OVERVIEW OF GOD’S PLAN
From Genesis to Revelation

This Bible study gives an overview of God’s plan from His act of creation in Genesis to His plans for the end in Revelation. It shows how man was separated from God through disobedience and how God had a plan to forgive that disobedience and restore mankind to Himself. We believe you will fall more in love with God as you see clearly what He has done for you.

Each of the weekly lessons focuses on a significant part of God’s plan. The goal is to give you a broad comprehension of what He is doing. You will, however, need to go back and read the whole Bible to get all of the details.

We need to know God – His love and plan for the world and His love and plan for us personally. The best way to develop such a relationship with God is to spend time with Him daily in His Word and in prayer.

Instructions

This Bible study can be used independently, but we highly encourage you to do it with a few other people because we learn so much from others. Each week has seven daily lessons on a common theme. The reading for Day 1 of each week (in bold italics) should be discussed in the study group. The remaining lessons are for personal study.

1st Week
During your small group meeting the first week:
1. Read aloud the introduction and Week 1 comments, “Creation,” found on page 3. Discuss these comments before reading the Bible verses for Day 1.
2. Read aloud the verses for Day 1 (in bold italics) on page 15, make observations, and discuss the meaning of the verses.
3. Finally, discuss how to apply these verses to your lives. An illustration of this method is given below. (See Example Day 1.)

During the remainder of the week, study the daily verses on your own by using the method of observing, interpreting, and applying. Record what you are learning each day. This will make it easier to share with others at the next meeting and will also help you remember what you are learning. To maintain a close walk with God, spend time daily with Him in His Word.

2nd and Following Weeks
During the small group meeting the second week:
1. Spend the first half of the time sharing how you each applied the lessons of the past week to your life.
2. During the second half of your time together, discuss the comments for the coming week’s lesson, and read aloud the verses for Day 1 of that week (in bold italics), then discuss them together.

Again, during the remainder of the week, study the daily verses on your own.
Example for Day 1
As you read the Scripture for each day, use this pattern for your study:

- **Observe** What does the Bible say?
  For example, God first created His support systems (Genesis 1:1-19). He created light (power system), waters above in the sky (irrigation system), land and plants (food system) and the sun, moon and stars (time system). After that He created living beings.

- **Interpret** What does the Bible mean?
  God anticipated what His living creatures would need and provided for it.

- **Apply** What truths can I put into practice and what changes should I make?
  Is there a need in my life at this point? Do I believe God will provide?

Some days may have only a few verses to read, while other days may have a chapter. Whatever the reading may be, take time to think about the passage and how it applies to your life. As you study, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into a greater understanding of God. And this can be facilitated by sharing what you are learning with others.

The Challenge

Paul instructed Timothy:

> The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).

Anything that does not reproduce dies out. Therefore, it is not enough for you to gain a deeper relationship with God. For Christ’s church to grow, believers need to faithfully plant the seeds of faith in others as well. The Good News must not stop with you. God wants you to reproduce spiritually by introducing others to faith in Christ and helping them grow in their faith.

At the very beginning of the study, we strongly urge each person to commit to helping others go through the study. These others might be your own family, your friends, or co-workers. You can start such a group anytime you feel comfortable with the material you have already learned. You don’t have to wait until the end of the study.

Enjoy the Bible study! May the Lord bless you greatly, and may He use you to help others grow in their relationship with Him.
BRIEF COMMENTS ON
OVERVIEW OF GOD’S PLAN

Introduction

God’s plan is a fascinating one that actually begins before creation. The Bible tells us that God’s people were chosen in Christ “before the creation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4). The sacrifice of Christ was no accident, for He “was slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8).

Someone once said about the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, “The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed.” God in His wisdom chose to conceal the full meaning of the promises He gave in the Old Testament until they had their fulfillment in the New Testament.

These brief comments will point out these promises as they occur in the Old Testament and remind you of them as you see their fulfillment in the New Testament. In this way, we hope to give you a sweeping picture of God’s plan from beginning to end. A key part of this approach is to follow the “scarlet thread of redemption” through the Bible. This is the underlying message that God would provide a payment for our sins through the sacrifice of His own Son.

May the Lord open your eyes to see wonderful things from His Word (Psalm 119:18).

THE BEGINNINGS

The first 12 weeks of this study lay the foundation for God’s plan. They cover the creation of the world, the fall of man, Noah and the flood, God’s covenant with Abraham, the exodus from Egypt, and the entry into the Promised Land. Woven within these stories are promises of a Redeemer, who will offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

WEEK 1 Creation

Picture yourself watching the events of creation take place. What a magnificent sight it must have been! Notice that God first builds His infrastructure for energy, irrigation, food supply, and a time system. Then He creates living beings. Finally, He says, “Let us make man in our image.”

The plural pronouns “us” and “our” refer to the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God was not referring to angels because they are not made in His image, nor did they have a part in creation.

WEEK 2 The Fall of Man

God made clothing of skins to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve. Their covering of leaves was not sufficient. Because of their sin, some innocent animal had to die. God tells us, “Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness” (Hebrews 9:22). This marks the beginning of the “scarlet thread of redemption.” Adam and Eve’s sin also affected every person after them as the Apostle Paul explains in Romans 5:12-21. In Genesis 3:15, God’s promise that the seed of Eve would crush the head of the serpent is the first promise of a Redeemer who would save the world. As the plan unfolds, we will see Jesus destroy the power of Satan over mankind.

WEEK 3 Noah and the Flood

Even though the people of Noah’s time did not yet have God’s laws written down by Moses, God still held them accountable for their sins. We will see later in Romans 2:12-16 that the requirements of the law are written on our hearts and our own consciences accuse us. Jesus used the flood as an example of how His return to earth will catch everyone by surprise (Matthew 24:37-42). Noah is an example of how God rescues the godly person from trials (2 Peter 2:5-9).
WEEK 4  The Call of Abram
The call of Abram represents the next great step in God’s plan to provide a sacrifice for our sins. God promised Abram that all peoples on earth would be blessed through him. We will see that Abram’s descendants are the writers of the Bible. Most importantly, Jesus Christ would come from Abram’s lineage. God changed Abram’s name to Abraham and promised him a son, Isaac. God’s command to Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice in the region of Moriah is part of the “scarlet thread of redemption.” Jerusalem, where God would later offer His Son as a sacrifice for our sins, is located in this same region.

WEEK 5  Isaac and Jacob
Both Isaac and Jacob are examples of God’s divine selection. God chose that Christ would come through the line of Isaac rather than Ishmael and through Jacob rather than Esau. Abraham and his sons were not perfect people, yet we see how God, in His grace, works through such people.

WEEK 6  Jacob and the Move to Egypt
The study this week is not just about Joseph. It is really about God and the steps He took to fulfill His promise to Abraham. God promised that Abraham’s descendants would be strangers in a land that would enslave and mistreat them for 400 years (Genesis 15:13-14). Jacob’s family entered Egypt, and 400 years later God brought out a nation, Israel.

WEEK 7  Moses, the Plagues, and the Passover
God spoke to Moses from the burning bush and told him to tell the Israelites, “I AM has sent me to you” (Exodus 3:14). Jesus will use this same name for Himself in John 8:58. The Passover represents the next part of the “scarlet thread of redemption.” When God saw the blood on a house, He passed over it. When God sees the blood of Christ over our lives, He will “pass over” and forgive our sins.

