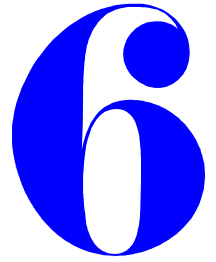


**INTERNATIONAL MESSENGERS  
ENGLISH READING TIME - #6**



**TEACHER'S EDITION - New Living Translation**

**STUDY 1: WHO IS THIS GUY?**

*Mark 4:35-41*

FAITH VS BELIEF

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

**Background:** Jesus had been teaching large crowds of people who were gathered along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. To avoid the press of the crowd, Jesus spoke from a fishing boat anchored just offshore. When evening came and the crowd broke up, Jesus and His disciples (His twelve closest followers) used the boat to cross over to the other side of the sea. Several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen and experienced sailors.

The Sea of Galilee is located in a valley surrounded by high mountains. Sudden, violent storms on this lake are common. The violent winds and large waves created by such storms could have easily sunk the small wooden fishing boats used by the local fishermen.

**Questions:**

1. When did they cross the lake? (v. 35)
2. What caused the disciples to become afraid? (v. 37)
3. Where was Jesus when the storm started? (v. 38)
4. What emotions did the disciples feel as the storm raged on and on? What did they think of Jesus sleeping in the back of the boat?

5. Why did they wake Him up? To do what?
  
6. How did Jesus save the disciples from dying? What do you think they expected Him to do?
  
7. Was Jesus surprised that the disciples were afraid? Why? (v. 40)
  
8. Did the disciples believe Jesus was in the boat with them? Did that belief affect their lives during the storm?
  
9. What does the word “faith” mean in this story? (v. 40) How is this definition different from belief?
  
10. If the disciples could have looked at the storm through Jesus' eyes, what would they have seen?
  
11. What does this story reveal about Jesus? What do you think the disciples told their wives or friends that evening?
  
12. What storms in your life cause you to fear? Who is in your boat that you can trust to help you in any storm?
  
13. How do you learn to trust someone? What risk is there in trusting another person? What risk is there in trusting God's Son, Jesus Christ?

## STUDY 2: WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS HE REALLY LIKE?

*Luke 15:1-2, 11-24*

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

WHAT IS GOD REALLY LIKE AND  
ARE HIS WAYS BARRIERS TO FENCE  
US IN OR TO PROTECT US?

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

**Background:** The Jewish religious leaders (Pharisees and teachers of religious law) of Jesus' day looked with contempt (scorn) upon people they considered to be "sinners." Jesus taught, healed, and freely socialized with these people, causing a great uproar (commotion) among the Jewish leaders.

Just before this passage, the Pharisees and teachers of religious law see Jesus with a crowd of such people, and openly criticize Him for His choice of company. Jesus answers the Pharisees and teachers of religious law by telling them three stories, or parables, which illustrate God's compassion for sinners. This passage is taken from the third parable, which is often called "The Parable of the Prodigal Son." In this parable, the father represents God.

**Cultural Context:** According to Jewish custom, a father could hand down his possessions to his heirs by drawing up a will or by assigning them as gifts. It was most common for an inheritance (estate) to be distributed to the heirs after the father's death. But, in some cases, the father actually handed over the allotment before his death.

Jewish dietary laws (kosher laws) restricted them from eating pork, as they do today. Feeding pigs would have been one of the lowest forms of work imaginable to a Jewish person.

The robe, ring and sandals given by the father to his younger son were symbols of honor and authority. The "fatted calf" was killed and prepared only for very special occasions.

**Questions:**

1. What complaint did the Pharisees and teachers of the law have against Jesus? (vv. 1, 2)
2. Why do you think this bothered them?
3. Why do you think the son decided to leave home? Make a list of possible reasons.

4. What wisdom did the father show in giving the son his part of the estate?
5. How did the son change through this story? What stages did he go through? What brought about each of these changes?
6. What surprises you about the way the father acted? How do his reactions differ from normal "human nature"?
7. When do you think the father's forgiveness began? What did the son have to do to be forgiven? To know he was forgiven?
8. How did the son's definition of freedom change?
9. The father in this parable represents God, as Jesus wanted to teach what God's character toward sinners really was. What did He teach in this parable about the character of God and the character of God's love? Make a list.
10. What aspects of God's character did you learn today?
11. How did this parable answer the Pharisees' criticism of Jesus? Read Matthew 9:12, 13.
12. Do you think it was difficult for the son not to be punished for what he had done?
13. Define grace. Why is grace hard to accept?

