

Jesus Christ

Part 1

Introduction

No name has been or will ever be more important than Jesus Christ. The message of the Bible centers around His life; history climaxed at His death and resurrection; every human being's eternity hinges on the decision to surrender to Him. The person of Jesus Christ is the main focus of this Bible study. Revelation 1: 8 provides the outline; it reads, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Part One concentrates on studying the Christ "Who was" as represented in the Old Testament. Throughout these twelve lessons we will look closely at the prophecies and pictures of Jesus presented in Genesis through Malachi, as well its New Testament's correlation and fulfillment. Each lesson will be divided into three days, so that you may supplement your personal devotional time. Please be encouraged to also read in preparation for Sunday and Wednesday Bible studies.

The entire Old Testament was looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. Everything was pointing toward Him. Each of its sections (the Pentateuch, History, Poetry, and Prophets) prepares the world for Jesus Christ. Christ's redemption and salvation are foreshadowed since Genesis. Christ's divinity as God is also referenced in these pages as He is called Lord and the Son of God. Christ's humanity and incarnation are anticipated before His birth. He is our Example, our Justification, our Propitiation, our Life, our Mediator, our Priest, our Saviour, our Brother, our Husband. O to know Him! That is the desire of my heart and my prayer for you. May we open our hearts to Christ as He longs to reveal Himself more and more.

Part 1 of 1

Pray

Write your favorite scripture regarding Jesus Christ.

1. What questions do you have regarding Jesus?

2. How do you hope this study will help you to grow in your relationship with the Lord?

3. In which aspect(s) of your character do you hope to become more Christ-like?
(For example, Jesus is faithful; He is merciful; He is obedient to the will of the Father)

4. Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead you as you commit to this study.

Jesus Christ

CREATOR

Lesson 1

Before me?

There comes a time in every child's life when the realization takes shape that her parents existed and had experiences before she was born. For some, this news can be quite startling; for others, it's a simple "ah-ha" moment. Whatever the reaction, awareness of parents' life before and apart from the daughter helps rightly attune her perception of time, space, and existence.

This healthy step in development is sadly lacking in some children of God. As our current (postmodern) world heavily emphasizes personal experience and emotion, believers must defend their hearts and minds with the truth of God's Word. Beware of the tendency to view Jesus only through personal awareness. God's existence is not primarily for my benefit. Christ came to Earth to glorify the Father. Although Jesus cares and is concerned with His disciples personally, He desires a deeper realization to take shape in our hearts: He is before all things. Christ's supremacy is eternal in time and infinite in space. As a child can find safety and comfort in knowing her parents existed before her birth, so every child of God can rest in knowing Jesus' purpose goes beyond the individual.

Friends, doesn't His preeminence make His love and concern for you, for me, all the sweeter? No wonder the Psalmist cries out, "What is man that Thou are mindful of him? And the son of man that Thou visitest him? (Psalm 8:4) May you be encouraged as you devote time to study Christ as Creator.

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Colossians 1:15-20

1. Of Whom is this passage speaking? In other words, Who is the “He” in these verses?
2. Looking specifically at verse 16, what does Paul emphasize between Christ and creation? What is important about each of the relationships between Christ and His creation?
3. David Guzik writes, “There is no doubt that Jesus is the author of all creation. He Himself is not a created being. When we behold the wonder and the glory of the world Jesus created, we worship and honor Him all the more.” Take some time to research some of your favorite aspects of creation (e.g. sea life, astronomy, human body, botany) Write down 3-4 fascinating facts.

Worship Christ as Creator!

4. How is Jesus' deity (God: second person of the Trinity) presented in these verses?

5. Paul summarizes five of Christ's roles. The first of which is His *position* over all creation. The second subject is His *power* to create all things. The third subject is His *providence* in controlling all things. Fourthly, is His *presence* in Old Testament times. Finally, we see His *preeminence* over all things. [David Hocking :: The Preexistence of Christ]

How does truly believing Christ's position over all creation help the Christian avoid sinfulness? What other practical results should be present in the life of one who knows Christ's position, power, providence, presence and preeminence?

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read John 1:1-5, 9-14,16-18

1. John starts of this gospel account of Jesus Christ, with His participation in creation. The other gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke start with an account of His birth or the beginning of His ministry. How does John's introduction provide a different perspective of Who Jesus is?

2. Read John 1:1-5 again. John names Jesus as *the Word*. Strong's concordance defines *the Word* in its original Greek form, *logos*, as used in John:

Logos denotes the essential Word of God, Jesus Christ, the personal wisdom and power in union with God, His minister in creation and government of the universe, the cause of all the world's life both physical and ethical, which for the procurement of man's salvation, put on human nature in the person of Jesus the Messiah, the second person in the Godhead, and shone forth conspicuously from His words and deeds.

How does recognizing Christ as Creator enhance our view and appreciation for Him as Savior?

3. Read John 9-14, 16-18 again. Here John express that light is a symbol of Jesus. List attributes of light that point you to Christ.

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read Genesis 1

1. In Genesis 1:1, where we read, “God created . . . ,” the name of God is in its plural form, *Elohim*, and the verb used for “created” is singular. In Genesis 1:26 we read, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’” This is the first revelation in Scripture that God is one being in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They were all there, active in creation. How does the truth of the Trinity enhance our understanding of creation?

