

WORK WHILE THERE IS LIGHT

Jesus told those around Him, "Work while you have the Light of day" (John 9:4). He was with them in person then; now He is with us by His Spirit. As we are filled by the Holy Spirit, we work the works of God. Not any works that spring to mind, but works of God. God opens 'doors' to us and does His works through us.

Isaiah spoke of Christ when he said, "I have made You a light for the Gentiles, to bring My salvation to the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6; Acts 13:47). Paul used this verse to show that God has given this same work to His disciples.

Jesus told His disciples, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). His followers shine in this world because they live upright, moral lives. They do this by the power of His Holy Spirit living in them.

Here, on earth, we give forth His Light. In Heaven we will have light and glory of our own. There the saints will shine out like the sun (Matthew 13:43). Their moral beauty will shine, for they will be "without spot or blemish" (Ephesians 5:27).

As moral sin gets blacker, so moral uprightness shines brighter. We must be glad the Lord has left us here in the world to shine for Him. If all the Christians were taken out of the world, it would be a terrible place.

What Christ began, 2,000 years ago, we must continue. He said to His followers, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

So we take every opportunity to tell other people about Jesus Christ. We stretch every muscle and steel every nerve. The Light must shine until the last lost one is gathered into Christ's kingdom. Then the end will come (Matthew 24:14).

The Christian life is the best life. A life yielded to Jesus and lived in harmony with the Holy Spirit is a life of joy, peace and freedom.

TALK ABOUT 1. Do you feel free and at peace with God and your neighbour? 2. What does it mean to live life 'to the full' (John 10:10)? 3. What last command did Jesus give to all Christians (Matthew 28:18)? 4. Are you obeying His last command? 5. Name some ways Christians can be involved in missionary outreach.

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Bible Study

Pictures of Jesus



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John 13:1-17

Jesus washing the feet of the disciples

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TO THE LEADER...

Read your Bible first, then study this book. Keep your Bible open.

All Bible verses are from the New International Version of the Bible. Verses are shown as (Luke 7:6), chapter 7 and verse 6.

When verses are taken from other versions they are shown as: KJV – King James Version; NASB – New American Standard Bible; TLB – The Living Bible

In John's Gospel Jesus tell us who He is. John records what He said. Jesus paints His own portrait. In lively shades and majestic strokes He brushes in the colours of His person. John unfolds the canvas for all the world to see. John fills out figures of speech (pictures in words) that Jesus Himself used.

In almost every chapter, Jesus gives us a different picture of Himself. In chapter 4 He is the "Living Water". In chapter 6 He is the "Bread of Life". In chapter 10 He is the "Shepherd" and the "Door". In chapter 15 He said, "I am the true vine".

Open your Bible and read along as we look at these pictures Jesus used to tell us about Himself, who He was and why He came.

1. CHRIST, THE WORD, IN HEAVEN

* (John 1:1–14; Heb 1:1–3)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...Through Him all things were made" (1:1–3). All the other Gospel writers tell of Jesus, the Son of Man: – born in Bethlehem in a lowly stable (Matt 2:8; Luke 2:7).

- growing up in Palestine, the son of a carpenter (Mark 6:3).
- speaking about the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15).
- working miracles and teaching His disciples (John 3:2).

Matthew, Mark and Luke begin their record with events on earth. John opens Heaven and shows us Jesus Christ in "the beginning" before the world was created. Jesus was from eternity. God is three, but One Person. We can know God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19) We can only know God because He revealed Himself. Through many acts, God has shown us who He is.

The heavens and the earth had a beginning, a point in time when God's spoke His life and power into creation (Genesis 1:1–28). But in eternity (before time and creation) Jesus Christ was the WORD! In Heaven Jesus had all majesty and power and glory (John 17:5). He created all things. But He set aside His power and glory to become a man, Jesus of Nazareth. He was "the only begotten Son" who came forth from the Father (John 1:18). He was the essence of God's person, "the exact representation of His nature..." (Hebrews 1:1–3). Jesus came from Heaven "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Men

whole world was lost in the darkness of sin, Jesus came as "the Light of the world." The world of men had never seen the moral glory – the Light – of a sinless life (Hebrews 4:15).

The great moral Light of God was in the world even as John spoke. Jesus was standing among the people and John the Baptist was His witness. Jesus, the Messiah, revealed the Father to every man, but each individual had to believe in Him. As men believed in Christ, His Light lighted their lives.

When we think of the Jesus giving us light it is moral Light. The moral glory of God Almighty comes to our hearts by the Holy Spirit. He brings the grace of God and understanding. He gives us the knowledge of God and the truth of His word.

Our natural hearts are dark and full of sin. They are crooked (perverse) like a crooked stick that cannot be straightened. But the Spirit of God can change all that is wrong in us and make us like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:17–18).

Jesus said, "Come to Me...believe in Me." When men do that, His great Light shines into their dark hearts and they see themselves as they really are, sinners in desperate need of His cleansing and grace.

Wicked men try to hide from the Light. They may hide their deeds in darkness, but the Light will show them up in the end. Jesus said the Pharisees were 'blind guides'. They did not receive the Light He brought. They refused Him and His moral teaching and they remained in darkness (Matthew 15:14).

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world" – the whole cosmos – the world of men and women. In this dark world, His life shone with brightness and purity for He was without sin. He was the "brightness of the Father's glory" (Hebrews 1:3). Only in Heaven will we "behold His glory" face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Moral light is the light of truth. It frees us from the bondage of sin. Jesus told the Pharisees "you are slaves of sin. You are in bondage" (John 8:34).

Men who have this Light must walk in it. The Light streams onto their pathway as they open and study God's Word. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus Christ to them through God's Word.

David wrote, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path...the unfolding of your words gives light" (Psalm 119:105, 130). God's light brings clear thinking. It takes away any confusion.