### STUDY 3: A RADICAL REBUKE FOR CONDEMNING MEN

*John 8:1-11*

THE HEART OF JESUS FOR THE LOST

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

**Background:** The Jewish religious leaders (teachers of religious law and Pharisees) were opposed to Jesus' teaching. Just before this passage, a group of angry Jewish leaders were arguing over what to do about Jesus. They were looking for ways to trap Him into doing or saying something against the Jewish religious law so they could arrest Him.

**Cultural Context:** The sin committed by this woman was adultery. The Jewish law concerning adultery, which the religious leaders refer to in this passage, required that a warning be issued before anyone was accused or punished for adultery. It also required that both the man and woman caught in adultery were to be formally brought to court. Once caught, it was customary for the man and woman to be held in custody while the case was tried. The Jewish leaders violated numerous aspects of this law in their treatment of the woman in this incident (Lev 20:10).

**Terms:** Pharisees: Jewish religious leaders, many of whom opposed Jesus.

Temple: The Jewish center of worship which also served as a public meeting place.

Mount of Olives: An area near Jerusalem.

Moses: The great leader and lawgiver of the nation of Israel.

**Questions:**

1. Who are the main characters in this story? (vv. 1-3)

2. What is the setting and time of day for this story? (v. 2)

3. Tell the story in your own words. (as a class)
  
4. Why were the Pharisees asking Jesus these questions? (vv. 5, 6)
  
5. What statement did Jesus make to quiet them? (v. 7)
  
6. Why do you think the older men went away first?
  
7. List the differences between how Jesus acted toward the woman and the way the religious leaders acted toward her.
  
8. What surprises you about Jesus' tenderness and respect for this woman?
  
9. Jesus told the woman not to sin again in this way. Did this show His love for her? What are the harmful effects of adultery that Jesus didn't want her to experience again? (John 10:10)
  
10. How do you think this woman was affected by this encounter with Jesus?
  
11. Read John 3:17, 18. How are these verses consistent with today's study?

## STUDY 4: RESULTS OF FAITH IN JESUS

*Luke 7:1-10*

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVE TRUST  
TO PLEASING GOD

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

Background: The officer was the commander of 100 men in the Roman army. He and his troops were stationed in Capernaum, a city where Jesus performed many of His miracles. This was a rare officer in that he was actually liked by the Jews in that city. This man may have been an associate member of the local synagogue, even as a Roman. He was certainly a God-seeker at heart.

Questions:

1. Who was sick? How sick was he? (v. 2)
2. Why was the officer so concerned about this slave? (v. 2)
3. Who did the officer send to Jesus? (v. 3)
4. Why didn't the officer himself come to Jesus and ask Him to heal his servant? (v. 7)

5. Why did the Jewish leaders think Jesus should heal the servant? (vv. 4, 5)
  
6. Who else did the officer send out to meet Jesus? (v. 6) What did the officer understand about Jesus? (v. 7)
  
7. What did the officer understand about authority? (v. 8) Why did the officer feel Jesus could heal his servant?
  
8. Why was Jesus amazed with the officer? (v. 9)
  
9. What happened to the officer's servant? (v. 10)
  
10. Why do you think Jesus healed the servant?
  
11. How would you describe the officer's attitude when he asked for Jesus' help?
  
12. Read Romans 1:17 and Hebrews 11:6 about the importance of faith to being right with God.



## STUDY 5: JESUS' REACTION TO DOUBT

*John 20:24-31*

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

JESUS' RESPONSE TO ONE WHO  
SEEKS HIM, BUT DOUBTS

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

Background: The Bible contains four stories of Jesus' life called gospels. Each of the four Gospels concludes with an account of the resurrection of Jesus when He comes back to life after being executed. The Gospel written by John ends with a description of three appearances by Jesus to His disciples after His resurrection.

Just prior to the event in this passage, Jesus has appeared to most of the disciples and has shown them the wounds in His hands and side from His death by crucifixion, to convince them that He is flesh and blood and not a ghost. Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, was not present at Jesus' first appearance.

The hole in Jesus' side was made by the spear of a Roman soldier to be certain He was dead. It was done to all who were crucified to pierce the water sac around the heart and ensure death.

Questions:

1. What proof did Thomas want to convince him that Jesus was alive again? (v. 25)
2. Ten of the disciples had just seen Jesus and talked with Him. How do you think they felt about Thomas' refusal to believe?
3. How do you think Jesus came into the room with the disciples? (v. 26) Why was this necessary?

4. Why do you think He started the conversation with "Peace be with you"? (v. 26)
  
5. What three challenges did Jesus give to Thomas? (v. 27)
  
6. Do you think He was offended or angry? How did He know what Thomas needed to see and do?
  
7. Describe the belief or faith that Thomas had about Jesus after he touched Him. (v. 28) What does LORD mean to you?
  
8. In verse 29, to whom does Jesus promise a special blessing?
  
9. What does this event show us about the way that Jesus responds to doubt in someone who is seeking? Jeremiah 29:13 says, "If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me." Also read Hebrews 11:6.
  