2. Fill in the following chart to organize the order of creation as described in Genesis 1:3-2:3.

Day	God’s Action	Result	Reference
1	Said “Let there be Light” Divide light from the darkness	There was light; it was good. Light-Day/ Darkness-Night	Genesis 1:3-5
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

3. What do the following passages from outside of Genesis add to our understanding of why or for what purpose God created the world and formed humanity?
 - a. Psalm 19:1-2
 - b. Isaiah 43:7
 - c. Romans 1:20

4. One of the most repeated words in the Creation account is “good.” What does this description tell you about Christ, about the world, and about yourself? How does sin entering the world affect the world and you?

Personal Application: Notice how often the Bible repeats the truth of creation. How does a belief in the theory of evolution as an explanation for the world’s origin present a dangerous viewpoint? Knowing Christ as Creator allows us not to feel threatened by opposition, but to be stirred unto prayer. Entrust those you know who may believe in evolution to the Lord in prayer. May the He open eyes and soften hearts!

Jesus Christ

TREE OF LIFE

Lesson 2

Plant of Renown

Have you ever been somewhere so beautiful that you were caught up in the majesty and splendor of our Lord? A few summers ago, my husband and I travelled to San Francisco where we saw the towering old-growth redwood trees of Muir Woods. As we walked in the cool shade of the grove, the silence reminded my heart, “Be still and know that I am God.” When finally the trail led us to the tallest Redwood of the reserve, I gazed up its height of 258 feet and realized for the first time on the trip, “This is something I’ve wanted to do since I was a little girl.” I had inadvertently accomplished something on my “bucket list”—see the redwoods. I stood holding back tears, overwhelmed by such a magnificent expression of His favor.

How could a tree be so moving? This lesson examines the picture of the “plant of renown” found in Ezekiel 34:29-30, “And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more. Thus shall they know that I the Lord their God am with them, and that they..are my people, saith the Lord God.” (KJV) In remembering Lesson 1, we know Christ is above all Creation for He created all things, yet false religions exalt nature in worship. Let us not fall into the same confusion. As we study the “tree of life” in scripture remember that it is simply pointing us to Christ. May the tree of life be a visual reminder, as we look at the Bible and at creation, of the majesty and splendor of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Genesis 2:5-9 and 3:22-24

1. a) What two trees were found in the Garden of Eden? (Gen 2:9)

b) Often times, the Bible presents severe choices: life or death, spirit or flesh, darkness or light. How is looking at the Christian life as a decision between two opposite choices simple, difficult or both? Explain.

2. How are Satan's tactics to tempt Eve to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil the same tactics he uses today? (1 John 2:16)

3. As God is describing the consequences for man's fall, a glimpse of Christ is found. Some scholars have called this verse the first gospel.

This text embraces and comprehends within itself everything noble and glorious that is to be found anywhere in the Scriptures. -Martin Luther

What is the promise? (verse 15)

4. How was God merciful in not allowing Adam and Eve to eat of the tree of life after they were set in their sin nature?

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read Revelation 22:1-7,12-14

1. At its close, the Bible once again mentions the tree of life. Describe the tree of life.
2. The word *healing* in verse two is the greek word *therapeia* In heaven there will be no sickness, but the tree of life will be health-giving. Why do you think there will be a need for health even though there is no sickness?
3. There is an emphasis on the act of obedience found in verse 14, “do His commands.” Notice it is not merely knowledge. What are the rewards for those who obey? Why should this motivate us to do His commands?

Personal Application: We read, “Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” (verse 7) Are you living in the awareness that Christ is coming quickly? How so? Spend time in prayer and reflection.

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read John 15:1-17

1. Fill in the chart with the parable's meaning. To whom is each element compared? Why?

	Representation (Person)	Role	Relationship
Vine			
Vinedresser			
Branches			

2. How many times is the command “abide” repeated in these verses? Define “abide” using a Bible dictionary (suggested source www.blueletterbible.org).

3. a) Read Galatians 5:22-23. How is this “fruit” to develop in the believer’s life?

b) What correlations do you find between Galatians 5 | John 15?

4. How does Jesus emphasize the importance of “bearing fruit” in John 15? Why?

5. Choose one of the following prophetic pictures of Christ and write it below.

a) Isaiah 53:2; Jeremiah 33:15; or Zechariah 6:12-13

b) How did Christ fulfill this prophecy?

6. There are several commandments in John 15 as well as many promises. Take some time in prayer. Ask the Lord to reveal any areas where pruning must take place, where love must increase, where abiding must be deeper still. Don't hesitate to ask, for He is faithful! Jesus promised in verse 7, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

Jesus Christ

Sacrificial Lamb

Lesson 3

Behold!

As we continue considering pictures and prophecies of Christ, beholding Him as the Sacrificial Lamb will deepen our faith, trust, and love for our Savior. May the following commentary stir our hearts to discover the riches of God's mercy, grace, and holiness in knowing Christ, the Lamb Who takes the sin of the world—my sin, your sin.

Like a prophetic figure from Israel's past, John the Baptist cried out in the Judean wilderness, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The residents of Jerusalem were embroiled [involved deeply in an argument, conflict, or difficult situation] in controversy over this man clothed in camel's hair and wearing a leather belt. Some likened him to the prophets Elijah and Isaiah. He proclaimed that he was one preparing the way of the Lord. He called his generation to give evidence of their repentance through water baptism. One day out of the Jordanian crowd came a man from Galilee coming to be baptized. Upon seeing him, John declared, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" But why did he use this title to identify the Christ? Of all the images to ascribe to the coming Messiah why refer to Him as a lamb? The answer is older than time itself... Jesus Christ is the unblemished, holy Lamb of God prepared to step into time and space and be slain as a sacrificial lamb.