WEEK 8  Exodus from Egypt
It has been 400 years since Jacob and his family moved to Egypt, and it is now time for his descendants to return to the land God promised Abraham. Unfortunately, the people have been greatly influenced by the religions of Egypt and will continually demonstrate their lack of faith and trust in God as they take this journey. They have also picked up the custom of worshipping idols. This will lead to their national defeat and captivity later in the times of the kings. The stories this week illustrate the importance of a godly leader and our need to trust God regardless of the circumstances.

WEEK 9  The Tabernacle and the Priests
On the surface, this week’s lessons may seem unimportant because they cover details of the tabernacle and the priests who ministered there. However, these details give valuable lessons about God’s plan. The tabernacle served as an earthly copy of the heavenly one from where Christ now ministers (Hebrews 8:1-6). And the priests served as a copy of Christ’s role as the ultimate mediator between us and God. As you read, ask yourself if you are careful to obey the Lord in every detail the way the Israelites were commanded to obey all the Lord’s instructions.

WEEK 10  The Sacrifices
The sacrifices symbolized and pointed toward the sacrifice Christ would make when He died on the cross for our sins. The Israelites were to offer an animal without defect and identify with the sacrifice by placing their hands on its head (Leviticus 3:2; 4:4). Similarly, Jesus – the perfect sinless sacrifice – offered Himself for us without sin, and we must each identify with Him by receiving His payment for ourselves. This represents a part of the “scarlet thread of redemption.”
WEEK 11  The March toward the Promised Land
The lessons this week illustrate the consequences of unbelief and disobedience. The people of Israel refused to enter the Promised Land because they did not believe that God would give them victory over the giants in the land. So God made them wander through the desert for 40 years until everyone over the age of 20 who had participated in this act of unbelief was dead. At one point during these wanderings, there was no water. God told Moses to speak to a rock, and water would come out. But Moses, in his anger at the people, struck the rock twice with his staff. Because of this act of disobedience, Moses did not get to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 20:1-13). On an earlier occasion, God had instructed Moses to strike a rock with his staff, and water came out (Exodus 17:1-7). But this time, God told Moses to speak to the rock. We need to be careful to listen to God and not base our actions on past experiences.

WEEK 12  Entering the Promised Land
God in His faithfulness now brings the people of Israel into the Promised Land. He defeated their foes at Jericho in a way the Israelites could never have imagined. We need to leave room for God’s miracles. Notice that Rahab hung a scarlet cord from her window to protect her and her family from destruction (Joshua 2:17-18). The incident with Achan and the defeat at Ai illustrates how our sins can affect others as well as ourselves (Joshua 7:1-26).

JUDGES, KINGS, AND PROPHETS
Try not to view lessons in the following weeks as simply history stories about an ancient nation. View them as examples of how God blesses leaders and nations that honor Him, and how He brings destruction on leaders and nations that reject Him. Someone once said, “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

WEEKS 13 & 14  The Time of Judges
The generation of Israelites that entered the Promised Land remained faithful to the Lord. But the next generation did not honor the Lord or obey His laws. They did evil in His eyes and began to serve local gods. This angered God, and He delivered them into the hands of their enemies. But when they cried out to Him for help, He would send a judge to guide them and deliver them from their enemies. Unfortunately, for almost 200 years, this pattern happened over and over again. These two weeks’ lessons are the stories of these judges. These stories illustrate a challenge for every generation, including our own. How do you pass on a fear of the Lord to the next generation that has not personally experienced His deliverance from problems?

WEEK 15  The Establishment of the Kingdom
All the other nations had kings, so Israel decided they needed one also. What this really showed was their rejection of God as their king. But the Lord told Samuel to listen to the people and led him to anoint Saul as their king. Saul proved to be disobedient to God, and God replaced him with David. God’s choice of David is another milestone in His overall plan. The Lord promised David that one of his descendants would always sit on the throne of Israel. We will return to this promise frequently as we move toward the time of Christ.

WEEK 16  The Reign of Solomon
God’s choices continually demonstrate His sovereignty and His grace. King David committed adultery with Bathsheba, and their child died. But their next child, Solomon, was selected by God to inherit David’s throne and to build the first temple. He was also blessed with more wisdom than any other man. Yet later in life, Solomon also disobeyed God, and after his death, the kingdom was divided into northern “Israel” and southern “Judah.” God’s grace is marvelous, but there are always consequences to our sins.
WEEK 17  The Northern Kingdom of Israel
The northern kingdom of Israel was born in rebellion when its first king, Jeroboam, revolted against Solomon’s son. Jeroboam was afraid his people would return to the king of Judah if they made pilgrimages to Jerusalem to worship at the temple, so he made two golden calf idols in his capital of Samaria and appointed priests to conduct religious ceremonies there. God sent a prophet to warn Jeroboam, but he continued these evil practices. So God told Jeroboam that his whole family would be destroyed. This happened during the reign of Jereboam’s son. In the midst of these wicked kings of Israel, we read the fascinating story of the prophet Elijah. God uses and protects faithful men in the midst of evil.

WEEK 18  The Northern Kingdom’s Continued Disobedience, and God’s Judgment
The story of the northern kingdom of Israel is a sad one. Israel had 19 kings over a period of 210 years. Every one of them was evil in the sight of God. The people themselves sinned by worshipping other gods and following the wicked practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before them. Finally, God gave the northern kingdom over to the Assyrian army, who deported them to Assyria. These ten tribes have been lost in history.

WEEK 19  The Southern Kingdom of Judah
The southern kingdom of Judah had an occasional godly king. Unfortunately, their reforms did not last long, and the people returned to their sins. The line of kings ran into real problems when King Jehoshaphat married his son, Jehoram, to a daughter of King Ahab, an evil king of the northern kingdom. Jehoram walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and killed all of his brothers. His son, Ahaziah, was also evil. When Ahaziah died, his mother tried to kill all of Ahaziah’s sons so that she could reign. But God protected one of the sons, Joash, to maintain the lineage. These stories remind us of the importance of carefully considering the family into which you marry.

WEEK 20  The Final Good and Bad Kings of Judah
The southern kingdom had 20 kings over 344 years. Two of the later kings, Hezekiah and Josiah, obeyed the Lord and led a spiritual renewal during their reigns. But after the deaths of these two kings, the people returned to idol worship. After many warnings, God gave them over to the Babylonians, and they were led away to captivity. But their exile was not the end for them as it had been for the northern kingdom. As we will learn next week, God promised to restore them. One reason was because the Messiah, Jesus, had to be born in Bethlehem from King David’s descendants.