10. If Jesus could answer one doubt you have about Him, what would it be? Have you asked Him for help to overcome that doubt?

## **STUDY 6: JESUS SEES THE HEART OF MAN**

*Luke 7:36-50*

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

IS SINCERITY OF BELIEF ENOUGH TO  
MAKE US ACCEPTABLE TO GOD?

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

**Background:** Jesus was invited to a special dinner party at Simon the Pharisee's house. (A Pharisee was an official known for being a very religious law keeper.) Because of the dusty roads, it was the custom for the host to provide water to wash the guest's feet and a small portion of oil to anoint his head. It was also customary to receive a male guest in your home with a kiss on the cheek. If you had a teacher (rabbi) in your home for dinner, it was normal for people to stop in and listen to the conversation around the table without invitation. Special dinners had couches/recliners around the table for guests to lie on while they ate. This is why Jesus' feet were behind Him at the table. A piece of silver was a coin worth one day's pay. To touch or be touched by any woman who was known as a sinner made one ceremonially unclean. To become clean again required following a detailed list of instructions at the temple involving a sacrifice and the priest.

**Opening:** What customs do you have for receiving a guest into your home?

**Questions:**

1. Who invited Jesus to his house for supper? (v. 36)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Who came to this house without an invitation? Why did she come? (v. 37)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why did Simon doubt that Jesus was a prophet? Why did He think Jesus should stay away from this woman? (v. 39)

4. Did Simon receive Jesus into his home by the normal customs for that time? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What was the purpose of the parable Jesus told to Simon? What question did He ask Simon? (vv. 41, 42)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What did the woman do for Jesus? (vv. 44-47) Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Read James 2:10. In God's eyes, which of these two people had sinned the most?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Why did Jesus forgive this woman's sins? (vv. 47-50) Was it what she did or what she believed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Read John 14:6. If this woman had died that evening, would she have gone to heaven for eternity? How about Simon, the Pharisee law keeper? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. How do these verses help to understand what Jesus was teaching.

## STUDY 7: JESUS, THE ANSWER

*John 3:1-7, 14-21*

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

EXPLAINING THE MYSTERY OF  
BEING BORN AGAIN

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

Background: Nicodemus was a Pharisee who later rebuked his colleagues for condemning Jesus without hearing Him. He also assisted Joseph in burying Jesus after His crucifixion. He was one of the 70 members of the Sanhedrin that ruled on Jewish civil cases under Roman rule. He represented the best of the Jewish nation. He spoke to Jesus as an equal, being a teacher himself. The reference in verse 14 to Moses and the snake in the desert comes from Numbers 21:5-9.

*"The people grew impatient along the way, and they began to murmur against God and Moses. 'Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?' they complained. 'There is nothing to eat here, and nothing to drink. And we hate this wretched manna!' So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among them, and many of them were bitten and died. Then the people came to Moses and cried out, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take away the snakes.' So Moses prayed for the people. Then the Lord told him, 'Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to the top of a pole. Those who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!' So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to the top of a pole. Whenever those who were bitten looked at the bronze snake, they recovered!"*

The people of Israel were complaining about God's provision for them after He took them out of Egypt. They were whining! God sent poisonous snakes to punish them and many of them died. They got the picture and asked Moses to pray for them to save them. God had Moses make a bronze snake and raise it up on a pole for all to see. Anyone who would simply look at the snake on the pole would not die from their snake bite.

This illustration is important to help us understand the belief that saves us. To be saved, we need to look up to Jesus who was raised up on the cross for our sins and believe that He took our place on the cross. We need to believe that He died for our sins personally. When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus of being born of the spirit, He was proclaiming our need to turn around (repent) and look to God for forgiveness through Jesus' death on the cross. In that forgiveness, we receive the Holy Spirit who transforms us from the inside. We pass from certain death to life and hope eternal.