— Don Smith, "The Lamb God Provided"

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Psalm 22

1. Scriptures describe David, the writer of this Psalm, as *a man after God's heart* (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:12). How does the opening verse of this Psalm reflect Christ's suffering on the cross? Read Matthew 27:46 for more context.

2. Why is it important to remember God's holiness in the midst of suffering?

3. The word used for worm in verse 6 is *towla`* or scarlet worm:

"When the female of the scarlet worm species was ready to give birth to her young, she would attach her body to the trunk of a tree, fixing herself so firmly and permanently that she would never leave again. The eggs deposited beneath her body were thus protected until the larvae were hatched and able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother died, the crimson fluid stained her body and the surrounding wood. From the dead bodies of such female scarlet worms, the commercial scarlet dyes of antiquity were extracted. What a picture this gives of Christ, dying on the tree, shedding His precious blood that He might 'bring many sons unto glory' (Hebrews 2:10)! He died for us, that we might live through Him!" (Henry Morris. *Biblical Basis for Modern Science*, Baker Book House, 1985, p. 73)

This Psalm was written 1,000 year before Christ's death. How does this prophetic picture enhance your understanding of His sacrifice?

4. David, being led by the Holy Spirit, describes his agony in verses 12-18 in a similar manner as the agony Christ felt during the crucifixion. Read Matthew 27:27-50. Reflect on His sacrifice. Write your thoughts as a prayer to the Lord.

5. Just before He died, Jesus cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30). This is a quotation from the last verse of Psalm 22. "He has done this" from the original Hebrew can equally well be translated, "It is finished." As David writes of victory in the second half of the Psalm, so has Christ won the victory over sin and death. Knowing this, what vow will you pay before Him?

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read Exodus 12:1-32; Matthew 26:26-29

1. Henry H. Halley in *Halley's Bible Handbook* writes:

The Lamb, Blood on the doorpost, Death of the First-Born, Deliverance out of a Hostile Country, and the continuance of the Feast throughout Israel's history, all seem to have been intended of God to be a grand Historical Picture of Christ the Passover Lamb, and our Deliverance out of a Hostile World by His blood.

Fill in the chart, noting how the aspects of Passover point the believer to salvation.

	Meaning during Passover	Representation in Salvation
Egypt		
Unleavened Bread		
Lamb		
Blood on the Doorpost		

2. List the specifications of an acceptable Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:5-6). How is this a foreshadowing of Christ?

3. When Christ instituted the Lord's Supper (Communion), during a Passover Feast, He describes it as the "New Covenant." How do the elements of communion (unleavened bread and the cup of the vine) represent the New Covenant?

4. How is the promise Abraham makes to Isaac in verse 8 fulfilled in this same chapter? How is it fulfilled by Jesus Christ?

5. Look over Abraham's response in verse 1 and 11. How would you describe His relationship with the Lord?

Personal Application: As Abraham experiences the fellowship of suffering, he is closer to God than ever before in his life. Three different scriptures refer to Abraham as a friend of God." Genesis 22 is a sacred and intimate account between God and His friend, Abraham. Reflect on your faith and on your suffering in trials. How are you developing your friendship with God?

Jesus Christ

The Angel of the Lord

Lesson 4

He sees

The uniqueness of the Angel of the Lord is one of the important reasons why we speak of the preexistence of Jesus Christ. Smith's Bible Dictionary defines the Angel of the Lord as *the special form in which God manifested Himself to man, and hence Christ's visible form before the incarnation*. The first time the title is seen in Scripture is perhaps one of the most personal references to the Angel of the Lord. In Genesis 16, He appears to a woman when she felt alone and forsaken; the Angel of the Lord appears to her, gives her instructions, and makes a promise to her.

The name of this woman, Hagar means *flight*, and in the midst of a difficult situation, she finds herself living up to her name. In her wilderness, Jesus (the eternal Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, before His incarnation in Bethlehem) reveals Himself, His heart, and His plan with Hagar. Genesis 16:13-14 tells us, she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, *El Roi* meaning You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees. Dear sisters, the Lord sees you! No matter what area of your life may seem like a wilderness, Jesus Himself is waiting to appear to you, to give you instructions, and to make a promise to you.

If we seek to change our circumstances, we will jump from the frying pan into the fire. We must be triumphant exactly where we are. It is not a change of climate we need, but a change of heart. The flesh wants to run away, but God wants to demonstrate His power exactly where we have known our greatest chagrin [shame]. (Barnhouse)

Pray and read Judges 6:1-29

1. Sin leads to bondage (verses 1-6). How does this consequence point to God's righteousness?

At the same time, how do consequences portray His mercy and grace?

2. God sends a prophet in response to Israel crying out to the Lord. What does this prophet say to the people?

How does his message point to the root of the problem rather than the symptom?

3. The Angel of the Lord appears face-to-face with Gideon. Twice Gideon's might is mentioned. This is a seeming contradiction as Scripture records that he is hiding. Of what may the Lord be speaking when He refers to Gideon's "might?"
4. Judges 6:7-21 describe an offering Gideon presents to the Angel of the Lord. Why is this significant in studying the preexistence of Christ?

5. Describe Gideon's reaction to His meeting with the Angel of the Lord (verses 22-24)?

Personal Application: Notice Gideon first breaks down the altars to idols in his own home before he begins his ministry of defeating the Midianites. What truth can be applied to our own lives concerning what the Lord prioritizes? Take some time in prayer asking the Lord to reveal any areas that must be dealt with personally before stepping out publicly to serve Him.