WEEK 21  God’s Warnings of Judgment and Promise of Restoration
A simple reading of the Bible clearly shows that there is a God who rules in the affairs of men and nations. God does not sit idly by while a nation rejects Him. He gives them the bad leaders they deserve and brings judgment in the form of enemies. Both Israel and Judah fell into idolatry. The people were still offering sacrifices to God, but the sacrifices were detestable to Him. Merely practicing religious customs and laws does not compensate for wickedness. True worship must come from the heart. Judah’s seventy years of captivity taught them not to worship idols. These lessons show how special the Jewish people are to God. He disciplined them severely, but He did not totally reject them. And God’s warnings to the nations of Israel and Judah should be taken to heart as we look at our own nation and our own lives. An idol is anything you put your trust in. Today, people may not worship physical idols, but they often make themselves or material possessions the idol. God hates idolatry. He wants us to place our trust in Him alone.
WEEK 22  Return from Babylonian Captivity
This week is an interesting demonstration of the fulfillment of prophecy. The prophet Jeremiah said that the Jews would be restored to the land after 70 years of exile. The prophet Isaiah said that a king named Cyrus would give the people permission to return. Isaiah made this prophecy before Cyrus was born! And both prophecies happened exactly as predicted. Often, God’s promises are fulfilled in several ways. The return from Babylon was the first fulfillment of God’s promise of restoration for His people. The return of the Jews to their promised land in 1948 is a further confirmation that God fulfills His promises. Ezra was very upset that the Jews were intermarrying with other people in the land. When the Jews came out of Egypt, God warned them not to intermarry with the people of the land, but they did so anyway. This caused them to worship false gods and resulted in their seventy years of captivity. Now they were doing it again!

WEEK 23  Rebuilding the Wall
The book of Nehemiah is an excellent text on leadership. Nehemiah demonstrates concern, commitment, discernment, and dedication to doing God’s will as he works to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. See what lessons God teaches you about leadership and how you can apply them to your life as you read the verses this week.

WEEK 24  Prophesies of the Messiah
As we move toward the time of Christ, we now look at a few of the prophecies concerning the Messiah. The Old Testament contains over 300 references to the Messiah, and all were fulfilled by Jesus. These prophecies were given hundreds of years before Christ came, and they show that God had a plan from the beginning. Three of the verses this week need some explanation. Jesse, referred to in Isaiah 11:1, was King David’s father. In Daniel 9:25, God showed the prophet that “seven” sevens and “sixty-two” sevens, totaling 483 years (a “seven” being a period of seven years), would pass from when the decree would be issued to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One came. In 445 B.C., King Artaxerxes authorized Nehemiah to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city. Marking 483 solar years from then brings us to 29 or 30 A.D., the time of Christ’s ministry on earth. The prophecy of the virgin birth in Isaiah 7:14 had two fulfillments. The ultimate fulfillment was in the birth of Jesus Christ, as Matthew 1:22-23 explains. But the prophecy also had an immediate significance. A woman who was then a virgin would get married and have a son whose name would be “Immanuel.” The woman was possibly Isaiah’s second wife (his first wife had died) and the son was Isaiah’s second son also perhaps named “Immanuel”. (See Isaiah 8:1-4; note vv. 8 and 10.)

LIFE OF CHRIST
(Also covered in Study #6, “The Life of Christ.”)
This is the great turning point in the history of man! Christ becomes part of the human race and pays the price for man’s sin. The following lessons on the life of Christ, taken from the four Gospels, cover about 90 percent of the recorded events in His life.

WEEK 25  The Birth of Jesus
The promised Messiah has arrived, fulfilling the words of the prophets given hundreds of years before! God’s ways are not our ways, and His plan unfolds in surprising ways. God used a worldwide census to place Mary in Bethlehem, where the birth of Jesus would fulfill the words of the prophet Micah (Micah 5:2). Who would have ever thought that the Messiah would be born in a stable, or that He would grow up as the son of a village carpenter? The genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17 is considered to be that of Jesus’ legal foster-father Joseph and demonstrates Jesus’ legal right to the throne through Solomon. The genealogy in Luke 3:23-38 is believed to be that of Mary and demonstrates both His right as a “Son of David” and also His humanity as a
Son of Adam. Much is revealed in these early chapters about the divine nature of Christ and His purpose of bringing salvation to the world. The virgin birth is very important. If Jesus had an earthly father, He would have inherited the sin nature of Adam and could not have been a sinless sacrifice.

**WEEK 26  A Time of Preparation**

John the Baptist played an important role as the forerunner who would prepare the way for Christ by calling people to repent of their sins and change their ways. John was the first to recognize Jesus as the Son of God when the dove came down on Jesus at His baptism (John 1:32-34). Why did Jesus have to be baptized since He was sinless? This was God’s way of introducing His Son to Israel. It was also a prophetic picture of the baptism of suffering that Jesus would experience at His crucifixion and resurrection. For believers who would follow His example, water baptism would be a symbol of their spiritual death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. It is important to see that Jesus was “tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Therefore, He could offer His life as a sacrifice for our sins. He could not have done this if He had sinned because He would have died for His own sins and not ours. This is a very important point in God’s plan. In the Mosaic Law, God established that an unblemished animal had to be offered as a sacrifice by the priests because it foreshadowed the sinless nature of Christ.

**WEEK 27  The Calling of Disciples and the Cost of Discipleship**

This is an important week for those going through this study. Jesus is looking for total surrender of our lives to His Lordship. There is a real cost to following Jesus, but there is also a fantastic reward. You must consistently allow Him to control your life. Are you willing to do this? If not, what may be holding you back?

**WEEK 28  Jesus’ Miracles**

The stories of Jesus’ miracles show that faith is important. People came to Jesus because they believed He could heal them. Jesus told the two blind men, “According to your faith will it be done to you” (Matthew 9:29). But in His hometown, Jesus did not do many miracles because of their lack of faith (Matthew 13:58). Jesus tells us that His miracles are a witness to who He really is. As you read about His miracles, what do they tell you about Jesus? May the lessons this week greatly increase your faith.

**WEEK 29  The Sermon on the Mount**

The people had been trying to please God by obeying laws. In this sermon, Jesus shows that pleasing God goes far beyond obeying laws. It is an attitude of the heart. The sermon begins with the beatitudes. Someone once pointed out that these are BE attitudes, not DO attitudes. They represent an outlook very different from that of the world. “Poor in spirit” means humility. We are to mourn over sin and despise it. The word translated “meek” or “gentle” was used by the Greeks to describe a trained horse – powerful, yet under control. And God commands us to be thankful in all things. Being thankful under persecution takes thankfulness to a new level.

Jesus said that our righteousness must be greater than that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the Mosaic Law. His listeners must have thought, “How is that possible? These men are experts at obeying the Law!” The Pharisees and teachers, however, were actually experts at self-righteousness, obeying the external requirements of the law but not changing their bad attitudes. Jesus pointed out that true righteousness is a matter of the heart. It begins with the surrender of our will to God, which transforms our thoughts and attitudes as well as our actions. Where are you in this process?
Jesus ended the sermon by warning, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). The will of His Father is that we believe in His Son and let Him live through us. All attempts at obedience in our own self-righteous efforts count for nothing.

WEEK 30  Parables
Jesus often taught people using parables. When His disciples asked why, He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them" (Matthew 13:11). So the parables are meant to teach His followers important truths but to conceal truth from those who refuse to believe. Read the parables carefully, and see what secrets you can uncover for your own life and for your walk with the Lord. Try to summarize specific commands that apply to you. For example, the parable of the sower implies that we should seek to be “good soil” for the Word of God.

WEEK 31  Teachings about the Kingdom of Heaven
We often wonder what the kingdom of heaven will be like. This lesson gives us a glimpse at some of the answers. See how each of these teachings applies to you as a child of God. For example, Jesus points out in Matthew 22:21 that we are to “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” We are to obey the government, but give our whole lives to God. The story of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46) illustrates the importance of helping others.