Questions:

1. When did Nicodemus come to talk with Jesus? (v. 2) Why?

2. Who did Nicodemus think Jesus was? (v. 2)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How was the birth that Jesus spoke about different from the birth that Nicodemus spoke of? (vv. 3-6, 2 Corinthians 5:17)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. From John 3:14, how was Jesus lifted up so we could all see Him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does verse 15 say about how we can get eternal life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What two reasons do verses 16 and 17 give for Jesus coming into our world? What does this prove about God's attitude toward you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Read Romans 6:23 and verses 16-18 again. Work together to define what kind of belief about Jesus is required to have eternal life.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. These are all verses that help explain the truths that Jesus was teaching.  
Romans 8:11, Romans 8:1, Romans 5:1 and Romans 5:8

## **STUDY 8: JESUS, THE FORGIVING SAVIOR**

*Luke 23:26, 27, 32-49*

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

THE CHARACTER OF JESUS AND THE  
WONDER OF DYING WITH HOPE

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

Background: Crucifixion was a type of execution reserved for the worst criminals because it was slow and terribly painful. They were hung by stakes pounded through carefully chosen nerve junctions in the body. It was the worst death the Romans had invented. No Roman citizen could be put to death in this way. By the time Jesus reached the cross, He had been severely beaten and flogged by His guards. Flogging was done with leather strips imbedded with stone fragments or metal pieces. Often the flogging proved fatal. The beam Jesus was required to carry was usually about 45 kilos in weight. Those being crucified were suspended on a cross normally one meter off the ground. Death came slowly from exhaustion and suffocation. Jesus hung on the cross from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He gave up His life willingly. His loud cry at the moment of death was totally uncharacteristic of someone dying by crucifixion, as they normally lapsed into a coma prior to death.

Questions:

1. Describe the scene taking place as Jesus was led out to the area to be crucified. (vv. 26, 27)
2. Who was crucified with Jesus? (vv. 32, 33)
3. What was Jesus' attitude toward those who crucified Him? (v. 34)

4. What did Jesus hear as He hung on the cross? (vv. 35-39)
  
5. Why did one of the criminals protest to the other criminal? (vv. 40, 41) What did he say?
  
6. What did Jesus tell the criminal who asked Him to remember him? (v. 43)
  
7. How were the final hours of life different for those two condemned men?
  
8. What happened the last three hours Jesus was on the cross? (v. 44) How do you think this affected the mood of those who were watching Jesus die?
  
9. Why did the veil (curtain) in the temple rip into pieces? (Other versions say it ripped “from top to bottom.”)
  
10. What character qualities of Jesus do you see in this account?
  
11. How can being able to die with hope affect the way we live?
  
12. To help your class understand who this One on the cross was and why He was there, read the following verses: John 1:1-4, 10, 12, 14.



## **STUDY 9: JESUS TEACHES ABOUT RICHES IN LIFE**

*Luke 12:13-21*

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

Background: Jesus was a great teacher and used parables to communicate to people. Luke recorded ten of Jesus' parables that are not found in the other three Gospels. They were mentioned by Luke to show the Gentiles who Jesus was and the purpose for His life here on earth. This parable is a warning about how we use our short lives here on earth. Take time to explore being "rich towards God" or "having the riches of God" with cross references.

Questions:

1. What are some ways your society measures the value of a person?
2. What did the person in the crowd want Jesus to do? (v. 13)
3. What did Jesus warn the crowd about? (vv. 13-15)
4. How did Jesus respond to the man? (v. 14)

CLING TO THE ETERNAL,  
NOT THE TEMPORARY

5. Work, as a class, what you think Jesus meant to say in the last part of verse 15.
  
6. What teaching method did Jesus use? (v. 16)
  
7. What was the rich man's problem in the parable? (vv. 16-17)
  
8. What did the man decide to do about his bumper crop? (v. 18)
  
9. How did the rich man view his possessions and good fortune? (v. 19)
  
10. What changed in the rich man's plan? (v. 20)
  
11. What kinds of riches did Jesus mention? (v. 21) What was He talking about?
  
12. In what ways do we act as if we will live for many, many years?
  
13. Why is it difficult for us to accept the fact that our life and things are temporary?

## **STUDY 10: JESUS TEACHES ABOUT THE NARROW DOOR**

*Luke 13:22-30*

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

THERE IS A TIME THAT WILL BE  
TOO LATE TO BELIEVE,  
KNOW JESUS - KNOW ETERNAL LIFE

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

Background: Jesus' disciples were evidently surprised at the opposition of so many people to Jesus' teaching. They thought that all of Israel would believe and follow after Christ and now were hit with the reality of man's heart. Jesus assured them that although many Jews would reject Him, there would be people from all over the globe who would be saved. This was consistent with Old Testament teaching. Notice the men who tried to reason with the head of the house. They don't say, "we believed your teaching and followed you," but say that they "had been with Him." There is yet another distinction here between believing that Jesus existed and trusting personally in His death for our sins. This passage is very clear that there is a time that is "too late." There is no recourse once that time is reached. Either know Christ here on earth or spend eternity in hell without Him.