Part 2 of 3

Pray and Read Exodus 3:1-4:17

1. Forty years have passed since Moses left Egypt for the wilderness. Now, he finds himself tending sheep that do not even belong to him. He has come to the end of himself, but he is still active. It is in this tedious, everyday work that God appears to Moses. Why is it important to be faithful in the mundane?

“So God called Moses and David from following the ewes, Elisha from the plough-tail, the apostles from fishing, washing, and mending their nets. He usually appeared to the busy in visions, like as Satan doth to the idle in manifold temptations.” (Trapp)

2. The Hebrew word for *bush* in verse two is *cēnah* meaning “thorny bush.” As the Angel of the Lord, Jesus appears to Moses in the midst of thorns, He is about to bring salvation to His people. How does this event foreshadow the cross?
3. What names and titles does the Angel of the Lord ascribe to Himself that are only attributed to God?
4. As Moses approaches God’s presence, what is he instructed to do? Why?

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read Joshua 5:13-6:8

1. Joshua, God's chosen leader over the people of Israel upon Moses' death, was now facing the biggest battle of His life. Describe what you think his emotional, mental, and spiritual state might be as the Commander of the Army of the Lord appears to Joshua.
2. One of the names of God in the Old Testament is the *Lord of Hosts*, and the word *hosts* can mean *angels* as well as *armies*. Though the title *commander* might seemingly apply to a mere angel, rather than God, how does Joshua's response prove that it is in fact Christ appearing to Him?
3. Notice the familiar command to take off his sandals (as when the Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush forty years prior). Why might the Lord ask Joshua to show reverence in the same way He had commanded Moses?

4. Notice Joshua's surrender before He is instructed on how to capture Jericho. Why must obedience take place before any victories in life?

5. Read Matthew 26:52-53. How does Christ's declaration affirm the fact that He is the Angel of the Lord and the Lord of Hosts?

6. The Lord prescribes a strategy which required total faith and dependence in Him (Joshua 6:1-5), and notice Joshua's immediate obedience. How did his meeting with the Commander of the Army of the Lord influence his actions?

Personal Application: How does truly meeting with the Lord lead to obedience and surrender—the ultimate victory? Take time to evaluate your relationship with the Lord. Ask Him to show you ways in which you must come humbly to fulfill His calling.

Calvary Chapel Miami

Ladies' Bible Study

Jesus Christ

Part 1

Welcome Back

Christmas time, marked by so many beautiful things, must center on celebrating Christ's birth. All the little extras like sweets, ornaments, gatherings, music, and presents, capture the heart and childlike wonder of the season. One particular tradition catches a twinkle in the eyes of children and adults alike—christmas lights. My family loves driving around to see different houses aglow with anticipation for December 25th. LED, Edison, white, multi-colored, icicles, dancing, flashing, classic, modern, 100,000 lights, a single candle flame, each style beautiful. Why this tradition?

The lights of Christmas can tell a wonderful story . . . On the first Christmas morning, the lights that shone weren't from electrons passing through a filament. Rather, the sky was alive with cascading beams of brilliance from a host of angels proclaiming something extraordinary! Even a special star lit the night. The Creator of the world had stepped into history as a tiny baby ("Lights of Christmas" answersingenesis.org). The One Who spoke, "Let there be light," had now come to be the light of the world. (Genesis 1; John 8)

As we have been studying, the Bible teaches that Christ's existence did not begin 2,000 years ago on a starry night in Bethlehem. He is the eternal, second person of the Trinity—the God who was and is and is to come (Revelation 1:8; 4:8). Nonetheless, His birth fulfills many prophecies. And because of His birth, the gospel plan became a reality. May His light shine upon us and through us!

Part 1 of 1

Pray and review the questions from the Introduction.

1. Which of your questions regarding Jesus been answered? Write any new questions you may have.
2. What steps have you taken to deepen your relationship with the Lord since beginning this study?
3. In which areas of your character have seen you seen the most growth?
4. Write a prayer of praise to Lord for revealing Himself to you.

Jesus Christ

Cornerstone & Stumbling Stone

Lesson 5

The Rock

Many hymns were written glorifying Christ as our Rock. One such hymn, "The Solid Rock" was written by Edward Mote. Although his parents did not raise him in the ways of the Lord, Mote became exposed to the Word of God, and was baptized at the age of 18. Eventually, at the age of 55, he became the pastor of a Baptist church, where he did not miss a Sunday in the pulpit for the next 21 years (Terry, Lindsay L., "The Day the Cabinet Shop was Closed," in *Stories Behind Popular Songs and Hymns*, 1990). It was with this background that Mote wrote the hymn we have today, "The Solid Rock." This hymn's refrain repeats, "On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand/All other ground is sinking sand/All other ground is sinking sand." In repetition, the writer emphasizes that the only sure foundation is Christ. As we study Jesus, the Cornerstone and the Stumbling Stone, notice how often the Scriptures repeat this truth. May we worship Him, trust Him, obey Him, and love Him all the more as we discover more fully that Jesus Christ is the Rock of Ages.

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.*

*His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.*

*Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand/ All other ground is sinking sand/
All other ground is sinking sand.*

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Psalm 118:19-26

1. According to Bible scholars, Psalm 118 was intended to be sung in a processional, as worshippers journeyed towards Jerusalem to offer their sacrifices and praises to God. It has personal application to the psalmist's life as well as to Christ. How do the verses 19-26 offer sacrifices and praise to God?