When we walk in fellowship with Jesus, we walk by the Spirit's power and in God's Moral Light (1 John 1:7). Christ's life, ministered to us by the Holy Spirit, lights up the dark corners of our hearts where sin lurks. As we give room to His Light, we enjoy more and more of His holiness and we draw closer to Him in fellowship (1 John 1:3). This brings us victory in our spirits that God so much wants to give us.

7. CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

* (John 8:12–30; Isaiah 9:2,6–8)

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (8:12).

“The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world... The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5,9).

There was no other common word to explain God’s person. God is terrible light. Not physical light, but moral light. In the Old Testament God showed his glory in light. His glory filled the Temple. (1 Kings 8:10) That light blinded Saul as Jesus met him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3). The Bible tells us, “the Almighty God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone can never die, who lives in light so terrible that no human being can approach Him.” (1 Timothy 6:16 TLB)

Song: “Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes...” – Walter Smith

God is Light. This does not mean physical light. This Light is God’s moral purity and holiness. God’s moral Light shone into the darkness of this world and it has never been the same since. John said that the darkness of evil could not overcome God’s Light (1:5).

When God created Adam, He gave him some of His own moral light. It was part of the glorious “image” of God (Genesis 1:27). Man had this moral Light in his conscience. Man’s conscience can know right from wrong and choose the right. Adam knew it was right to obey God’s command, but he sinned against the moral Light and his conscience became dark. God’s Light went out in his spirit.

Men have the light of conscience, but they fail to live up to it. Man’s heart turns away from God. God told Noah, “the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth” (Genesis 8:21 NASB). Jeremiah wrote, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it” (Jeremiah 17:9)?

So the world became a very dark and violent place because darkness and sin filled man’s heart (Romans 1:21–32).

Adam and Eve failed the test. They did not obey God. Man turned from worshipping God to worship himself and nature and idols he made with his own hands. Satan blinded man’s eyes (2 Corinthians 4:4). Blind eyes do not respond to God’s moral Light.

All the world was lost in the darkness of sin. There was no way out. Nothing in man could help him. He failed every test. God gave Moses the Law, but man failed to keep it. The Law showed how weak and sinful man was and how impossible it was for him to do right (2 Corinthians 3:10–12).

Then, into this dark world God sent the true Light, Jesus Christ. When the

saw God, the Father, in the person of Jesus Christ (John 14:9). We cannot see God, but we can know Him and worship Him.

JESUS, THE WISDOM OF GOD

John used the word “logos,” the Word or Wisdom of God. Men of old thought of God as wisdom (Proverbs 8:1–12). John called Jesus “The Word”, the Wisdom of God.

The Word breathed life into this universe. It was dark and empty (void). All was space, and space is dark. Some say it was chaotic, not ordered or ruled over. The Bible says without form and empty of life (Genesis 1:2).

Then the Word spoke and the earth was formed. The Word said, “Let there be light!” At once, light shone into the darkness.

Sun and moon were set in the sky to govern the physical light and fix the day and night and the seasons of the year.

The pre-creation darkness was like man’s natural conscience, without God and without hope. Man in his soul-darkness did not understand the Creator-Christ’s Light. God’s word says,

- The WORD created all things (1:1-3).
- The WORD upholds all things (Hebrews 1:3).
- The WORD declared the Father to mankind (1:18).
 - a) declared Him in creation
 - b) declared Him in His “coming forth from the Father”
 - c) declared Him in His life lived here on earth (Hebrews 1:2). Yet “the world did not recognize Him” (John 1:11).

JESUS CHRIST, THE WORD OF LIFE

In the beginning there was darkness everywhere. Christ’s life – which is Light – shone into the dark and empty spaces. Christ’s Light lit up the creation darkness and the darkness fled away. There was no room for it. When the voice of deity cried, “Let there be light”, light burst out in the darkness and overcame it (John 1:5; Revelation 21:23).

The sun and moon ordered the physical light and brought the seasons to the earth. The sun ruled over the physical darkness. Physical light must come upon the earth to sustain physical life.

The Word spoke again and plants, animals (all life) were created. John wrote, “In Him was life and that life was the light of men.” The Creator breathed life into the matter. Jesus told his followers, “The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are Life” (John 6:63). The Word gives Life, abundant Life! (10:10).

When God created Adam and Eve He brought them to a beautiful garden, in Eden. All was peace and beauty there. Adam worked the garden under God’s direction. Eve was his helper.

Christ comes to men with an great moral and spiritual light. In the beginning, Adam and Eve had that light and they knew God. When men and women are born again they receive the Light of God's Spirit. They know God as their friend.

SATAN CAME INTO THE GARDEN

God gave Adam and Eve commands. If they obeyed His commands the garden in Eden would be perfect. He also gave Adam and Eve moral light. Man was hedged in and protected by God's moral laws. As long as Adam obeyed God, he was safe and he was satisfied in every way. But it was his duty to obey God's commands.

A beautiful tree grew in the middle of the garden. Its boughs were laden with fruit, but God told Adam not to eat its fruit. He said, "When you eat of it you will surely die" (Genesis 2:17).

The tree stood for all that was evil, beautiful to look upon, but evil to take! Evil is disobeying God, doing things that do not please Him. Evil may appear beautiful, like an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Satan came into the garden and tempted Eve to disobey God.

She took some of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and gave some to Adam. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, the Light of God went out in their spirits. Their bodies lived on, for a time, but the light of life (eternal life) went out and their bodies began to die.

Man can know God because God created him with a spirit. Adam had an ever-living spirit. Before he sinned, Adam walked and talked with God. He knew God as his friend.

Man's spirit lives forever. Because of sin, Adam's spirit was cut off from God. Adam could hear God calling to him, but his spirit did not respond. He was a rebel and an outcast and God put him and his wife out of the garden!