WEEK 32  Additional Important Teachings
This week highlights several other important teachings of Jesus. The first three days deal with our relationship with others, including our spouse. The next three days deal with our relationship with God. The seventh day deals with an important question: What will happen at the end of the age?

WEEK 33  Jesus Is the Messiah
The prophets predicted the Messiah (Christ) would come. This week we read some testimony from Jesus Himself. Perhaps His strongest statement is in John 8:58 where He tells the Jews, "Before Abraham was born, I Am!" The Jews clearly understood that Jesus was equating Himself with God, and they picked up stones to kill Him for blasphemy. When the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush, Moses asked Him how he should reply if the Israelites asked the name of the God who had sent him to free them from the Egyptians. God replied, "This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you" (Exodus 3:14).

WEEK 34  Opposition of Religious Leaders
The opposition of the religious leaders against Jesus is seen throughout the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Several groups of religious leaders are mentioned. The high priest supervised the rest of the priests, led the most important religious ceremonies, and was president of the Sanhedrin (the ruling body of elders). The Pharisees and Sadducees were two separate religious parties of priests and scribes that made up the leadership of the country. (Scribes interpreted and taught the religious laws of Moses.) The Pharisees strictly followed numerous laws in an attempt to live righteously. Many of these laws were man-made extensions of what God commanded in His Law. The Pharisees were quite proud of their outward demonstration of obedience, but Jesus said they were like whitewashed tombs, beautiful on the outside but dead on the inside. The Sadducees were a more aristocratic party that included the high-priest families.

These religious leaders were greatly offended when Jesus did not follow their traditions, particularly when He healed on the Sabbath and claimed to be equal with God. They were
concerned that everyone would believe in Him, and then the Romans would come and take away their place as leaders (John 11:48). Notice in particular the high priest’s response in John 11:49-53. This fear (and jealousy) would result in the religious leaders taking Jesus before the Roman ruler and demanding that He be crucified.

WEEK 35  Jesus Predicts His Crucifixion
God’s plan from the beginning was that Jesus would offer His life as a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus warned His disciples before it was to happen. Isaiah’s prophesy (Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12) predicted it as well.

WEEK 36  Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem and His Arrest
Jesus had to die in Jerusalem (Luke 13:33). Remember when God told Abraham to take his son Isaac to the region of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice? Jerusalem is in the same region. Jesus was betrayed and brought before the authorities. He confirmed to the Council of Elders that He was the Son of God (Matthew 26:63-68), and He confirmed to Pilate that He was the King of the Jews (John 18:33-37).

WEEK 37  Jesus’ Trial, Crucifixion, and Resurrection
King David foretold Jesus’ death 1,000 years before it happened (Psalm 22). Another detailed description of His death, written 700 years before Christ, is given in Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12. Pilate sentenced Jesus to death not because He deserved to die, but because the mob demanded it. Jesus was crucified during the time of the Passover. This relates back to the first Passover in Egypt when God passed over the homes marked with the blood of a lamb. (See Exodus chapter 12.) The blood of Christ now protects believers from judgment and condemnation. Jesus cried out on the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46). Jesus was momentarily separated from His heavenly Father when He took upon Himself the sins of the world, fulfilling His purpose for coming to earth. Because He remained sinless, His death was accepted by God as payment for our sins.

The Great Commission that Christ gives to His disciples in Matthew 28:16-20 is also a challenge for each of us to go and disciple others. Jesus told His disciples, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). In the 2,000 years since His death, believers have experienced that power at work. We have the same power available to us today, and the same charge to help finish the work.

GROWTH OF THE CHURCH
(Also covered in Study #7, “The Book of Acts.”)
The growth of the Christian faith over the centuries is the work of the Holy Spirit. These lessons demonstrate the Holy Spirit’s power in the lives of believers.

WEEK 38  The Beginnings of the Church
Jesus told His disciples, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:4-5). A few individuals in the Old Testament, such as all the prophets, Saul, and David, had experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. But this was not the case for the average believer. Now that Christ’s sacrifice has been made, God was doing something new. Lessons this week illustrate the power of the Holy Spirit now given to every believer. It was a great surprise to the Jews that even the Gentiles (non-Jews) were
given the Holy Spirit. These lessons also show the close fellowship of believers and the opposition that comes from the world toward God and His followers.

**WEEK 39  Saul’s Conversion and First Missionary Journey**
Last week ended with God’s revelation to Peter that the Gentiles were included in God’s kingdom. This fulfilled God’s promise to Abraham that the whole world would be blessed through him. The Lord chose Paul to preach the gospel specifically to the Gentiles. Paul marveled that he, “the worst of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15-17), was chosen by the Lord. Paul had supported the stoning of Stephen and had persecuted believers to their deaths. Yet the Lord chose him. Paul saw this as living proof that Jesus came to save sinners and that God’s ways are full of mercy.

As the young church rapidly grew to include Gentile believers, some Jewish believers thought that the Gentiles should still obey certain Jewish laws, like circumcision. This became such a serious issue that Paul and Barnabas were sent to Jerusalem to resolve the differences. The church council in Jerusalem declared that salvation was by grace through faith alone. This major step clarified God’s plan of salvation.

**WEEK 40  Paul’s Second and Third Missionary Journeys**
Paul’s primary focus was to plant churches in each city where he went. He also recognized the importance of following up new believers and decided to revisit those cities to see how the new churches were doing. This took some courage since he had nearly been killed in several of the cities. Paul and Barnabas got into an argument over taking John Mark along with them. Paul did not want to take Mark because he had left them during the last trip. When your life is in danger, you want companions you can absolutely trust. But God used the differences to create two missionary teams instead of one. The Holy Spirit was also clearly leading Paul as He kept Paul from entering Bithynia and led him instead to Macedonia and Greece.

**WEEK 41  Paul’s Arrest, Trial, and Trip to Rome**
This week’s lessons demonstrate once again how God’s hand is on those He chooses, protecting them as they fulfill His plans. The gospel was going into the very heart of the Roman Empire, but it was being taken by a prisoner. God’s ways certainly are not our ways.

**WEEK 42  Early Problems in the Church**
Jesus calls us to be one as He and His Father are one. As these lessons show, this is not always easy. The only way to overcome problems that sin causes in the church is for each of us to live lives totally surrendered to Christ. The last day’s verses on legalism versus the Spirit are particularly important.

**KEY LESSONS FROM THE EPISTLES**
The Epistles (the books of Romans through Jude) are letters written to the early churches and believers to explain the good news of Christ and to deal with some of the problems that were surfacing. Sometime on your own, you should do a more detailed study of each of the books found in the Epistles.

**WEEK 43  Our Position in Christ**
We have been given incredible blessings through our faith in Christ. It is good to spend a week thinking about what God has done for us and the position we now have with Him for eternity.
WEEK 44  Role of the Holy Spirit and the Importance of Faith
Without faith, it is impossible to please God. But what is faith? It is not something we produce within ourselves. It has to come from the Holy Spirit as He works in our lives and teaches us to believe and trust in God. To consistently experience the filling and the power of the Holy Spirit, we need to daily allow Christ to be Lord of our life. And we need to keep all sin confessed so we can grow in our fellowship with God. (See Study #1, “How to Live the Spirit-filled Life.”)