2. Don Smith comments, "Psalm 118:19-21 expresses the gratitude and expectation of One preparing to enter through the Eastern Gate or the Gate of Righteousness. (John 12:23) Jesus entered these gates to glorify His Father and accomplish His divine purpose. He not only passed through the gates of righteousness, but was Himself the gate of righteousness." How did Christ glorify the Father by entering the gates of Jerusalem?

How did Christ Himself become the gate of righteousness?

3. All four gospels record the first Palm Sunday, the historic event of Christ entering Jerusalem the Sunday before Passover. Select one of the following passages to read: Matthew 21:1-12; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-39; or John 12:12-19. Describe the events from different people's perspectives. (Think about how each one may have felt. Look at the reactions.) Use the following chart.

Donkey's Owners	
Disciples	
Multitudes	
Pharisees	
Jesus	

4. Luke records Christ's response to the religious leaders, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." This is not the first time Jesus refers to stones in rebuking the hard-hearted. (Matthew 3:9) How might Christ's reference to stones in Luke 19:40, reminded the religious leaders of Psalm 118? Why would Christ have wanted them to think back to this Psalm?

Personal Application: Spend time in prayer asking the Lord to reveal areas in your heart that may have grown cold and hard. Write down ways that Christ is the true Cornerstone of your life. Surrender all to Him.

Part 2 of 3

Pray and Read Isaiah 8:14-17; Isaiah 28:16-17

1. Of whom is the prophet Isaiah speaking in these verses, when he says “stone of stumbling,” “rock of offense,” “stone for foundation,” “tried stone,” and “precious cornerstone?” (Hint: All these figurative terms refer to the same Person)
2. Use a dictionary to define “cornerstone.” (Suggested source: www.merriam-webster.com)
3. Some synonyms for the word “cornerstone” include: *foundation, essential part, groundwork, basis*. Why is Christ the precious cornerstone?
4. Isaiah also describes Jesus as “the stone of stumbling” and the “rock of offense. Even though God clearly speaks through His Word, His creation, and His people that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, why do so many still reject Him?

5. The titles “chosen generation,” “royal priesthood,” “holy nation,” and “His own special people” denote privilege once exclusively for the Jews, now available to any who surrenders. What is the purpose of this privilege?

6. Peter explains that the actions of a true Christian must be centered on Christ—the cornerstone. How is our testimony to affect others?

Personal Application: When Charles Spurgeon was 16 years old, he preached his first sermon on this text (1 Peter 2:7). He asked his listeners the poignant question, “Is Jesus precious to your soul? Remember, on your answer to this question depends your condition. You believe, if he is precious to you, but if he is not precious, then you are not believers, and you are condemned already because you believe not on the Son of God.” (Spurgeon) How does your life demonstrate that Jesus is precious to your soul?

*but Christ was precious to my soul and I was in the flush of my youthful love,
and I could not be silent when a precious Jesus was the subject.*

-Spurgeon

Jesus Christ

The Temple

Lesson 6

Built Up

My mom appreciates architecture and interior design, her majors in college, more so than anyone else I have met. She often shared her passion for buildings and structures with us, her family. Driving through our hometown of Miami, she often highlighted significant buildings, mentioned the beauty of the downtown skyline, or pointed out the architect office where she worked before she was called to teaching. If our drive happened to take us through Coral Gables, a more historic area of Miami, her best tour guide voice would fill the car with facts and terms that most commuters never notice.

Many man-made landmarks convey the pinnacle of human intelligence and artistry. More commonly, however, edifices go by unnoticed, even unfinished. Builders may face failure to count the cost, shaky foundations, or mediocre taste in style. Thankfully, our God is the perfect architect. He has laid out **one** matchless and faultless plan for salvation, built upon the cornerstone—Christ. The blueprints for His majestic and merciful plan are symbolically portrayed in the instructions given to Moses to build the tabernacle, instructions which likely inspired Solomon when building the first temple and Zerubbabel during the second temple's construction. May we continue to be built up in Him!

For thus says the LORD of hosts: "... I will fill this temple with glory," says the LORD of hosts. "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine," says the LORD of hosts. "The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former," says the LORD of hosts. "And in this place I will give peace," says the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:6-9

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Exodus 27:9-15; 40:29-33

1. (Context) The Lord is speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai. During this time, God details three things: the law-representing God's judgment and righteousness, the standards and duties for the priest-representing the work of intercession and redemption, and the instructions for the tabernacle-representing God's presence. What do you believe the law, the priest, and the tabernacle working together reveal about God's character?
2. The court described in Exodus 27 is often called the "outer court." It was the only entrance (way) into the tabernacle. Later, Solomon followed the same design principle, single entryway, in building the temple. Zerubbabel did the same with the second temple, which Herod renovated and Jesus Himself entered (through its only entrance). How does the singular entrance to the temple symbolize Christ? (John 14:6)
3. According to Exodus 40:29, what is one of the items found in the outer court? For what service was it used?

4. What is the other item found in the outer court (verse 30-33)? For what service was it used?

Personal Application: As a person entered the tabernacle (representative of the presence of God, the first articles seen were the altar and the laver. They can represent the sacrifice of Christ and the continual cleansing work of sanctification. How often do you enter the presence of God? Focus on Jesus' sacrifice and allow Him to sanctify you. Read Hebrews 10:22-25. Write down your reflections.