The animals cannot know God because He did not breathe His Spirit into them. Watch a dog running down the street, sniffing here, sniffing there. Does the dog have any thoughts of God? No, none at all. The dog cannot know God because it does not have an ever-living spirit.

GOD GAVE THE WORLD A PROMISE

In the darkness of man's sin and rebellion, God said to Satan, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise him on the heel" (Genesis 3:16).

Right at that most tragic moment, God promised to send a "seed" – a Person – who would Redeem mankind from sin. God promised Adam and Eve a male offspring who would "bruise Satan's head." Jesus Christ would come as the Redeemer of mankind (Galatians 3:16).

"I am going to send you what the Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT

Without the Holy Spirit, they were weak and afraid. The disciples were not bold to witness for Jesus without the Holy Spirit. So they went back to the city. There they prayed and waited, behind locked doors. Were they all special people? No, they were just ordinary people like us!

Suddenly there was a noise and they saw the Holy Spirit come in "what seemed to be tongues of fire" and fill each one of them (Acts 2:1-4).

They received the power of God's Spirit – the water that Jesus spoke of – and they went out to witness and turn their world upside down for Christ.

After they received the Holy Spirit, Peter and the others went out onto the street and told what had happened. At Pentecost, the city was full of worshipers and all these people, from every nation and tongue, heard Peter and the others speak "in his own language" (Acts 2:11). It was a miracle. The crowd was amazed. Peter told them, "This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel..." (Acts 2:16).

The Holy Spirit came and took up residence in the Christians (Matthew 13:11). He added signs and wonders to their testimony and He still does. From that day, He has blessed the Christian Church with His presence. He gave them boldness to witness and to suffer for Christ's sake.

The Holy Spirit is always ready to fill up those who ask. Jesus said, "How much more will your Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to them who ask Him" (Luke 11:13).

At that time, "Fear came upon every soul..." because of the signs and wonders done in Jesus' name (Acts 9:31). There was awe and wonder because of the great things God did in the lives of men and women.

We cannot live in victory unless we yield our lives to the Holy Spirit. God commands it (Ephesians 5:18). As He controls our lives, He will direct our paths, give us victory over sin and make us bold to witness for Jesus Christ. Give Jesus Christ first place in your life and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you. You can count on Him being there for you.

We must be a pipeline from Heaven to others. We can offer the water springing up inside to them. But we cannot give the Holy Spirit. He is the gift of the Father to the Christian Church.

If you are a Christian, God's command to you is, "Be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). We need to be bold in asking for a new filling of the Holy Spirit every day (Luke 11:13).

TALK ABOUT 1. Why did the disciples need this "power from on high?" 2. How did the world and man's heart become so dark? 3. Do you live your own way or are you controlled by God's Spirit?

water, springing up inside. That is a new birth.

There is much more. We are 'baby' Christians and must grow up.

When Mr. Spurgeon was preaching in London, someone gave him money to give to a poor lady. He did not give it all at one time. Every week he put a small amount in an envelope – enough for that week – with a note: "More to follow." It is like that when we receive Christ. Receiving Christ as our Saviour is just the beginning.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles which was celebrated with eight days of worship and sacrifice (Deuteronomy 16:13; Leviticus 23:36; Numbers 29:12,35).

In the days of Israel's glory (the last part of David's reign and the reign of King Solomon) the Temple was the center of national worship. The people came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. As part of the celebration, the priests carried golden water pots to the spring of Siloam and drew water. Then all the people went in procession to the Temple. The priests carried the water and people sang as they walked up to the Temple.

As the procession wound its way to the Temple, the people sang the great words of Psalms 113–118. This is called "The Great Hallel." Cymbals clashed and trumpets were sounded. Cymbals were plates of brass held in each hand and clapped together (Psalm 150:3–5). At the clash of the cymbals the people sang: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3).

At the Temple the priests poured the water out as a drink offering to the Lord. At the Feast the people offered the firstfruits of their fields. With the firstfruits of the harvest, they offered this fresh water, for both food and water are needed to sustain life.

Some say much of this ritual had stopped by the time Jesus came to the Temple. Other things had been added and water was not carried and poured out before the Lord.

So on the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7:37–38).

By "streams of living water" Jesus meant the Holy Spirit. Those who believed in Him would receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would be sent by the Father, after He returned to Heaven. They would not be left "orphans"; the Holy Spirit would come and take the place of Jesus. The Holy Spirit would be their teacher and guide (John 14:16–18).

Just before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He told the disciples:

God Himself promised to come to man's rescue. He would restore man to what he was before sin came into the world. When man fell, he dragged the all creation down with him (Romans 8:22). God promised to restore all that was lost in the universe when Adam fell into sin. Isaiah spoke of the Messiah restoring all things (Isaiah 49:6). So God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ. He came – the "Sun of Righteousness" with healing for all nations (Malachi 4:2). For those who trust in Him, Christ the Creator restores all that Adam lost.

To do this Jesus Christ had to enter creation as a man. John wrote, "the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us" (John 1:14). John used words that picture a Bedouin Arab camp – Jesus' tent pitched among their own tents.

The Word became one of us, yet He was perfect in His manhood, "tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin." Through faith in Christ a man can be restored to a right relationship with the Father. All God's anger against sin was poured out on Jesus, the Son, on the Cross.

THE VOICE OF GOD

The Word is always speaking in and through His creation (Psalm 19:1–4). The writer said, "He sustains all things by His powerful Word" (Heb 1:3). And "the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword...it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12–13).

God is here now. He is speaking now and He wants to speak to you. "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..." (Hebrews 3:7). Christ calls all men to repent of their sin. To say "sorry" to God. When man repents, God forgives his sin for Jesus' sake. That man has fellowship again with the Father.