Questions:

1. How does it feel to miss a good opportunity?
2. What was Jesus doing on His way to Jerusalem? (v. 22)
3. What question was Jesus asked? (v. 23)
4. What did Jesus mean by "working hard to get in" the narrow door to heaven? (v. 24) (Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Peter 1, and Philippians 2:12)

5. What did this narrow door represent?
6. Who is the head of the house?
7. What happens once the door is locked? (v. 25)
8. What will actually keep anyone from entering through the door? (v. 25)
9. How will those left outside try to appeal to the head of the house? (v. 26)
10. How successful will attempts to enter the house be after the door is locked? (v. 27)
11. What will those who cannot enter hear? (v. 28)
12. How does a person go in through the narrow door? Read John 14:6 and II Corinthians 5:21. How do these verses give the answer for the problem of those people in Luke 13:27?
13. How will the usual order be turned around in heaven? (v. 30, Isaiah 55:8, 9)
14. In what sense is the way to God narrow?
15. How would the head of the house respond to you?

## **STUDY 11: JESUS ANSWERS A TOUGH QUESTION**

*Mark 12:28-34*

\*\*Read out loud

\*\*Read as chorus

\*\*Let beginner read in native tongue

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\*\*Ask for new vocabulary

\*\*Give any background, etc.

Background: This account happens immediately after Jesus had answered a question by some Sadducees who were trying to discredit Him. (Mark 12:18-27) He did so brilliantly and this brought the question from the Pharisee in this passage. The Sadducees were the "upper crust" of the Jewish religious authority and not as well liked as the Pharisees. It must have given this Pharisee some joy to see Jesus turn the Sadducees around so easily when they were trying to trap Him. He also found that Jesus was evaluating his heart while he was trying to determine who Jesus really was.

There were 613 individual commandments in the Jewish Law. The Jewish teachers were always trying to sum up all these into one unifying commandment. "The Lord is One" was a creed recited by devout Jews twice each day. It literally meant "our God is unique."

Questions:

1. Why did the teacher of the law come over to speak to Jesus? (v. 28)
2. What question did the teacher of the law pose to Jesus? (v. 28)
3. How did Jesus respond to the man's question? (vv. 29-31)
4. Make a list of your definitions of heart, soul, mind and strength. Why do you think Jesus included all four areas?
5. Did Jesus use Scripture in answering the question put to Him? (vv. 29-31)

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT; IS IT POSSIBLE?
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6. How did the man speaking with Jesus show that He understood God's heart? (vv. 32-34)
7. What does God value more highly than sacrifices and offerings? (v. 33)
8. What did Jesus say about the teacher's answer? (v. 34)
9. How did the surrounding crowd react to this conversation? (v. 34) Why?
10. What do you think motivated the teacher of the law to question Jesus?
11. Why do you think Jesus quoted Scripture to answer the question instead of replying with His own words?
12. How familiar do you think the passage Jesus quoted was to the teacher of the law?
13. Why do you think the teacher added a note about offerings and sacrifices to what Jesus had said?
14. What modern-day religious practices might be like the burnt offerings and sacrifices to which the teacher of the law referred?
15. What can we learn about Jesus' character by the way He acts towards this man?
16. How does a person's love for God show itself in everyday life?

## LESSON 12: THE TENDERNESS OF JESUS

*Luke 7:11-17*

\*\* Read out loud

\*\* Read as chorus

\*\* Let beginner read in native tongue

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\*\* Ask for new vocabulary

\*\* Give any background, etc.

JESUS' POWER OVER DEATH AND HIS TENDERNESS
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**Background:** This event probably happened during the second year of Jesus' ministry. His popularity was nearing its peak as the crowds learned of His miraculous powers and the wisdom of His teaching. He spoke with great authority even to the elite of the religious hierarchy of the day. Jesus was constantly being pressed and crowded by masses of people at Capernaum so He set out for the village of Nain. A crowd of people followed Him there along with His newly appointed twelve disciples. The widow they encountered at the city gates was accompanied by a large crowd of "professional" and "non-professional" mourners from the city as was the custom of that day. The phrase "heart overflowed with compassion" indicates "sympathy from the inner parts of the body". Those in the funeral procession recognized Jesus because the procession stopped when He touched the coffin. Compassion for the widowed and fatherless appears as a consistent theme through the Old and New Testaments.

**Questions:**

1. Who was with Jesus on His travel to Nain? How many people do you think were in "a great crowd"?
2. Who did Jesus meet at the village gates of Nain? What description is given of the dead person and the mother?
3. What happened when Jesus saw the crying widow? (v. 13)
4. What happened when Jesus touched the coffin?