Part 2 of 3

Pray and Read Exodus 25:23-40; 30:1-10

1. Picture passing from the exterior into the inner courts or “Holy Place.” (1 Kings 6:36) How does going further into the tabernacle or the temple resemble a healthy relationship with Christ?
2. What is the first article (object) God tells Moses must be located in the Holy Place? What was its purpose? (Exodus 25:30)
3. One of the translations for the word *showbread* is “bread of presence or flesh.” (Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon) Read Luke 22:20. How does the showbread foreshadow communion (the Lord's supper)?
4. In the Holy Place, where only priest were permitted, also stood the lampstand. Draw a picture of it below or describe it in your own words. (Exodus 25:31-39)

5. In Revelation 1:12-20 Christ, our great High Priest, stands among seven lampstands. What do these lamps represent (verse 20)?

6. In his earlier writing of the gospel of John, he records Christ identify Himself as the Light of the world. Matthew quotes Jesus also saying to His disciples, “You are the Light of the world.” How does the church share the light-giving quality with Christ?

7. What is the next article found in the Holy Place? What was its purpose? (Exodus 30:1,7)

8. This is the first time the word *incense* appears in the Bible. Read Revelation 5:8; 8:4. What does incense represent?

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read Exodus 25:8-22; 26:31-34

1. The final area of the tabernacle and later the temple, was the Holy of Holies, hidden behind a veil.

The veil is blue with a multitude of cherubim symbols woven on it. Once a year, the high priest would come into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood from the Bronze Altar onto the Ark of the Covenant. The moment Christ's body was torn on the cross, so was the veil in the Jerusalem Temple torn. It was a sign that the sacrificial system was finished. He broke through that wall of partition, as our Great High Priest, to make intercession for His people and to atone for their sin. (Smith, Don. "Christ in the Tabernacle." Blue Letter Bible.)

There is only one article in the Holy of Holies. What is it?

2. The Ark of the Covenant contains the Tablets of the Law, Aaron's budding rod, and a jar of manna. What could these three items serve as reminders for the children of Israel?
3. On top of the the Ark of the Covenant, is found the mercy seat. How is this a picture of the work of the law (inside the Ark) and the gift of mercy (above it)?

4. Read Hebrews 9:3-6, 11, 28. The High Priest have to seek atonement for the people every year. How did Christ obtain eternal redemption for the world once and for all?

Personal Application: Let the truth of that last question resonate in your heart. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. How have you fallen short in glorifying God in your body and spirit? Knowing He has redeemed you. Spend time in His presence. Allow Him to cleanse you. Write down ways you will specifically glorify God in your body and spirit.

Jesus Christ Mighty One

Lesson 7

Strong Hand | Outstretched Arm

To think of all that Christ has done overwhelms the saved soul. He Who made the sun, the oceans, the earth and all that is in it to work in perfect order has the power in just one word to make sun stand still, to walk upon sea, to move mountains. So many different passages of Scripture tell of His might; He is the mighty Judge and a strong Warrior. Which of His mighty acts is most astonishing? The Omnipotent (all-powerful) One saves. Zephaniah 3:17 reads, "The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." The Mighty One is the Deliverer. When He thinks of His saved ones, He sings.

He did not sing when He made the world. No; He looked upon it, and simply said that it was good. The angels sang, the sons of God shouted for joy: creation was very wonderful to them, but it was not much to God, who could have made thousands of worlds by His mere will. Creation could not make Him sing ... When all was done, and the Lord saw what became of it in the salvation of His redeemed, then He rejoiced after a divine manner. Think of the great Jehovah singing! Can you imagine it? Is it possible to conceive of the Deity breaking into a song: Father, Son and Holy Ghost together singing over the redeemed? God is so happy in the love which He bears to His people that He breaks the eternal silence, and sun and moon and stars with astonishment hear God chanting a hymn of joy."

-Charles Spurgeon

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Psalm 45:1-7

1. Read Psalm 45:1-7 in another translation of the Bible (e.g. Amplified Bible). List three descriptions the psalmist writes of the Mighty One.
2. Who is the Mighty One described in these verses?
3. Notice the Lord is portrayed with various weapons. How is Christ a warrior-a man of war? (Further reading: Exodus 15:3; Isaiah 42:13)
4. The psalmist also tells of Christ's virtues. Why is it important to remember His truth, meekness, and righteousness when considering His power and might?
5. How long will His kingdom endure?

Part 2 of 3

Pray and Read Psalm 50:1-6

1. The psalmist Asaph describes God's might. Which aspect of God's might does he mention twice? (Psalm 50:4,6)
2. Knowing God is the Mighty One, why is He rightfully our Judge?
3. According to John 5:19-23, to Whom has all judgment been committed?
4. In their epistles both Paul and Peter write that God will "judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5). How does Christ judge the living? How does His judgment have the final say for eternity (the dead)?

Personal Application: The name Daniel means *God is Judge*. The prophet faced an unjust judgment and punishment (Daniel 6). He found himself in a lion's den, but God overruled man's unfair verdict and delivered him. Remember a time when you faced an unfair judgment. How did the Lord reveal Himself to you during the trial? How did it grow your trust in Him?

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read Isaiah 63:1-9

1. The chapter begins with a question and Jesus Himself answers. How does Christ identify Himself? (verse 1b)
2. The following verses (2-4) refer to Christ declaring His judgment and verdict. Notice the time references to His vengeance (day) and to His redemption (year). How does this speak to you?
3. Why must we recognize God's fury against sin in order to understand salvation (verses 5-6,8)?
4. David Guzik comments, "Isaiah knows the nature of God; that in the afflictions of His people, He is afflicted also. God is not a dispassionate, unfeeling observer when His people suffer. He suffers with them when they are afflicted." How does Christ's compassion (love and pity) comfort the believer? How does His compassion motivate?