TALK ABOUT 1. Why would Christ, the Creator, become a man? 2. What was the name of the tree that grew in the middle of the garden in Eden? 3. What happened when Adam sinned? 4. Are you a forgiven sinner? 5. The Bible is God's written Word ___ True ___ False?

2. CHRIST, THE LAMB OF GOD

* (Exodus 12; John 1:29, 36)

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' " (John 1:29).

A lamb is gentle, quiet, harmless and easily hurt. This is a true picture John used of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. John spoke of Jesus as "the Lamb of God." Jesus spoke of Himself as the Shepherd. We will study the word-picture of Jesus the Lamb sacrificed to take away the sin of the whole world (1:29).

The Old Testament gives us many types and symbols that point to Jesus. When Jesus came He fulfilled all these word-pictures.

Under the law, God required that a spotless lamb be killed as a sacrifice for sin. The lamb's blood was sprinkled in the Holy of Holies before the altar. "According to the law...all things are cleansed with blood, and without the shedding blood, there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:22 NASB) The blood of the sacrificed lamb 'covered' or atoned for the man's sin. God saw the blood and accepted the man's worship. God could only accept the sinner because of the blood.

The blood of the sacrifice pointed forward to the "Lamb of God," Jesus Christ. He would die to wipe away man's sin for all time. His one sacrifice was enough to take away all the sin in the world then and forever (Hebrews 9:12). Sin is atoned for and taken away for all who believed in Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

John also thought of Jesus as the sin-bearer, bearing in His body the sins of the world. He used the common word for carrying burdens. Jesus felt the burden of the world's sin. He took up and bore the shame and condemnation of sin. He was the "man of sorrows" for the world (Isaiah 53:7). Every day of His life, Jesus was pained by the world's sin.

THE PASSOVER LAMB

The people of God had been slaves in Egypt for 430 years. They cried out to God in their suffering and He promised to deliver them. He raised up Moses to lead them out of Egypt. But first, Pharaoh had to let them go. Pharaoh was the title given to the King of Egypt at that time.

God came against the heathen gods of Egypt with many signs and wonders. After each plague or sign Moses told Pharaoh to let God's people (Israel) go. Pharaoh saw all the signs and he saw all the wonders Moses worked in the land, but he would not let the people of Israel go free.

At last, God said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely" (Exodus 11:1).

God told Moses all that He was going to do. (He still tells those who wait on Him what He wants them to do). God said to Moses: "About midnight, I will go throughout Egypt. Every firstborn son of Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well" (Exodus 11:5).

"On the tenth day of this first month, each man is to take a lamb for his family – sufficient for each person to eat. The lamb must be a male without defect. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people...of Israel must slaughter them at midnight. Then they must take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door frames of the houses where they eat the lambs...eat in haste; it is the Lord's Passover."

"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every

The book may have everything in it. The leader may not even need to prepare. But that is like 'food that spoils'. There is no substitute for the Bible.

THEIR LAST SUPPER WITH JESUS

At the Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus broke the bread and gave it to them to eat. It was a symbol of His body which would be broken on the cross. He said to the disciples, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19).

At the Last Supper Jesus spoke of:

- His broken body given (paid) as a ransom from sin.
 - His resurrected body – the 'firstfruits' – He would rise first, to rise from the dead, then all the saints who slept in death
- Flesh and blood are symbols He used to point to His death Eating in John 6:53–56 means believing in Christ and taking Him as our personal Saviour from sin. To 'eat' and 'drink' of Christ, four things are needed:
- a) personal faith in Christ as Saviour (John 3).
 - b) an appetite for the things of God (Matthew 5:6). You will not have this if you have not been born again by God's Spirit.
 - c) delight and diligence in worship and service (Hebrews 11:6).
 - d) a maturing spirit that is growing, reaching out to others and constantly resting in the goodness of God (2 Peter 3:18).

Review: Jesus said, "I am the bread that came down from Heaven..." Later, Jesus said, "This bread is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:51). Without Jesus, there is no life and without Jesus every day, any spiritual life soon dies. His life in us is only nourished as we come to Him each morning and get our fill. The true believer gathers spiritual manna every morning. Fall out of bed on your knees in the morning and give God the firstfruits (the first part) of your day.

TALK ABOUT 1. How can we receive this food that does not spoil? 2. Tell what the communion service means to you? 3. Do you follow Jesus for what you can get out of the Christian life? Or because you want to be like someone else? 4. Are you satisfied with what you are getting from your Bible? 5. Many try to earn God's blessing. They think if they do all the right things and pray all the right prayers God will bless them. Is this true?

6. CHRIST, THE WATER OF THE SPIRIT

* (John 7:37–39; Acts 2:4)

Jesus cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink..." (John 7:37).

This figure (picture) of Jesus is closely linked to the Living Water of John 4, but there is much more. When we believe in Jesus, we receive the living

Today false teachers preach a 'prosperity gospel'. They say, "Follow Jesus and give your money to us and you will get everything you ask God for." Is that what Jesus was saying?

Food that spoils...? Food that endures to eternal life...? The people were not sure. So they said, "Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from Heaven to eat' " (Exodus 16:4; Psalm 78:24-25).

Then they asked, "What sign will You give...that we may believe You" (John 6:30)? The people had already seen Jesus feed 5,000 men with their women and children. They knew He got to the other side of the lake without walking around it!

The people of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years. In all that time, they grew no crops, so God provided for them. Manna fell from Heaven during the night. Each morning, they went out to gather the manna. God did not deliver it to their tables and it was not ready to eat. They had to grind it and beat it and boil it in pots (Numbers 11:8; Psalm 78:24 Amp. Bible). It was fresh every morning, but if they tried to keep it to the next day, it spoiled. So they went out, morning after morning, and gathered manna to eat.