WEEK 45  Family and Other Relationships
Relationships with others are the testing ground of our walk with God. In many ways, these relationships in the family all begin with the husband and father. As head of the home, he is responsible to lead his family in loving and obeying God. He can do this only if he has surrendered his life to the Lordship of Christ. Then he is able to love his wife as Christ loves the church. And it is much easier for the wife to submit to her husband when he treats her this way. Together, they can raise their children to honor and obey God and respect authority. God calls each of us to love and obey Him, even if one of the links in this process is broken.

WEEK 46  Patience and Suffering
As we know, much of life involves patience and suffering, and God devotes much of the Bible to telling us how to deal with it. In fact, the whole book of Job in the Old Testament deals with this subject. God tells us that in the midst of sufferings, we need to maintain an attitude of thankfulness, believing that He is sovereign over everything and is working all things together for our good.

WEEK 47  Other Teachings
The Epistles teach us to love one another and to live in the unity that Christ emphasized at the last supper (John 15:12; 17:23). Jesus is the example of humility and self-sacrifice that we need to experience this love and unity. God gives us the spiritual “armor” and the ways of escape from temptation, but we must choose to use the help He offers. We must also avoid loving the things of the world. James 4:4 is clear: Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. The passages selected for this week cover some major lessons. However, you should study the Epistles in more detail later on your own.

WEEKS 48 & 49  Romans – Summing It All Up
By now, you have enough background to appreciate the sweeping overview of God’s plan found in Romans. These two weeks can be summarized as follows:

The Basis for Our Faith
• We all have sinned and deserve the wrath of God (Romans 1:18 – 3:20).
• We receive a righteousness that comes from God when we place our faith in Jesus’ death on the cross as payment for our sins (Romans 3:21-31).
• Abraham is an example of faith (Romans 4).

The Benefits of Our Faith
• God’s gift of salvation is amazing and priceless (Romans 5:1-11).
• Death came to all through Adam, Life comes through Christ (Romans 5:12-21).
• Believers are identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. We have died to our sinful nature and are no longer slaves to sin (Romans 6-7).
• We now have the Holy Spirit to guide us, and we have a glorious future (Romans 8).

The Relationship of Israel to Faith
• Salvation is by God’s sovereign choice. It does not depend on our desire or efforts, but on God’s mercy (Romans 9:1-29).
• Israel tried to find righteousness through obeying the Law, but did not find it. Some day in the future all of Israel will be saved (Romans 9:30 – 11:36).

The Duties of Our Faith
• In light of what God has done for us, we must offer our bodies as living sacrifices and live in a way that pleases Him (Romans 12:1 – 15:13).

THE END TIMES
(Also covered in Study #12, “The End Times.”)

We come to the end, and what an end it is! God revealed many things about the end times to prophets centuries ago. Christ spoke of what was to come (Matthew 24:1-51), and God revealed much to the Apostle John in the book of Revelation.

WEEK 50 Prophecies of the Prophets
The prophecies of the Old Testament are like windows that allow us to look into the future to the time when Christ returns. God has promised that He will first restore Israel, and the temple will be rebuilt. This prophecy was partially fulfilled when Israel became a nation again in 1948 after 2000 years of exile. The battle of Gog of Magog occurs when God draws the armies of Israel’s enemies into Israel and supernaturally destroys them. (Many Bible students believe Gog is the ruler of Russia.) The temple might be built after this happens. Daniel 9:27 describes a seven-year period at the end of this age. A ruler (the Antichrist) will make a seven year covenant with Israel to protect them. In the middle of this period, the Antichrist will break the covenant and set up an idol of himself in the temple. During this seven year period, great disasters descend upon the earth. (We will read more about this in weeks 51 and 52.) At the end, Christ will return to earth in great glory. Afterwards, He will rule the world from Jerusalem, and Israel will become a great nation. These prophecies were written about 2,500 years ago, but they have always encouraged the faithful because they show we are ultimately victors no matter how hard life can be.

WEEKS 51 & 52 The Book of Revelation
Here you are at the grand finale! This life of sin and death passes away, and we enter into the kingdom of God for eternity! But before we get there, the world must go through its greatest trials, known as the Tribulation. The Tribulation begins with a special event in heaven. Jesus, the Lamb of God, opens a scroll that no one else can open (Revelation 5:1-10). This event involves all three members of the Trinity: God the Father is on the throne with the scroll; God the Son opens the scroll; God the Holy Spirit is before the throne. As Jesus opens the scroll, great disasters occur on earth.

Daniel 9:27 tells us that the Tribulation also begins with a special event on earth, and will last seven years. The Antichrist, the leader of the restored Roman Empire, makes a covenant with Israel to protect them from their enemies. The Holy Spirit has been holding back this man of lawlessness, but He will now step out of the way, and the Antichrist will be revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8). Midway through the seven years, the Antichrist will become an enemy of Israel and set up an idol of himself in the temple (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 13:14-15). At this point, the final wrath of God is poured out on the earth (Revelation 11:18; 15:1).

Some important symbolic characters in the book of Revelation need definition:
• The Woman Clothed with the Sun (12:1): This is the nation Israel. God will supernaturally protect a portion of the Jews during the last half of the Tribulation.
• The Woman’s Male Child (12:5): This is Christ, whom Satan tried to kill at birth.
• The Dragon (12:3): This is Satan, who is hurled down to earth with his angels.
• **The Beast out of the Sea (13:1-10):** This is a revived Roman Empire, which dominates the world, and is directed by the Antichrist, who exercises great power as the world dictator. He is one of the ten rulers of countries related to the revived Roman Empire. He has a fatal wound, but somehow is brought back to life, to the astonishment of the world. Satan gives the Antichrist his power, his throne, and his great authority. People on earth worship both Satan and the Antichrist, and ask, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?” (Revelation 13:4).

• **The Beast Out of the Earth (13:11-18):** This false prophet makes people worship the Antichrist. The false prophet performs great miracles and is given power by Satan to cause an image of the Antichrist to speak. This false prophet also causes those who refuse to worship the Antichrist to be killed, and he forces everyone to receive a mark on his right hand or forehead to be able to buy and sell anything. Believers are strongly warned not to accept this mark.

• **The Beast (17:3):** The scarlet beast is the same as the one in 13:1, the revived Roman Empire, the center of world government, and especially personified in the final head, the Antichrist. The Antichrist apparently is killed, but he comes back from the Abyss (where demons are locked up). This happens to him sometime during the first half of the Tribulation. Perhaps in this way, the Antichrist is both the seventh and eighth king mentioned in Revelation 17:10-11.

• **Seven Heads of the Beast (17:3):** They represent seven hills or mountains. (Some believe this is a traditional description of Rome.) But they also represent seven kings (or kingdoms). Five have fallen (ancient Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece); one exists at the time of the writing (Rome of that day), and one has not yet come (the revived Roman Empire under the Antichrist).

• **The Woman (17:1):** She is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth (17:18). Some believe she is also a world religious system based in “Babylon” that encourages people to worship the Antichrist.

• **Babylon (18:2):** This city is perhaps Rome. Others believe it is actually a rebuilt Babylon. Babylon seems to represent a great economic power that will collapse (18:3, 9-19).