Personal Application:

A) Many miracles and examples in Scripture testify of Christ as the Mighty One. Write a summary of a biblical event that speaks to you of Christ's strength and might.

B) Take a closer look at your summary. How does this event point to salvation?

Jesus Christ

Heart of Christ

Lesson 9

Character

Before the President of the United States travels, much preparation transpires. According to Secret Service, agents come at least three months earlier meeting with local agencies to clear the airport for the President's flight, to request a motorcade route, to identify and watch people who have threatened and have the capability to carry out those threats. As the visit nears, agents check each route stop with bomb-sniffing dogs and clear nearby streets of parked cars to ensure that no one can plant a car bomb. They ensure that the President will be only ten minutes from a trauma hospital, where an agent is stationed. A backup plane similar to Air Force One is kept at a secret location. Secret Service runs background checks on employees. Before the arrival, agents perform a sweep of rooms where the President will be, checking for bugging devices and concealed explosives. A crew of cooks and servers, who buy groceries and prepare food, travel with the President. All this to protect the President from enemy attacks.

Many enemies of God have attempted to discredit Christ's existence and eminence. So how did God prepare for Christ's coming? How does He protect us from the enemy's attack on faith? One way is prophecy. Thousands of years before Christ's arrival, prophets wrote of the Messiah so we might recognize Him and know Him. *The prophecies surrounding His birth were fulfilled without any human manipulation. Before He gave any sermons, before He did anything miraculous, Jesus supernaturally fulfilled these prophecies. He was born in the right family, at the right place, and at the right time in history. Humanly speaking, there is no way Jesus could control these factors.* -Don Stewart

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” John 5:39

4. Read Micah 5:2-4, even the city of Christ's birth was prophesied in the Old Testament. How does Micah describe Bethlehem? How does the prophecy describe the Ruler that is to be born there?

Personal Application: Read Luke 2:1 and Matthew 2:16. Notice God used ungodly men in unbearable circumstance to bring about His plan and to accomplish His Word (Jeremiah 31:15; and Hosea 11:1). Why is it important to remember this when we face hardships?

There are no prophecies foretelling details about the birth of other religious leaders. No prophecies alerted the world to the coming of Muhammad (Islam), Joseph Smith (Mormonism), David Koresh (Branch Davidians), Charles Taze Russell (Jehovah's Witnesses), Siddhartha Gautama (Buddhism), or any other founder of the world's religions. Yet the Old Testament pinpointed numerous details about the life of the Son of God and Savior of the world.

-Chaffey, Tim. "Fulfilled Prophecies at the Birth of Christ." answersingenesis.org

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read Luke 4:14-21

1. Context: In the previous verses (Luke 4:1-13), Jesus is tempted in the wilderness. He was filled with the Spirit and resisted the enemy. Now Christ commenced His earthly ministry. How may Christ's time in the wilderness have been a time of preparation?
2. What does Isaiah's prophecy (Luke 4:18) first mention? Why is this statement essential when looking at the ministry and the work of Christ?
3. According to verse 18, what are the five things prophesied that would mark the ministry of the Messiah? Find examples in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John where Christ accomplished these five things in His ministry. Fill out the chart below.

	Messiah's Ministry Prophesied (verse 18)	Christ's Ministry Fulfilled
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

3. Verse 9 mentions He would die with the wicked but be buried with the rich. Christ's death applied to all despite their choices in life. Why is this important to keep in mind when sharing the gospel?

Personal Application: Adam Clarke, speaking of Isaiah 53, writes, "This chapter foretells the sufferings of the Messiah, the end for which He was to die, and the advantages resulting to mankind from that illustrious event ... This chapter contains a beautiful summary of the most peculiar and distinguishing doctrines of Christianity."

How is the death and resurrection of Christ the most important doctrine (belief, teaching, principle) of Christianity? Why should it be the most important and forming truth in our lives?

Jesus Christ

Heart of Christ

Lesson 9

Character

According to the [International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia](#), a "name" is that by which a person, place or thing is marked and known. In Scripture, names were generally descriptive of the person, of his position, of some circumstance affecting him, hope entertained concerning him, etc., so that "the name" often came to stand for the person. Therefore, to know the heart of a person you could begin by simply looking at his name. Allow your heart to be filled with the light of His glory and grace as you turn your eyes upon just a few names of Jesus. He is:

the Second Adam; Almighty; Amen; Alpha and Omega; our Advocate; the Angel of the Lord; the Arm of the Lord; Author and Finisher of our Faith; Blessed and Only Potentate; Beginning of the Creation of God; Branch; Bread of Life; Captain of the Lord's Hosts and of Salvation; Chief and Good Shepherd; Christ; Consolation of Israel; Chief Corner-Stone; Commander; Counsellor; Day-Spring; Deliverer; Desire of All Nations; the Door; Emmanuel (God with us); Eternal Life; Everlasting Father; Faithful Witness; First and Last; First-Born of Every Creature; God; the Glory of the Lord; Great High Priest; Governor; Head of the Church; Heir of All Things; Holy One of God and of Israel; Horn of Salvation; I AM; Jehovah; **JESUS**; Judge of Israel; Just One; King of Israel; King of the Jews; King of saints; King of kings; Law Giver; Lamb of God; Leader; Life; Light of the World; Lion of the Tribe of Judah; Lord of Glory, of All, and of our Righteousness; Lord God Almighty; Mediator; Messiah; Mighty God; Morning-Star; Offspring of David; Only-Begotten; Our Passover; Plant of Renown; Prince of Life, of the kings of the earth, and of Peace; Redeemer; Resurrection and Life; Rock; Root of David and of Jesse; Savior; Servant; Son of God; Son of the Highest; Son of Man; True God; True Light; True Vine; Truth and the Way; Wisdom; Witness; Wonderful; Word; Word of God; Word of Life.

