character, though the story of his persecution of the church and his wonderful conversion to Christ were already given in chapters 8 & 9. We now turn our attention to his great missionary journeys.

1. FIRST JOURNEY (Chapters 13 & 14)

- a. What good thing happened at Paphos? (13:6, 7, 12)
(Note: The proconsul (NIV) or deputy (KJV) means the governor.)
- b. What strange thing happened at Lystra? (14:8-13)
- c. What happened soon after that? (14:19)

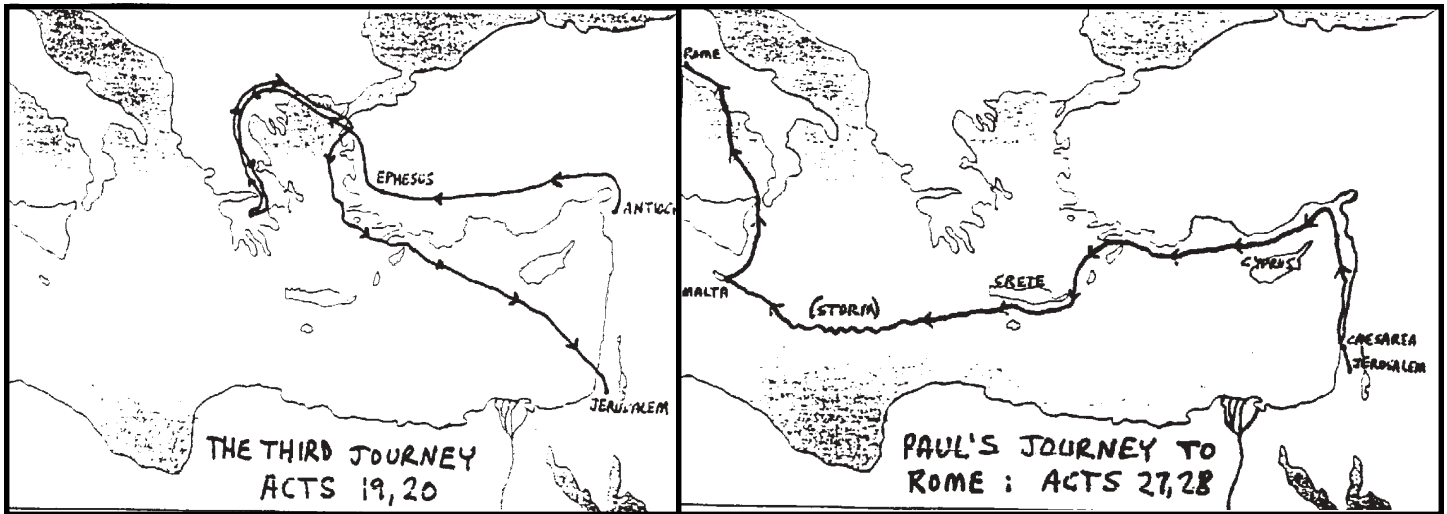


2. SECOND JOURNEY (Chapters 16-18)

- a. How does 16:6-10 show us the way Paul was guided where to go?
- b. Briefly tell what happened at Philippi as written in 16:22-34.
- c. What struck Paul's attention the most in Athens? (17:16, 22, 23)
- d. How is this similar or different from today?
- e. Read 18:9-11. What special encouragement did Paul receive in Corinth?
- f. How long did he spend there?

3. THIRD JOURNEY (Chapters 19 & 20)

- a. Where was the place Paul stayed for most of his third journey?
- b. From 19:8-41, briefly describe his stay in this city.



Then, in chapter 21, Paul went back to Jerusalem where he was arrested by some of the Jews who hated him, and then the Romans took him into their "protective custody". He went through several trials. Then the book ends with his journey to Rome and the beginning of his stay there as a prisoner.

4. PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

What exciting event is the main subject of chapter 27?

5. SUMMARY of the Book of Acts

- a. Read 2:41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 9:35 & 42. What do all these verses emphasize about the results of the preaching of the Gospel?

- b. There is a lot of suffering for Christ and for the Gospel described in this book. How did suffering affect the early Christians? (See 4:18-20; 5:41 & 42; 8:1-4 for your answer.)

- c. Do Christians suffer today? If so, how?

- d. Do you suffer? How does or would this affect you?



SURVEYING THE SCRIPTURES

N.T. LETTERS & REVELATION

Our last lesson continues the plan of looking at large areas of the Bible at a time to find their major themes and see how they apply to us today. This lesson covers most of the New Testament - the 21 letters & the Book of Revelation.

To begin our study, it will be helpful to divide all those letters into natural groups as follows:

Paul's Letters: 13 = 9 Church letters + 4 Individual letters

Others' Letters: 8 = 2 by Peter + 3 by John + 1 by James + 1 by Jude + Hebrews (We don't know who wrote it.)