At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will return to earth in power and glory to set up His kingdom. The Antichrist and the false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire, and Satan will be locked in the Abyss. Christ will reign in Jerusalem for a thousand years (called the Millennium). At the end of this period, Satan will be released and will lead one last revolt against the Lord. God sends fire from heaven to destroy his armies, and Satan is thrown into the lake of fire. God then creates a new heaven and new earth that lasts for eternity.

You need to make sure which side you are on. Christ is the Son of God, who came to take our punishment by dying on the cross. Those who believe will be saved and spend eternity with God. Those who reject this message will go into eternal torment. Do you know where you will be?

We hope you have enjoyed this study and have deepened your faith in Christ and your relationship with Him. We pray that you will see clearly all that you have in Christ and that you will share this good news with someone else – and encourage him to pass his faith on to others as well.
OVERVIEW OF GOD’S PLAN
From Genesis to Revelation

THE BEGINNINGS

Week 1 Creation
Day 1 God Creates the Support Systems Genesis 1:1-13
Day 2 God Creates a Time System Genesis 1:14-19
Day 3 God Creates Living Creatures Genesis 1:20-25
Day 4 Man Created in God’s Image Genesis 1:26 – 2:3
Day 5 Adam and the Garden of Eden Genesis 2:4-17
Day 6 Eve Genesis 2:18-25
Day 7 The Role of Christ in Creation Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-2

Week 2 The Fall of Man
1. The Fall of Man Genesis 3:1-7
   1. Excuses Given Genesis 3:8-13
   2. God’s Response Genesis 3:14-19
   3. Nakedness Covered; Banished from Garden Genesis 3:20-24
   4. Cain and Abel Genesis 4:1-16
   5. The Descendants of Cain Genesis 4:17-24
   6. The Descendants of Seth Genesis 4:25 – 5:32

Week 3 Noah and the Flood
   1. The Preparations Genesis 6:9-22
   2. The Flood Genesis 7:1 – 8:22
   3. God’s Covenant with Noah Genesis 9:1-17
   4. The Sons of Noah Genesis 9:18-29
   5. Descendants of Noah’s Sons Become the Future Nations Genesis 10:1-32

Week 4 The Call of Abram
1. The Call of Abram; Time in Egypt Genesis 12:1-20
   1. Abram and Lot Separate Genesis 13:1 – 14:24
   2. God’s Covenant with Abram Genesis 15:1-21
   3. Sarai, Hagar, and Ishmael Genesis 16:1-16
   4. The Covenant of Circumcision Genesis 17:1-27
   5. Sodom and Gomorrah Genesis 18:1 – 19:29

Week 5 Isaac and Jacob
1. Isaac and Rebekah Genesis 24:1-66
   1. Jacob and Esau Genesis 25:19-34
   2. Jacob Gets Isaac’s Blessing Genesis 27:1-40
   5. Jacob’s Children Genesis 30:25 – 31:55
   6. Jacob Meets Esau Genesis 32:1 – 33:20
Week 6  Joseph and the Move to Egypt
   3. Joseph in Charge of Egypt   Genesis 41:1-57
   4. Joseph’s Brothers Go to Egypt   Genesis 42:1-38
   5. Second Journey to Egypt   Genesis 43:1 – 44:34
   7. Jacob Goes to Egypt   Genesis 46:1 – 47:31

Week 7  Moses, the Plagues, and the Passover
1. God Protects Moses   Exodus 1:1 – 2:25
   2. God Prepares Moses   Exodus 3:1 – 4:31
   3. God Speaks through Moses and Aaron   Exodus 5:1 – 6:13
   4. The First Four Plagues   Exodus 7:1 – 8:32
   5. The Next Four Plagues   Exodus 9:1 – 10:20
   6. The Final Two Plagues   Exodus 10:21 – 11:10
   7. Passover   Exodus 12:1-51

Week 8  Exodus from Egypt
1. Dedication to God   Exodus 13:1-22
   2. Crossing the Red Sea   Exodus 14:1-31
   4. Lessons on Grumbling, Trust, Leadership   Exodus 17:1 – 18:27
   5. The 10 Commandments   Exodus 19:1 – 20:21
   6. Aaron and the Golden Calf   Exodus 32:1 – 33:11

Week 9  The Tabernacle and the Priests
1. The Offerings, Ark, Table, and Lampstand   Exodus 25:1-40
   2. The Tabernacle   Exodus 26:1 – 27:8
   3. The Tabernacle Court, Oil, Altar   Exodus 27:9-21; 30:1-10
   4. The Priesthood of Aaron and His Sons   Exodus 28:1-43
   5. Consecrating the Priests   Exodus 29:1-46
   6. Purity and Holiness before the Lord   Exodus 30:17-38
   7. God Provides Skills; Sabbath Instructions   Exodus 31:1-18

Week 10  The Sacrifices
1. Burnt and Grain Offerings   Leviticus 1:1-2:16
   2. Fellowship Offerings   Leviticus 3:1-17
   4. Other Sin Offerings   Leviticus 5:1 – 6:7
   5. The Priests Begin Their Ministry   Leviticus 8:1-36
   6. The Inauguration of Priestly Service   Leviticus 9:1-24
   7. Disobedience in Their Priestly Service   Leviticus 10:1-20

Week 11  The March Toward the Promised Land
1. The March Led by the Lord   Numbers 9:15 – 10:36
   2. Grumblings and Jealousy   Numbers 11:1 – 12:16
   3. Exploring Canaan   Number 13:1-33
   4. The People’s Lack of Faith   Numbers 14:1-45
5. Rebellion, Jealousy, and Grumbling Numbers 16:1 – 17:13
7. The Death of Moses in Moab Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Week 12  Entering the Promised Land

1. Commissioning Joshua and the People Joshua 1:1-18
2. Spies Go to Jericho and Meet Rahab Joshua 2:1-24
3. Crossing the Jordon River Joshua 3:1 – 4:24
4. The Fall of Jericho Joshua 5:1; 5:13 – 6:27
5. Achan’s Sin and Its Consequences Joshua 7:1-26
6. Capture of Ai; Reading the Law Joshua 8:1-35

JUDGES, KINGS, AND PROPHETS

Weeks 13 & 14  The Time of Judges

Week 13

1. Patterns of Rebellion and Discipline Judges 2:6-23
2. Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar Judges 3:1-31
3. Deborah as Judge Judges 4:1-24
5. God Wins the Battle Judges 7:1-25

Week 14

1. Repeated Patterns of Sin Judges 10:1 – 11:11
5. Samson’s Death Judges 16:1-31
6. Samuel Dedicated to the Lord 1 Samuel 1:1 – 2:21
7. God Speaks to Samuel 1 Samuel 2:22 – 3:21

Week 15  Establishment of the Kingdom

1. Israel Asks for a King 1 Samuel 8:1 – 9:14
2. Saul Is Crowned King 1 Samuel 9:15 – 10:27
4. David and Goliath 1 Samuel 17:1-58
5. God’s Promise to David 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 7:1-29
6. David and Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11:1-27
7. The Consequences of David’s Sin 2 Samuel 12:1-25