- "Titles and Names of Christ" Reuben Torrey

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Isaiah 53:10-12; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25

1. Many dictionaries will define *intercession* as “the act of intervening;” using a reliable source, write the definition of the word *intervening*.

2. Isaiah describes Christ as the righteous servant. How does Christ’s righteousness bring about the justification of many (vs. 11-12)?

3. What is Christ doing, even now, as He is at the right hand of the Father?

Personal Application: The priests served primarily in two roles: to represent God to the people and to represent the people before God. So Christ intercedes for believers in two ways: take the judgment of sin and to pray for those who belong to Him. How should Christ’s ministry of intercession affect your life (motivation, actions, words, priorities)?

Motivation	Actions	Words	Priorities

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read Micah 7:18-20; Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; Mark 6:34; 8:2

1. Define *compassion*. How does compassion go further than pity?
2. How is God's compassion manifest (Micah 7:19)?
3. What is the most recorded sentiment Christ held for the multitudes during His ministry on earth (see assigned reading)?

Personal Application: The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia (source: Blue Letter Bible) has this to say about "compassion" - *The God of the [Bible], the Father of men, is most clearly revealed as "a God full of compassion." It extends to the whole human race, for which He effected ... eternal deliverance, giving up His own Son to the death of the cross in order to save us from the worst bondage of sin, with its consequences ... Therefore all who know the God and Father of Christ, and who call themselves His children, must necessarily cultivate compassion and show mercy, "even as he is merciful." ... (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17, etc.). Christianity may be said to be distinctively the religion of Compassion.*

Christ compassion is meant to be revealed to and through those who are His. Write down ways in which you need to grow in compassion.

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read Isaiah 42:1-9; Mark 10:43-45

1. How would you describe the attitudes and actions of a servant?
2. According to the Gesenius's Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon, the word *servant* as applied to Christ, here and in other portions of scripture, “He is represented as the intimate friend and ambassador of God, aided by the Spirit, who is to be the restorer of the tribes of Israel and the instructor of other nations.”

How is Christ both God and a servant?

3. Isaiah once again write of Christ’s righteousness. Read, Psalm 23:3. What do the paths of those who are lead by Christ look like? Why?
4. Write the four ways God describes that his covenant with us through Christ manifests itself (vs. 7)

Personal Application: David Guzik comments on this chapter, “Often we feel that God deals roughly with our weaknesses and failures. Just the opposite is true. He deals with them gently, tenderly, helping them along until the bruised reed is strong and the smoking flax is in full flame.” Write down a time that Christ has dealt gently and tenderly with you in your weakness or failure. How does His response bring glory to His name?

How should this encourage me to deal with others’ weakness and failures?

Think for a moment about the modesty of God. He is always at work: He guides the sun, the stars, and the universe. He controls every galaxy. He refreshes the earth constantly. But He works so quietly that many people now try to make out there is no God at all ... That is the hallmark of reality in service. God's artists do not put their signatures to the pictures they create. His ambassadors do not run after the photographer all the time to get their pictures taken. It is enough that they have borne witness to the Lord.

-Allan Redpath

Jesus Christ

Summary

Lesson 10

It's Only the Beginning

The Old Testament is brimming with portraits, pictures, and glimpses all foreshadowing Christ. Perhaps, no one biblical figure is as prominent or as prophetic an example of Christ, as King David. As Don Smith notes:

Both were the “Beloved” of God the Father. Both were ordained and chosen of God. Both were men with a heart like God’s. Both were of the promised lineage of Judah and the kings of Israel. Both were born in Bethlehem. Both knew they were destined for the throne. Both were publicly anointed by the Holy Spirit. Both triumphed over their enemies. Both were kings who ascended on high to bring gifts. Both were shepherds (David, the Shepherd of Israel and Christ the Good Shepherd). Both were compassionate to the lame and poor. Both were celebrated as they entered Jerusalem. Both were rejected by their Israel. Both were plotted against by Israel’s leaders. Both were men of sorrow and acquainted with grief. Both were men of prayer. Both were objects of divine wrath to satisfy God’s righteous justice.

And at the same time, I have often struggled when I look at David’s sin. How could that possible fit in God’s portrayal of the sinless, perfect Lamb? Could it be that the Holy Spirit allowed David’s failures to be recorded in Scripture to demonstrate God’s grace and mercy to be revealed in Christ? We also know that no picture or person could possible hold the fullness of the glory of Christ. As this first part, *Who Was: Jesus in the Old Testament*, comes to a close, my prayer is that each of us would grow not just in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but that we would grow in becoming like Him.

Part 1 of 2

Pray and read Psalm 8

1. Re-read verses 1-3. Here David writes of the Lord's name and His glory. How does praising His name further reveal His glory?
2. When God's glory is revealed in a heart, there is a sense of being infinitesimally small and insignificant. How does David respond to the awareness of this unworthiness (vs. 4-8)?
3. Read Hebrews 2:6-10. How does Psalm 8 point to Christ's incarnation (Jesus taking on human form)?
4. What was the main ministry Christ accomplished while He was on earth (Philippians 2:8)?

Our transcendent God visited the earth and yielded His life as a sacrifice for our sin? "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!"

-Don Smith Psalm 8:9