I. PAUL'S CHURCH LETTERS

(Romans to 2 Thessalonians)

A. Each statement below relates to the main theme of one of these books. Look up the references given just below the collection of statements and write beside each statement the reference which best matches that statement. The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Ministry or service for Christ | 2 Cor. 4:1 |
| 2. Rejoice in Christ | _____ |
| 3. Looking for the Coming | _____ |
| 4. A "different Gospel" (or "another Gospel") | _____ |
| 5. Quarrels (KJV says divisions) | _____ |
| 6. Christ is Supreme! | _____ |
| 7. God's Power in Salvation | _____ |
| 8. Answering concerns about the Second Coming | _____ |
| 9. The Church and its importance | _____ |

References: Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:11; 2 Cor. 4:1; Gal. 1:6; Eph. 1:22 & 23; Phil. 1:18; Col. 2:9 & 10; 1 Thess. 1:9 & 10; 2 Thess. 2:1 & 2

Of these letters, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians (along with Philemon from the next section) are called the "prison letters" because Paul wrote them from prison.

II. PAUL'S INDIVIDUAL LETTERS

(1 Timothy to Philemon)

Briefly write what each of the following verses tell about Timothy, Titus or Philemon.

1 Timothy 1:2-

1 Timothy 1:3-

1 Timothy 4:12-

2 Timothy 1:5-

2 Timothy 1:6-

Titus 1:4-

Titus 1:5-

Philemon 1 -

Philemon 2-

III. LETTERS WRITTEN BY OTHERS

(Hebrews to Jude)

A. Using the same instructions as for Paul's church letters, match the key statements below with the reference from the list to which they belong.

1. Standing through Suffering _____
2. Walking in the Truth _____
3. Faith really Works! _____
4. Imitate Good Examples _____
5. Jesus, the Better Way _____
6. Kept for Heaven in an Evil World _____
7. Walking in the Light _____
8. Promises Keep Us Pure _____

References: Heb. 7:22; James 2:17; 1 Peter 2:20; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 1:7; 2 John 4; 3 John 11; Jude 24

B. Finally for one last look at this whole important section of the Bible with its encouragement and practical teaching about Christian living, let us this time look up some of the important chapters we should be able to find quickly. The statements below could be considered as “titles” for the chapters referred to. As you did before, fill in beside each title the chapter from the list to which it refers. The first is done for you.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Faith wins big victories! | Hebrews 11 |
| 2. There’s a war going on! | _____ |
| 3. Resurrection is for Real! | _____ |
| 4. Caution: False Teachers at Work! | _____ |
| 5. Justified: Made Right with God | _____ |
| 6. Take Control of Your Tongue! | _____ |
| 7. God’s Power Keeps Us Going | _____ |
| 8. Christ: Humbled and Exalted | _____ |
| 9. Love is Most Important! | _____ |
| 10. Generous Giving | _____ |
| 11. Christ’s Sacrifice Completely Satisfies! | _____ |
| 12. No condemnation - no separation! | _____ |
| 13. The Christian is a soldier, athlete, workman... | _____ |

Chapters: Romans 4, Romans 8, 1 Cor. 13, 1 Cor. 15, 2 Cor. 4, 2 Cor. 8 & 9, Ephesians 6, Philippians 2, 2 Timothy 2, Hebrews 10, Hebrews 11, James 3, 2 Peter 2

IV. REVELATION

Now we come to the last book of the Bible. Revelation is truly the “only one of its kind” in more ways than just the fact it’s the only prophecy book in the New Testament. It describes scenes and events which are still future to us and in language that often sounds strange and mysterious. Many people are curious about this Book and want someone to tell them all the answers while others just ignore it figuring it is just too hard to understand. BUT a special blessing is promised to those who read it (see 1:3), and there is a lot we can get out of it even if we cannot understand everything!



A. In order to get something out of Revelation, it is helpful to have a rough outline of the book. Listed below are the divisions in the outline with chapter numbers. Look at the list on the right and choose the correct title to go with each division on the left. (Sorry if you are tired of this kind of question - just one more time!)

1. Chapter 1	Introduction	Final Judgments
2. Ch. 2 & 3	_____	God's Final Plan with His People
3. Ch. 4 & 5	_____	God's Victory
4. Ch. 6-11	_____	Introduction
5. Ch. 12 & 13	_____	Judgments on Earth
6. Ch. 14 & 15	_____	Messages to Churches
7. Ch. 16-18	_____	Satan and His People
8. Ch. 19-22	_____	Worship in Heaven

B. But Revelation is not just a book about judgment as many might think. Read the passages below and then write in the space provided at least one other title which may be suggested by those passages.

References: 4:8-11; 5:8-13; 7:10-12; 11:15-18; 12:10; 14:3; 15:3 & 4; 19:1-7

Your title: (or more than one if you wish)

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

C. Again, since this is a "revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1), there are many descriptions of Him including names and titles, some of which are not found anywhere else. For each verse below, list the name(s) or title(s) of Jesus Christ given in that verse.

1:5 -

1:8 -

5:5 -

6:1 -

17:14 -

19:11 -

19:13 -

22:16 -

And with that, you have completed the final year of Christian Life Foundations. Thank you for doing these lessons. I trust they have been a blessing to you and helped you to grow in your Christian life.

As we say “good-bye,” I want to express to you the blessing found in the beautiful words of Psalm 20:1-4. They are my wish for you!

May the Lord answer you when you are in distress;

May the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

May He send you help from the sanctuary
and grant you support from Zion.

May He remember all your sacrifices
and accept your burnt offerings.

May He give you the desire of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.