When Jesus said to these people, "I am the bread that came down from Heaven..." they asked each other, "Isn't this the carpenter's son?" The only 'bread from heaven' they knew was manna or Moses' bread (Numbers 21:25; 6:33,48-51).

They would not receive Jesus as the One sent from Heaven to feed their hungry souls, so Jesus said again, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry...For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life..." (John 6:35, 40).

1. We must see our own need for this 'food' from God. We must realize that what the world gives is 'food that spoils'. The world's 'food' gives pleasure for a moment, but not joy forever. The big car (with the big payments) cannot satisfy. The one who looks to the Son, turns his eyes away from the world and things the world offers. By faith in Jesus Christ, he "overcomes the world" (John 16:33).

2. We must agree with God that we cannot feed ourselves. We come on His terms; we believe in Jesus. This word 'believe' is a strong word. It means to turn around, to leave the old ways and customs. If we feed our minds on TV and comics, we must stop.

3. We must believe that what Jesus said is true: "He who comes to Me will never go hungry." That man will never have to look anywhere else for 'bread'. Jesus will satisfy him over and over again, every day of his life. If he comes to Jesus and comes and comes and keeps on coming, Christ's Life will sustain him forever.

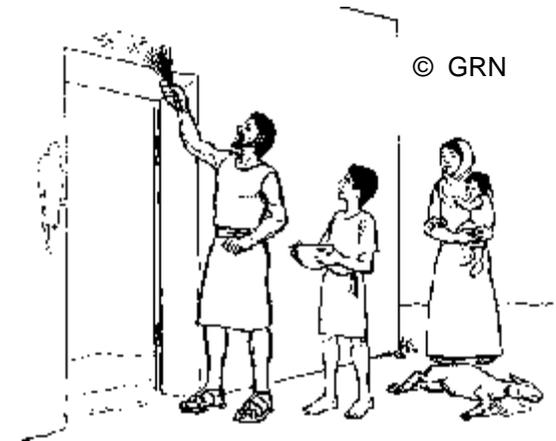
4. We must diligently seek Him in His word and on our knees.

Do not trust a Bible study that uses a study book without using the Bible.

firstborn – both men and animals – and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I AM the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt." (Exodus 12:1-13).

On the very night the children of Israel were to leave Egypt, God gave them this special sign. The sign was the blood of a lamb, sprinkled on the doorposts of their houses. Every father had to gather all his family into the house and stay there. Any person outside the house was not covered by the blood. So they made sure everyone was inside the house before midnight. That night the angel of death saw the blood and passed over that house. No one in the house died. God requires that we, too, obey Him and trust in Jesus' blood. Jesus Christ was our Passover Lamb:

- He bore the sin of the world (Hebrews 9:14).
- He felt its pain and curse heavy on His Spirit (Matthew 26:38).
- He carried its burden to the cross (Philemon 2:8).
- He died as a sacrifice for man's sin (for us and in our place)
- He saves the man who believes in Him from eternal judgment. (John 5:24).



The people of Israel watched over their lambs from the 10th to the 14th day (Exodus 12:3,6). Through His years on earth, the Saviour was watched over by the Holy Spirit. Angel messengers watched over Jesus from the time of His birth. They visited Joseph and Mary. When danger threatened, the angel said to Joseph, "Get up, take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt" (Matthew 2:13).

Just as the Passover lamb was without blemish, Jesus had no sin. From His birth to His death, "He did no sin" (Hebrews 4:15). He was glorious through His life and glorified in His death.

THE PASSOVER FEAST

It was Passover in Jerusalem. The disciples were with Jesus in an upper room. As Jesus ate the Passover meal with them He took the bread, broke it and said, "This is My body given for you..." When He took the cup He said, "This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you..." (Luke 22:19-20).

The Old Testament picture or type became a reality. It was really

happening. Jesus was sacrificed at Passover (also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread). He died on the first day of the Feast, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb (Mark 14:12).

When Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, He entered Heaven bearing His own blood of sacrifice.

“He went into that greater, perfect Tabernacle in Heaven not made by men or part of this world, and ONCE FOR ALL took blood into that inner room, the Holy of Holies, and sprinkled it on the mercy seat; but it was not the blood of goats and calves. No, He took His own blood, and with it He, by Himself, made sure of our eternal salvation” (Hebrews 9:11–12, TLB).

In Him, we are safe. When God judges this evil world and its sinners, He will pass over those who shelter under the blood of Jesus. Their redemption has been secured in Christ (Ephesians 1:7).

THE RAM CAUGHT IN THE THORNS (Genesis 22:13)

God said, “the soul that sins will die.” That means you and me. As the Lamb of God, Jesus took our place. He was our substitute. Every sinner is under the death penalty. But Jesus died for us and in our place.

Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah his wife was nearly that old. They had no children; no heir to their property, no son to carry on their family line. But Abraham loved God and walked with Him. He was a man of faith. “Abraham believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:11).

God gave Abraham and Sarah a great promise. He promised them a son. It would have to be a miracle, to have a son at their age! When Sarah heard what the angel said about her having a child, she laughed to herself. But the angel asked, “Is anything too hard for the Lord” (Genesis 18:14)?

God promised Abraham and Sarah a multitude of descendants. Through their offspring God said, “all the world will be blessed” (Genesis 18:18)

When the promised son was born, they called him Isaac. He grew up to be a strong lad and Abraham loved him very much.

One day, God told Abraham to take Isaac to Mount Moriah and sacrifice him as a burnt offering there.

We wonder if Abraham said, “God! What are you asking me to do?” No! Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took two servants, his only son, Isaac with wood for the burnt offering and they set off for the place God had told him about (Genesis 22:3).