5. What would life probably have been like for the woman with no son or husband to care for her?
  
6. Why did Jesus heal the man? Did anyone ask Him to raise the young man back to life?
  
7. What happened when Jesus spoke to the young man?
  
8. Describe how each of the two large crowds may have reacted when the boy sat up.
  
9. How far did the news spread about this happening?
  
10. If you had been in the crowd that day, what would you have remembered about what you had seen? What would you have remembered about this Jesus? (Make a list.) What kind of man was He?



## LESSON 13: JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE

*John 6:25-40*

MAN WANTS ONLY TO DEAL  
WITH THE EXTERNAL;  
WHILE JESUS WANTS TO  
CHANGE US FROM WITHIN

\*\* Read out loud

\*\* Read as a chorus

\*\* Let beginner read in native tongue

\*\* IF your lowest speaker can even slightly converse, do **not** have the passage read in the national language. Instead, starting with the top student, have each student translate a verse of the passage from modern English to modern national language until the passage is finished. You will **not** need to work on vocabulary after this step.

\*\* Ask for new vocabulary

\*\* Give any background information, etc.

**Background:** This event follows closely after the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 men and their families (John 6:1-15) and the incident of Jesus walking across the water to meet His disciples (John 6:16-24). The crowd described in this passage contained some of the same individuals who had been among the 5,000 fed by Jesus' miracle. They had followed the disciples by boat across the lake. They saw the disciples leave, but they thought that Jesus had stayed on the other side of the lake. The crowd was having a hard time understanding how Jesus had gotten across the lake. Jesus kept the incident of His walking across the water as a private lesson and a demonstration for His closest disciples. It is interesting that Jesus refers to Himself as "bread," a food that we must eat on a daily basis, not weekly or yearly. An obvious application is that our faith in Him must be an integral part of our daily lives, and not merely some ritual or ceremony that we are involved in only on Sundays or holy days.

**Note:** "Son of Man" is an Old Testament title given to the Messiah, see Daniel 7:13. It is frequently used in the New Testament to describe Jesus.

**Note:** Bethlehem, the town where Jesus was born, is known as the City of David. But the literal translation of the Hebrew name - Beth Le Hem - means "house of bread."

**Questions:**

1. What question did the people have for Jesus? (v. 25) How did He answer them? (v. 26)
2. Instead of satisfying their hunger for bread and for miracles, Jesus offered the people something else. What did He offer them? (v. 27) What is the difference between perishable and eternal?
3. Why do you think the people asked the question in verse 28? What did they assume was necessary to get eternal life? What surprising answer did Jesus give them? (v. 29)

4. What did the crowd ask Jesus to do for them? (vv. 30-31) What kind of bread were they looking for? What kind of bread was Jesus offering them? (vv. 32-33)
  
5. What description did Jesus use to describe Himself? (vv. 33-35) How would the crowd have understood His meaning when He made that statement?
  
6. List what physical hunger and spiritual hunger look like in people?
  
7. What bold claim did Jesus make in verse 35? What are some specific qualities that would need to be true about Him to make this possible?
  
8. Jesus made two statements of His purpose in life in this account. (vv. 27, 40) What were they?
  
9. There are many other places in the Bible that describe what it is like to have this personal relationship with Jesus. Read John 8:32, John 10:10, Romans 5:1 and Matthew 11:28-30. According to these verses, how can a relationship with Christ fill a person's hungers?

## STUDY 14: SAUL MEETS JESUS

*Acts 9:1-19*

THE REALITY OF JESUS

\*\* Read out loud

\*\* Read as a chorus

\*\* Let beginner read in native tongue

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\*\* Ask for new vocabulary

\*\* Give any background information, etc.

**Background:** Chapters 1-8 in the book of Acts describe the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to “all Judea and Samaria.” Saul of Tarsus was a well educated and devout Pharisee who believed that the spread of Christianity was a threat to Judaism and his God. He persecuted Christians with gusto and without mercy. Saul was not only present when Stephen was martyred, but he gave his approval and assisted those who stoned Stephen. (Acts 7:54-60) The conversion of Saul described in Chapter 9 took place while Saul was on his way to Damascus with special permission from the high priest of Jerusalem to arrest believers and return them to Jerusalem to face persecution and death. Ironically, the great persecutor was about to become the great apostle of Christ in order to take the Gospel to the Gentiles (Non- Jews including Greeks and Romans). Saul’s background qualified him for this:

1. He was well acquainted with the Greek culture and its philosophies. (Acts 17:22-31)
2. He was a Roman citizen. (Acts 16:37, 22:27)
3. He was trained and skilled in Jewish theology. (Galatians 1:14)
4. He was skilled in a secular trade and able to support himself. (Acts 18:3)

God took whom the world would view as the most unlikely person, and after he encountered Christ his life was radically changed and God used him for His purposes.