Week 16  The Reign of Solomon

1. Solomon Becomes King 1 Kings 2:1-46
4. Solomon Dedicates the Temple 1 Kings 8:1-66
5. Solomon’s Disobedience 1 Kings 9:1-9; 11:1-13
6. Solomon’s Adversaries 1 Kings 11:14-43
7. A Kingdom Divided 1 Kings 12:1-33
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| 1. | Jeroboam and the Prophets | 1 Kings 13:1-34  
| 2. | Jeroboam and God’s Prophecy | 1 Kings 14:1-20  
| 3. | Five Evil Kings | 1 Kings 15:25 – 16:28  
| 4. | Ahab and Elijah | 1 Kings 16:29 – 17:24  
| 5. | Elijah and the Prophets of Baal | 1 Kings 18:1-46  
| 6. | God Ministers to Elijah and Calls Elisha | 1 Kings 19:1-21  
| 7. | The Death of Ahab | 1 Kings 22:1-40  

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| 1. | Ahaziah and God's Judgment | 2 Kings 1:1-18  
| 2. | Elijah Taken Up; Elisha Takes the Mantle | 2 Kings 2:1-25  
| 3. | Jehoram (Joram)Becomes King | 2 Kings 3:1-27  
| 5. | Jehu Becomes King | 2 Kings 9:1 – 10:36  
| 7. | Hoshea and the Fall and Exile of Israel | 2 Kings 17:1-41  

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| 2. | Asa | 2 Chronicles 14:1 – 16:14  

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| 2. | Hezekiah Re-establishes Passover | 2 Chronicles 30:1-27  
| 3. | Further Cleansing of Judah | 2 Chronicles 31:1-21  
| 4. | God Saves Judah and Hezekiah | 2 Chronicles 32:1-33  
| 5. | Manasseh and Amon | 2 Chronicles 33:1-25  
| 7. | The Last Kings and the Fall of Judah | 2 Chronicles 35:20 – 36:23  

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| 4. | Promise of Restoration | Jeremiah 32:1-44; 33:14-18  
| 5. | Jeremiah’s Warnings regarding Egypt | Jeremiah 44:1-30  

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| 3. | Opposition to the Rebuilding | Ezra 4:1-24  

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4. The Temple Completed
   Ezra 5:1 – 6:22
5. Ezra Receives the King’s Blessing
   Ezra 7:1-28
6. Ezra Goes to Jerusalem
   Ezra 8:1-36
7. Confession, Repentance, and Cleansing
   Ezra 9:1 – 10:19

**Week 23 Rebuilding the Wall**

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<td>Nehemiah 6:15 – 7:7; 7:66 – 8:18</td>
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**Week 24 Prophesies of the Messiah**

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<td>2.</td>
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<td>Isaiah 7:1-17; Matthew 1:22-23</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Rejected by His Own People; Bore Our Sins</td>
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<td>Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>David’s Great Messianic Psalm</td>
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<td>Psalm 22:1-31; Matthew 27:35-46</td>
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<td>7.</td>
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<td>Psalm 16:8-11; Acts 2:24-36; Psalm 110:1</td>
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**LIFE OF CHRIST**

**Week 25 The Birth of Jesus**

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<td>Luke 2:21-40</td>
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**Week 26 A Time of Preparation**

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**Week 27 The Calling of Disciples and the Cost of Discipleship**

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<td><em>Luke 5:1-11, 27-32</em></td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Twelve Chosen and Sent Out; the Cost of Discipleship</td>
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<td>Luke 6:12-16; Matthew 9:35 – 11:1</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>“If Anyone Would Come after Me”</td>
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<td>Matthew 16:24-27</td>
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5. The Rich Young Man  Matthew 19:16-30

Week 28  Jesus’ Miracles

2. The Centurion; the Widow’s Son; the Royal Official  Luke 7:1-17; John 4:43-54
3. Jesus Calms the Storm and Heals a Demon-Possessed Man  Luke 8:22-39
4. A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman; Boy with a Demon  Matthew 14:13-36
5. Jesus Feeds 5,000 and Walks on the Sea  Mark 8:22-26; 10:46-52; John 9:1-12

Week 29  The Sermon on the Mount

1. The Beatitudes and Fulfillment of Law  Matthew 5:1-20
2. Murder, Reconciliation, Adultery, and Divorce  Matthew 5:21-32
3. Oaths, Enemies, and Giving to the Needy  Matthew 5:33 – 6:4
4. Prayer, Forgiveness, and Fasting  Matthew 6:5-18
5. Treasures in Heaven  Matthew 6:19-34
7. A Life Founded on Obedience  Matthew 7:13-29

Week 30  Parables

1. The Sower and the Four Soils  Matthew 13:1-23
2. The Kingdom of Heaven  Matthew 13:24-52; Mark 4:26-29
6. Two Sons; Evil Tenants; Wedding Banquet  Matthew 21:28 – 22:14
7. The Ten Virgins; the Talents  Matthew 25:1-30

Week 31  Teachings about the Kingdom of Heaven

1. You Must Be Born Again  John 3:1-21, 36
6. Two Tests and the Greatest Commandment  Matthew 22:15-40
7. The Importance of Helping Others  Matthew 25:31-46

Week 32  Additional Important Teachings

1. How to Correct a Brother  Matthew 18:15-20
2. Forgiveness  Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 17:3-4
4. Prayer
5. The Promise of the Holy Spirit
   John 14:15-31; 16:5-16
6. Our Position as a Branch on the Vine
   John 15:1 – 16:4
7. Signs of the End of the Age
   Matthew 24:1-51

Week 33  Jesus Is the Messiah

2. Jesus Explains His Authority
   John 5:16-47
3. Jesus Proclaims God Sent Him
   John 7:1-52
4. Jesus Declares, “I am!”
   John 8:12-59
5. Jesus Is the Good Shepherd
   John 10:1-42
6. Peter’s Confession of Christ; Transfiguration
   Matthew 16:13-20; 17:1-13
7. Jesus Is the Only Way to the Father
   John 14:1-14

Week 34  Opposition of Religious Leaders

2. Jesus Healed on the Sabbath
3. Jesus Made Himself Equal to God
   John 5:16-18; 8:48-59
4. Jesus Accused of Using the Power of Satan
   Matthew 12:22-37
5. Leaders Question His Authority; Try to Trap
   Luke 20:1-8; Mark 12:13-34
6. The Response of Jesus
   Luke 11:37-54; Mark 12:1-12
7. Leaders Decide to Kill Jesus
   John 5:16-18; 7:25-31; 11:43-57

Week 35  Jesus Predicts His Crucifixion

1. The Sign of Jonah  Matthew 12:38-45
2. Jesus Predicts His Death
   Matthew 16:21-28
3. Jesus Predicts His Death in Jerusalem
4. Jesus Again Predicts Death
   Matthew 20:17-19
5. Jesus Is Anointed in Preparation for Burial
   Matthew 26:6-13
6. Jesus Predicts the Kind of Death
   John 12:20-36
7. Jesus Predicts Betrayal and Peter’s Denial
   John 13:18-38

Week 36  Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem and His Arrest

1. Triumphal Entry and Jesus at the Temple  Matthew 21:1-17
2. The Lord’s Supper
   Matthew 26:17-35; John 13:1-17
3. Jesus Prays for Himself and His Disciples
   John 17:1-26
4. In the Garden of Gethsemane
   Matthew 26:36-46
5. Jesus Arrested
   Matthew 26:47-56
6. Jesus Taken before the High Priest and Council of Elders
   Matthew 26:57-68
7. Peter Denies Jesus; Judas Dies
   Matthew 26:69 – 27:10