Among the hills of Moriah, the Canaanite people sacrificed their children to the heathen god, Molech. They burned their firstborn sons. Both Abraham and Isaac knew this. But God would take them to a new place, and He would do a new thing. Did Abraham believe this? Yes, he did. When he left his servants with the donkey, he said to them, “Stay here...while I and the boy go

What had God told Moses to do? 4. What springs up in the believer? 5. How do men and women get “living water” which satisfies? 6. There is only one way to have God’s life in us. What is it (Acts 16:31)? 7. What was Christ’s last command?

5. CHRIST, THE BREAD OF LIFE

* (John 6:25–42; Psalm 78:23–25)

Jesus said, “The bread of God is He who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:33). “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).

This chapter in John is called “the bread chapter.” Bread is called “the staff of life.” Man needs bread almost as much as he needs water. Without bread we die. Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life” and He offered Himself to the whole world.

JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000

Before this Jesus fed five thousand men and many women and children. The crowds had gone many days without food. Jesus told His disciples, “You give them something to eat” (Mark 6:37).

They replied, “That would take eight months of a man’s wages!” But they did find a boy among the crowd with five loaves and two fish. They brought the lad to Jesus. Jesus took the bread (probably five round, barley loaves which only poor people ate). He blessed it, broke it and gave it to His disciples to give to the people.

By a miracle, it became enough to give everyone food to eat.

The people were so pleased they tried to make Jesus their king. “They intended to come and make Him king by force” (6:15). Jesus did not want their acclaim, so He sent the disciples away in a boat and He withdrew from the crowd.

After this miracle, many followed Jesus thinking He would feed them again. The bread they ate that day did not satisfy them for long. They were soon hungry again, so they went after this Jesus.

They found Him “on the other side of the lake” (6:25). He said to them, “You look for Me, not because you saw the ...signs (miracle), but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you” (John 6:26–27).



arm against God. He did not obey God and speak to the rock and God punished him.

God said to Moses, "Because you did not trust Me enough to honor Me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them" (Numbers 20:12).

Fresh, living water gushed from the rock. They drank and quenched their thirst. God was gracious to them, just as He is to us.

Water from the rock was a picture of Christ. He is our Rock. The Rock before their eyes was Christ. He went with God's people through the desert (1 Corinthians 10:4). They should have looked to Him for everything! They could have quenched their thirst by faith in Him.

The people did not trust God. They had looked to the earth for everything. In Egypt, the Nile River supported all life and supplied food and water for the people. But now they had left Egypt (a picture of our old sinful life). Now they had to look to Christ. Now it had to be Christ the Rock and Him only!

Jesus Christ offers all of us a never-ending supply of fresh, sweet "living water". When we trust Jesus as our Saviour, He comes to us and makes His dwelling with us (Revelations 3:20). We can have Him always. No one can take away His life in us. It comes springing up from inside our hearts and goes on forever.

The "living water" is the life of Jesus in our mortal bodies. Unless we quench His Spirit leaping up within, or grieve Him, the Holy Spirit will go on working through all parts of our life – in every moment and every event. "I in them..." Jesus said. (John 17:23)

We are to be witnesses of His life in us. We can offer this "living water" to other thirsty souls. Without it they will surely die in their sins, but with it they will never thirst again. This is a great trust that God has given us – to share the living water with others. Paul asks, "Who is equal to such a task" (2 Corinthians 2:16; Matthew 28:18)?

When we receive Jesus, we become His disciple and He gives us a mission. He said to His disciples, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19).

THE PERSON OF JESUS

Every life has its own personality. Jesus' life has His personality. His personality shows through when He lives in us. Jesus wants to express His personality or "likeness" in us (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Oh that our personality would gracefully step aside and let more of Christ's personality show through!

TALK ABOUT 1. Did God withhold the water the people needed (Numbers 20:11)? 2. What judgment came on Moses because he struck the rock? 3.

over there. We will worship and then We will come back to you." (Genesis 22:5)

Abraham's faith looked to God. He surrendered Isaac to the will of God, whatever that might be. He did not know what God would do. He obeyed and trusted. He knew God had promised Isaac and he knew God was faithful. All faith must include surrender.

Abraham surrendered all his doubts and fears to God (Romans 4:20–21).

When Abraham reached the bottom of the mountain Isaac asked, "Father? The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering" (Genesis 22:7)?

Abraham answered, "God...will provide the lamb for the burnt offering."

Abraham built an altar and laid the wood on it. "He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife..." But an angel of the Lord called to him from Heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!...Do not lay a hand on the boy....Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from Me your son, your only son" (Genesis 22:9–12).

Abraham looked up. There, in the thicket, he saw a ram caught by its horns. So he took the ram and sacrificed it on the altar. Abraham called the place "The Lord Will Provide." God provided the ram for the burnt offering just as he would provide the "Lamb of God" to die for man's sin. Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son was:

- the perfect male lamb (the ram, Exodus 12:5).
- caught in the thicket, he hung between Heaven and earth.

Paul captured this great truth when he wrote "What shall we say to these things?...He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things" (Romans 8:31–32)? In the New Covenant God has done everything for us.

THE JEWS DID NOT WANT HIM

The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus. The people of Israel did, too (John 1:11). They were like the tenants in the parable who said, "We do not want this man to rule over us" (Mark 12:1–12).

Because they rejected the Son, God rejected them. Jesus told the leaders of Israel, "the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit" (Matthew 21:43). The people who be saved out of the Gentile nations.

TALK ABOUT 1. Why would John call Jesus "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29)? 2. What did God tell the people of Israel to do the night they would leave Egypt? 3. How was Jesus like the Passover lamb? 4. Do you know why the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, was and is so important? And why you need to understand this truth? 5. What parable did Jesus tell about the tenant

farmers (Matthew 21:33–41)? 6. What would the owner of the vineyard do with the wicked tenants who killed his Son?

3. CHRIST, LIFTED UP ON A POLE

* (John 3:14–17; Numbers 21)

Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up...” (John 3:14).