**Questions:**

1. Why did Saul plan to go to Damascus- why did he desire to go there? (vv. 1,2)
2. What did he need from the High Priest in Jerusalem? (v. 2) Why were these necessary?
3. List the five things that happened to Saul on the road to Damascus. (vv. 3-6)
4. What questions were asked in these verses? (vv. 3-6)
5. Why were Saul’s companions not able to speak? (v. 7)

6. Why did Saul need to be led into Damascus by his friends? (vv. 8, 9)
7. What do you think was going on in Saul's mind as he waited in Damascus?
8. What two things do we know about Ananias from these verses? (v. 10)
9. What evidence is there of a great change in Saul's life? (v. 11)
10. Describe the conversation between Jesus and Ananias? (vv. 11-14)
11. What four purposes did the Lord have for Saul's life? (vv. 15, 16)
12. How did verse 16 bring comfort to Ananias?
13. What happened to Saul when Ananias laid his hands on him? (vv. 17, 18)
14. What was the first thing that Saul did after regaining his sight? (vv. 18) Why was this important to the believers in Damascus?
15. Saul was a shocked, blind man for three days in Damascus. What five events did God use to strengthen Saul and help him recover? (vv. 17-19)
16. What thoughts were going through Saul's mind in his three days of shock and darkness?
17. Did Saul's sincerity about Judaism make him right with God? What truth was missing in his sincere belief?
18. Prior to this event, do you think Saul thought he was persecuting Jesus? What major change was there in Saul's belief after this event on the road to Damascus?
19. Did Saul begin his new relationship with God on his terms or on God's terms? What were God's terms for this relationship?

## STUDY 15: JESUS PROVES HE IS ALIVE

*John 21:1-14*

THE RISEN LORD

\*\* Read out loud

\*\* Read as a chorus

\*\* Let beginner read in native tongue

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\*\* Ask for new vocabulary

\*\* Give any background information, etc.

Background: Peter, as predicted by Jesus (John 13:38) had denied Christ three times during His trial before Caiaphas. This appearance by Jesus after His death leads into the dialogue between Jesus and Peter regarding Peter's love for Christ and the Lord's challenge to Peter to live out that love by feeding and caring for the flock.

Peter, James and John were fishermen by trade. See how the Lord used a fishing setting to call them into ministry (Luke 5:11) and now in this passage. Both times He gave them successful instruction as to where to fish and this spoke to their fishermen hearts. He speaks to us in the way that we best understand. This appearance and similar instruction in John 21 must have stirred that memory within them.

In Matthew 28:7, an angel instructed Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen and gone to Galilee where they would see Him. The fact that Christ appeared to the seven in Galilee confirmed this message. He also ate a meal with them which provided a strong testimony for Peter as he helped spread the Gospel in the years to come (see Acts 10:41). This may be really good news for us as we look forward to heaven. We will eat!

Questions:

1. Where were the disciples in this account? (v. 1)
2. How long did they try to catch fish? (v. 3)
3. Why didn't the disciples recognize Jesus when He spoke to them? (v. 4)

4. What went through the disciples' minds when Jesus gave them such a confident suggestion? (vv. 5, 6)
5. How did John know this was Jesus speaking to them? (v. 7, Luke 5:4-10)
6. What happened next? (vv. 7, 8)
7. What might have surprised the disciples when they came to the shore? (v. 9)
8. Why did Peter go and bring the net full of fish up on the shore? (v. 10)
9. What do you think was the significance of the number of fish and the condition of the net? (v. 10)
10. Why didn't anyone ask this man if He was truly Jesus? (v. 12)
11. The disciples were still recovering from the death of Jesus and that shock in their lives. Why would eating a meal with their risen Lord make a strong impression on their hearts?
12. Why was it so important to the disciples that Jesus was alive after His death? Why is this important to all who believe? (Matthew 17:9, John 14:6, Romans 5:8-11, John 17:3, Romans 4:25-5:1, Hebrews 7:25)

## **STUDY 16: GOD SHAKES A PRISON**

*Acts 16:16-34*

LIVING FAITH

\*\* Read out loud

\*\* Read as a chorus

\*\* Let beginner read in native tongue

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\*\* Ask for new vocabulary

\*\* Give any background information, etc.

Background: Fortune telling was a common practice in Greek and Roman culture. This young slave girl was controlled by an evil spirit (notice Paul rebuked the evil spirit, not the girl, verse 18) and was being exploited for profit by her master. Philippi was a Roman colony located on an important road running all the way from modern day Istanbul to Rome. This event happened during Paul's first missionary trip into Europe. Under Roman law Paul and Silas' rights had been violated when they were beaten and imprisoned without a trial. There may have well been some anti-Semitism involved since shortly before this incident Emperor Claudius had expelled the Jews from Rome (Acts 18:2). Philippi, being a Roman colony, would have taken a similar position. This may also explain why Timothy and Luke (being Gentiles) were not taken before the authorities. Under Roman law, people in Roman colonies were permitted to follow their own religions but proselytizing Roman citizens was forbidden. Clearly Paul and Silas' imprisonment was more over a loss of income than keeping Roman law.