Week 37  Jesus’ Trial, Crucifixion, and Resurrection

2. The Crucifixion
3. The Death of Jesus
   Matthew 27:45-66; John 19:31-37
4. His Resurrection
5. Jesus Appears on the Road to Emmaus and to Assembled Disciples
6. The Miraculous Catch of Fish  John 21:1-25

GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

Week 38  The Beginnings of the Church
1. Pentecost  Acts 2:1-47
2. Peter Heals the Crippled Beggar  Acts 3:1-26
3. Peter and John Threatened by the Rulers  Acts 4:1-37
4. Persecution Begins  Acts 5:12-42
5. Stephen Martyred; Believers Spread Out  Acts 6:8 – 8:3; 11:19-21
6. Philip in Samaria and with the Ethiopian  Acts 8:4-40

Week 39  Saul’s Conversion and First Missionary Journey
2. Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem  Acts 9:19-31
4. Barnabas and Saul Sent, Go First to Cyprus  Acts 13:1-12

Week 40  Paul’s Second and Third Missionary Journeys
1. Disagreement between Paul and Barnabas  Acts 15:36 – 16:5
7. Through Macedonia and Greece; Farewell to Ephesian Elders  Acts 20:1-38

Week 41  Paul’s Arrest, Trial, and Trip to Rome

Week 42  Early Problems in the Church
2. Arrogance and Strife Rather than Humility  1 Corinthians 3:1 – 4:21
3. Immorality in the Church  1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:1-11
4. Lawsuits and Moral Laxity  1 Corinthians 6:1-20
5. Causing a Brother to Stumble  1 Corinthians 8:1-13; 10:14 – 11:1
### Overview of God’s Plan

#### Week 43  Our Position in Christ

1. **Our Resurrection Body**  
   *1 Corinthians 15:1-58*
   
2. Spiritual Blessings in Christ  
   *Ephesians 1:1 – 2:22*
   
3. Christ’s Sacrifice for Us  
   *Hebrews 9:1 – 10:18; Colossians 1:15-23*
   
4. The Salvation of Our Soul  
   *1 Peter 1:1-16*
   
5. A Chosen People  
   *Ephesians 1:3-6; Colossians 3:12-17; Thessalonians 2:13-15; 1 Peter 2:9-10*
   
6. Everything We Need for Life and Godliness  
   *2 Peter 1:1-11*
   
7. Eternal Life  
   *1 John 5:9-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11*

#### Week 44  Role of the Holy Spirit and the Importance of Faith

1. **The Spirit Gives Wisdom**  
   *1 Corinthians 2:1-16; James 3:17*
   
2. The Spirit Gives Life  
   *Romans 8:1-16*
   
3. The Spirit Seals Us in Christ  
   *Ephesians 1:11-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22*
   
4. The Spirit Gives Spiritual Gifts  
   *1 Corinthians 12:1-30; Ephesians 4:11-13*
   
5. Faith – the Key to Pleasing God  
   *Hebrews 11:1-40*
   
6. Faith and Deeds  
   *James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:17-18*
   
7. Faith and Prayer  
   *James 5:13-18; 1 John 5:14-15; 3:21-22*

#### Week 45  Family and Other Relationships

1. **Marriage**  
   *1 Corinthians 7:1-40*
   
2. Husbands and Wives  
   *Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7, Colossians 3:18-19; Hebrews 13:4*
   
3. Children and Parents  
   *Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 5:1-16*
   
4. Slaves and Masters  
   *Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22 – 4:1; 1 Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10*
   
5. Authorities  
   *Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-25; 1 Timothy 2:1-4*
   
6. Elders and Young Men  
   *1 Peter 5:1-11; Titus 1:4-9*
   
7. The Poor  
   *James 2:1-13; 5:1-6*

#### Week 46  Patience and Suffering

1. **Paul’s Attitude toward Suffering**  
   *2 Corinthians 11:16 – 12:10; 1:3-11*
   
2. A Call to Perseverance  
   *Hebrews 10:32-39; Jude 17-25; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Romans 5:1-5*
   
3. Trials and Temptations; God Works All Things for Good  
   *James 1:2-18; Romans 8:28-39; Philippians 2:12-18*
   
4. Patience in Suffering  
   *James 5:7-11; 2 Timothy 2:24-26*
   
5. Suffering for Doing Good  
   *1 Peter 2:19-23; 3:13-18, 4:12-19*
   
6. God Disciplines His Sons  
   *Hebrews 12:1-13; Revelation 3:19*
   
7. Trust God and Be Anxious for Nothing  
   *Philippians 4:4-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-24*

#### Week 47  Other Teachings

1. **Love One Another**  
   *1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-21*
   
2. Live in Unity in the Body of Christ  
   *Ephesians 4:1-32*
   
3. Be Holy  
   *1 Peter 1:13 – 2:3; Ephesians 5:1-21*
   
4. Put on the Armor of God  
   *Ephesians 6:10-20*
   
5. Do Not Love the World or Money  
   *1 John 2:15-17; James 4:1-10*
   
   *1 Timothy 6:3-10, 17-19; Hebrews 13:5-6*
6. Seek God’s Way of Escape from Temptation
   1 Corinthians 10:1-13; 2 Peter 2:4-9; 2 Timothy 4:18
7. Put No Confidence in the Flesh
   Philippians 3:1 - 4:1

**Weeks 48 and 49  Romans – Summing It All Up**

**Week 48**
1. The Wrath of God against Ungodliness Romans 1:1-32
2. God’s Righteous Judgment Romans 2:1-29
3. Righteousness Comes through Faith Romans 3:1-31
5. Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ Romans 5:12 – 6:23
6. Jesus Rescues Us from the Bondage of Sin Romans 7:1-25
7. Life Through the Spirit Romans 8:1-39

**Week 49**
1. God’s Sovereign Choice Romans 9:1-29
2. Israel Relied on Works, not Faith Romans 9:30 – 10:21
3. The Remnant of Israel Romans 11:1-36
4. Be a Living Sacrifice; Demonstrate Love Romans 12:1 - 21
5. Submit to Authorities; Love One Another Romans 13:1-14
7. Paul – His Ministry, Plans, and Greetings Romans 15:14 – 16:27

**THE END TIMES**

**Week 50  Prophecies of the Prophets**

4. Day of the Lord When He Returns Isaiah 2:5-22; 63:1-6; Joel 2:28-32
7. The Glory of Zion in the Millennium Isaiah 60:1-22; Micah 4:1-8

**Weeks 51 and 52  The Book of Revelation**

**Week 51**
1. Christ’s Messages to Three Churches Revelation 1:1 – 2:17
3. The Throne, the Scroll, and the Lamb Revelation 4:1 – 5:14
4. The Seven Seals; the 144,000; the Multitude Revelation 6:1 – 8:5
5. Six Trumpets Revelation 8:6 – 9:21
7. The Two Witnesses; the Seventh Trumpet Revelation 11:1-19

**Week 52**
1. The Woman and the Dragon Revelation 12:1-17
3. The 144,000; the Three Angels; Harvest of the Earth Revelation 14:1-20
4. Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath Revelation 15:1 – 16:21
5. Fall of Religious and Economic Systems Revelation 17:1 – 18:24

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