God so loved men and women that He gave His only Son (John 3:16). Buried in this chapter is another picture Jesus used to speak about Himself. He spoke to Nicodemus.

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. He was an important ruler of the Jews, so he did not want to be seen. When he came to Jesus he said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God...” Jesus told Nicodemus, “No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again” (John 3:2).

Jesus did not ask him, “have you believed?” He knew what was in every man’s heart (John 2:24). So he told Nicodemus how to believe. This makes us think Nicodemus was close, but not in the Kingdom of God. He was still trusting in the Old Covenant of works and keeping the law.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again” (born from above, John 3:3). Nicodemus was a “teacher in Israel.” He understood being born as a baby. He knew this could happen to a man only once. So he asked Jesus, “How can a man be born when he is old?”

We are born into an earthly family once. But Jesus was not talking about natural birth. He said, “born from above, born of the Spirit.” Jesus used three symbols:

- birth – the beginning of life
- water – which speaks of the Word of God (15:3)
- wind – how the Spirit of God moves in a person’s heart

Nicodemus was puzzled, so Jesus said, “Flesh gives birth to flesh but the Spirit gives birth to spirit....The wind blows wherever it pleases...So it is with everyone born of the Spirit” (John 3:6–8). “Men can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives men new life from Heaven...” (3:6 TLB) The Holy Spirit gives us the Life of God!

Much later, Paul told the born-again Christians at Ephesus, “You also were included in Christ:

- when you heard the Word of truth, the gospel...
- when you believed, you were marked...with a seal
- the promised Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 1:13).

These Ephesians heard the Word of truth and believed it. The Holy Spirit brought life from above to their darkened hearts. Their spirits were lit by the light of the eternal Christ. From that moment Christ’s Spirit marked them out

“Where can you get this living water? You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Are you greater than our father, Jacob?...”

He answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become a spring of water welling (springing) up to eternal life” (John 4:13).

All her ancestors had drunk water from Jacob’s well, and day after day they had come back for more. The word used for “well” means a cistern or hole. This water was collected and stored for later use. It was water, but not the ‘water of life’ that Jesus spoke of. He used a different word which meant ‘fresh water.’

Jesus offered Himself to this Samaritan woman and He offers Himself to the world as “the living water.” His life is like a fresh supply of sweet water that springs up (the word means jumping and leaping). The same word is used in Acts 3:8 where the lame man was healed. He went jumping and leaping and praising God!

Jesus gives HIS very own life to all who believe in Him. He offered the Samaritan woman His own life. She could have Jesus with her and be satisfied forever. He said, “If you knew the gift of God...” God gives us the gift of life in Christ. He gives all who ask, the “living water” of the Savior’s very own eternal life (John 7:37–39).

The woman believed. She put her trust in Christ and He became in her “a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (4:14) She left her water pot and went off to tell her neighbours.

An old song says:

“I am feasting on the living bread. I am drinking at the fountain head. And whoso drinketh, Jesus said, Shall never, never thirst again...”

Men try to find water in many places. Jeremiah said Israel had committed two sins: “They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

WATER IN THE DESERT

After the people left Egypt, they walked through the dry, hot desert. There was no water, so they grumbled at Moses: “Why did you bring the Lord’s people into this desert...Why did you bring us out of Egypt to this terrible place...that we...should die here” (Numbers 20:4)?

Moses brought their complaint before the Lord. “Gather the people,” God told Moses. “Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water.” Moses was angry with the people. He had no more patience with them.

“Listen you rebels,” Moses shouted at them, “must we bring you water out of this rock?” Then he raised his staff and struck the rock twice. He raised his

from the other lands to live in Samaria (2 Kings 17:24). These foreigners mixed with the Jews and intermarried, so the Jews looked down on the Samaritans as half-breeds.

There was another reason why the Samaritans were not liked. They did not follow the Jewish laws or the Jewish Scriptures. They had their own Books of Moses and said their scrolls were older and better than the Jewish Scriptures. Also many of the Samaritans worshipped idols (2 Kings 17:41).

When the Jews came back from exile in Babylon, they began to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans asked if they could help with this work. The proud Jews told them, "No, you cannot help us." So the Samaritans became enemies of Judah and one Samaritan, Manasseh, helped them build their own temple on Mount Gerizim. After that they did not go up to Jerusalem for the feasts or to worship at the Temple, but kept their own Passover on Mount Gerizim (John 4:20). A few families of Samaritans still do this today.

JESUS HAD TO GO THROUGH SAMARIA

After walking from Judea, Jesus was tired and thirsty. He came to Sychar (Sy-char), a village near ancient Shechem, and sat on a well. It was the town well. They said it was dug by their ancestor, Jacob, when he first came into this place (Genesis 26:22).

Jesus' disciples left Him and went into the village to buy food. Just then, a woman came to draw water. It was noon and most women drew water for their families early in the morning.

The woman saw a man, a Jew, sitting on the well. Perhaps she tried to avoid him as she let her bucket down into the well.

This Jew spoke to her. She was surprised. A Jewish man speaking to a Samaritan woman was not heard of.

Jesus said to her, "Will you give Me a drink?" His direct question caught her off guard. She answered, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?"

This woman had two things against her. She was a despised Samaritan and anything she touched, even a cup, was "unclean" to a Jew. And she was a woman. Women had no rights in those days.

Jesus showed that He was above race and gender. He would receive a drink from the woman's hand. It was not just that He was human, and thirsty, but He was aware of this woman. He knew her own heart was thirsty. He knew she longed for something more. He would offer this woman the greatest gift in all the world.

He spoke again: "If you knew the gift of God and who it is who asks you for a drink," He told her, "you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water."

She thought He meant precious water from their town well, so she asked,

as His. They were God's possession.

Nicodemus asked Jesus to explain, "How can this be?"