Questions:

1. What was the occupation of the slave girl? (v. 16) Why was she making so much money for her owners?
2. What was she doing to cause problems for Paul and Silas? Did Paul get "fed up" on the first day this happened? (v. 18)
3. What did Paul do and say to get into so much trouble with her owners? Why did Paul's words affect their income from the girl? (v. 18)
4. Did Paul have the authority to cause this to happen?

5. What was the owner's accusation against Paul and Silas? (v. 21)
  
6. Why did a mob form against Paul and Silas? (vv. 20-22)
  
7. How were Paul and Silas punished for their offense? (vv. 22-24)
  
8. Why were Paul and Silas still awake at midnight? What were they doing? (vv. 25)
  
9. Why were they able to sing hymns and pray in such a place and in their condition? Is this normal or natural? What would the normal reaction be? (vv. 25)
  
10. Why did the jailer think his prisoners had escaped? (vv. 26, 27)
  
11. Describe the jailer's emotions and actions when Paul stopped him from killing himself? Why did he ask this question? (vv. 17, 28-30)
  
12. What two ways did Paul answer the jailer's question? (vv. 31, 32)
  
13. How did the jailer and his family respond to Paul's answer? (vv. 33, 34)
  
14. Describe the change of the jailer's heart from verse 27 to verse 34.



## **STUDY 17: JESUS SHOWS HIS AUTHORITY**

*Luke 4:31-44*

GOD AND MAN

\*\* Read out loud

\*\* Read as a chorus

\*\* Let beginner read in native tongue

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\*\* Ask for new vocabulary

\*\* Give any background information, etc.

Background: The main emphasis in Jesus' ministry was on preaching and teaching about the Kingdom and the Good News, not healing. He proved His great compassion toward people in this passage, but this healing ministry was usually intended to authenticate His message. The miracles in this passage took place at the very beginning of His ministry, right after He was rejected in His home town of Nazareth. Luke wrote to people of Greek heritage and emphasized that the demon was evil since Greeks believed that there were both good and evil demons. Jesus did not want the demons to reveal His true identity at this early point in His ministry for a number of reasons:

1. He wanted to show His authority over the demons.
2. He wanted His followers to believe He was the Messiah because of His words and actions, not the demon's words.
3. He wanted to show Himself as the suffering servant before He became the conquering King.
4. His followers would not fully understand His ministry until He had risen from the dead.
5. He didn't come to earth to be acknowledged by demons, but to be acknowledged by people.
6. He didn't want people to force Him into an earthly Kingship when He came to be their Messiah for an eternal Kingdom.

Questions:

1. What are some ways to know if a man has great authority?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was Jesus doing in Capernaum? Why were the people amazed? (vv. 31, 32)

3. What happened with the man who shouted at Jesus in the synagogue? Tell that story in your own words. (vv. 33-36)
4. Why were the people amazed when they witnessed this event? What was going through their minds? (vv. 36, 37)
5. What illness was affecting Simon's mother-in-law? How did Jesus heal her? (vv. 38, 39)
6. How quickly did she recover from the illness?
7. How tired would you have been after a day like Jesus had? What is Jesus' attitude towards the hurting and ill people? (vv. 40, 41) (Philippians 2:5-8)
8. Why do you think Jesus made the demons be silent? (v. 41)
9. What was the goal of Jesus' life during this time? How was meeting the people's physical needs different from that goal? Are our spiritual needs even greater than our physical needs? Why or why not? (vv. 42-44)



**God's Solution:      The Cross**

- 8)      Romans 3:20-26      What is God's plan to make us right in His sight?
- 9)      Romans 5:8              Who did Jesus die for?
- 10)     I Timothy 2:5              Draw this verse on a sheet of paper.
- 11)     I Peter 3:18                Why did Jesus suffer on the cross?

**Our Response:      Put your trust in Jesus Christ and turn from disobeying God.**

- 12)     Rev. 3:20                  What does Jesus want to do in our lives?
- 13)     John 1:12                  If we accept Jesus as our Lord and our way to forgiveness, what do we become?
- 14)     I John 1:9                  How are we made right with God?  
       II Cor 7:10  
       Roman 8:1

**Assurance**

- 15)     I John 5:13                Can we know we are going to heaven?  
       Hebrews 7:25