Jesus answered, "You are a leader in Israel, and you do not understand these things? ...We speak what we know...but still you people do not accept our testimony" (John 3:11).

Jesus spoke of the religious leaders. They did not receive John the Baptist's testimony. And they did not accept Christ's words (1:11). Would Nicodemus be like them and reject Israel's Messiah?

Jesus left no doubt that He was the only way to Heaven. He said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus had come down from Heaven for this very reason: To bring life from above and open the way for sinners to go home. "No one has ever gone into Heaven except the One who came down from Heaven" (John 3:13).

There is no other way! Jesus' death made a new relationship between God and man possible. Under the New Covenant the Holy Spirit brings God's life and power to all who believe.

THE SERPENT IN THE DESERT

Jesus told Nicodemus, "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life" (John 3:14).

Song: "Lifted up was He to die, 'It is finished,' was His cry,

Now in Heaven exalted high. Hallelujah, what a Savior."

– P. Bliss

God brought His people out of slavery in Egypt. He led them through the desert to the Promised Land. Moses told them: "He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions" (Deuteronomy 8:15).

When they came to Edom, the king would not let them go through his country, so they had to go around its borders. They had just fought with King Arad of the Negev, and won. God gave them the victory. Now they grumbled because they had so far to walk in the hot sun. Two million people tramping through the desert, day after day, avoiding the poisonous snakes and heat stroke!

So the people "grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses: 'Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!'

JESUS, LIFTED UP... Jesus pointed to Himself as the only way to be saved. How can a sinful man be forgiven by God and have a place in His family? It is only possible because Christ, the perfect man, was "lifted up" on a Roman cross to die for all mankind.

“ (Numbers 21:4–5). They had very short memories.

They had Heaven’s bread, but they tired of the same food day after day. In Egypt they had plenty of food and great variety. So they looked back to the good old days when they were in Egypt! They forgot that God had protected them from their enemies. He had given them food and water. Manna fell from Heaven to feed them. God was taking good care of them. But all they saw was the desert and they were unhappy. They turned against God and against Moses.

The time came when the Lord had enough of their grumbling. “He sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died” (Numbers 21). Others were too sick to get up from their beds. The death adders of the desert crawled into their tents, and they bit the people when they went out to gather manna.

The people repented. “We have sinned,” they confessed to Moses. “Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” As soon as the people confessed their sin, God told Moses to make a brass serpent. “So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole.” (Numbers 21:9) He put the brass snake on a pole in the middle of the camp. “Everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he shall live,” God told Moses. (Numbers 21:9 NASB) The people did have brass or more probably copper, which they dug from the hills. (Deuteronomy 8:9) But we will never know how Moses got the copper hot enough to melt it and cast it in the form of a snake.

God forgives sin when we confess it and turn away from it. He forgives sin when we repent. God asks us to trust Him, to put our faith in Him alone. If the Israelites had trusted God He would have kept them safe. The snakes would have stayed away.

Jesus said, “the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.” (John 3:14–15)

Why do we lift things up? We do it so that everyone can see them when they “look up”! These suffering people could not lie in their tents and let someone else do the looking for them!

The “lifting up” of Jesus means more than just looking (seeing with the eye). We must believe His death was for us, for our healing. He died for our sin. We must believe! There is no other way!

All men are sinners, that is why Jesus came to die. Jesus offers all men healing from the death-bite of sin. He died in our place and for our sin. God said, “Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:22 KJV)

Nothing else could help these dying people. Men who had looked and were healed ran through the camp shouting, “Look at the pole! Look! Just look!”

They looked in faith at the brass serpent on the pole and they were made alive again. Anyone who did not look, died in his tent.

Jesus overcame death and Satan. He took away the fear of death and gave everlasting life in its place (Colosians 2:14). As we believe this, we are saved. So the brass snake on the pole was a picture of sin and evil destroyed. It was a picture of Christ overcoming all that destroys mankind.

Song:

“There is life for a look at the crucified One,
There is life at this moment for thee;
Then look, sinner look, unto him and be saved,
Unto him who died on the tree.” – A.M.Hull

After Moses died, the people carried the brass snake with them. They worshipped it until the time of King Hezekiah. It was among the relics or idols owned by his father and Hezekiah destroyed it. It is only a bronze thing, he said. His words have come down to us in the Hebrew, Ne-hush-tan...“It is only a thing of brass” (2 Kings 18:4).

Today we call men and women to look to Jesus and be saved. We cannot look at it for them. They have to ‘look’ for themselves and repent.

TALK ABOUT 1. How can any person be ‘born’ into God’s family? 2. What was the food the people did not like? How did they get it? 3. Was there healing in the brass snake? Or in the pole? 4. Why did God send His Son to die on the cross? 5. How do we lift Jesus Christ up in our lives? 6. No person can be “born again” without the Word of truth and the work of the Holy Spirit ___ True ___ False?

4. CHRIST, THE LIVING WATER

* (John 4:1–42; Numbers 20:2–13)

Jesus said to the woman at the well, “Whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John4:14).

Jesus had been busy in the city. Now He was returning to Galilee. There were two ways to go to Galilee from Jerusalem. A low road followed the Jordan valley and a higher road went through Samaria. Jesus chose to go through Samaria.

The Jews despised the Samaritans. They thought they were not good people. The Samaritans had a long and sad history. Many wicked kings had reigned from the city of Samaria. Then the armies of Assyria came and carried its people away to other lands. At that time, Assyria brought people

Review: Christ, lifted up on the cross, was His glory and triumph

- Isaiah saw His glory as he worshipped (Isaiah 6:1-3)
- Jesus told Nicodemus how it would happen and what it would do for men (John 3:14–15)
- Jesus announced it to His disciples (John 13:31)
- all who look to the cross and believe are saved (John 3:15) – Jesus said the cross-life was for all Christians (Mark 8:34)