

Chapter 1
beginning God
and the earth.
The earth was with
darkness was upon
the Spirit
and the Spirit
was

Bible Basics



An Introduction to Biblical Christianity

P A U L & P E G G Y S C H L I E K E R

What is the Bible?

Who is God?

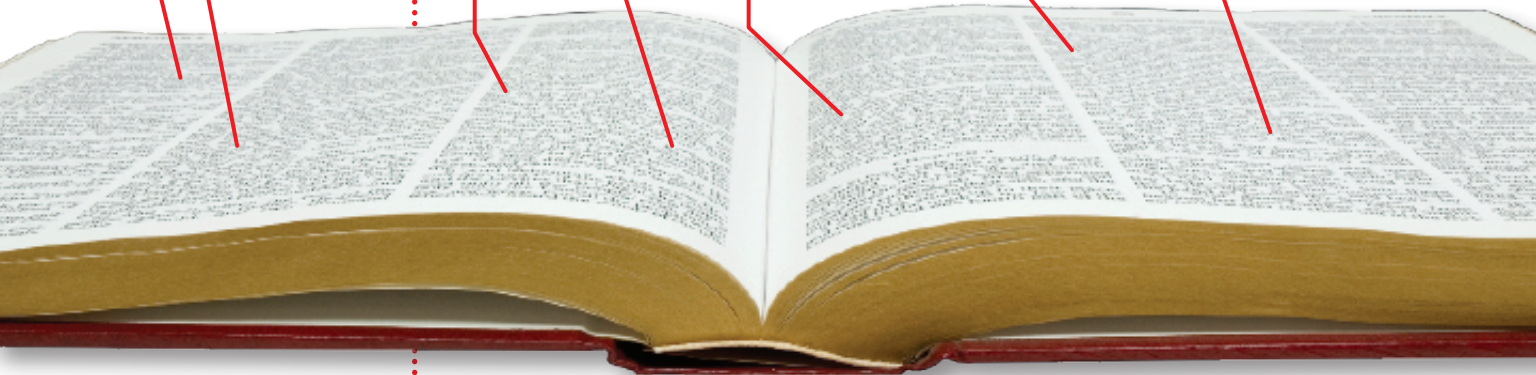
Who is Satan?

What is Sin?

What did Jesus claim?

What was Jesus like?

What's the deal about Jesus' resurrection?



For *those* who don't *know* what the *Bible* is ...let alone *what* it's all *about*.

About the *Open Your Heart Series*

Each computer has an *operating* system. Only with a functioning operating system, such as Windows, Mac, or Unix, can a computer fulfill its purpose. *Discipleship* is the operating system of the church. Jesus built his operating system by creating a discipling culture. Discipleship is life-on-life transformation. From Jesus we learn that *success is not about size. Success is succession.*

The *Open your Heart Series* offers four distinct studies that are uniquely designed to introduce Christianity, explain foundational principles, create authentic disciples and train disciple-makers. These ready-to-use materials include discussion questions and a leader guide. They are perfect for individuals, small groups and classes of any size.

STUDY

1

Bible Basics

Bible Basics is for those who don't know what the Bible is ...let alone what it's all about. This study assumes no Bible knowledge or background. These six full color lessons identify fundamental truths about God, the Bible, Satan, Sin and Jesus.

STUDY

2

What's Missing Inside You?

Do you want to discover foundational principles for Christian living? *What's Missing Inside You?* will benefit people at all stages of faith. This study answers two questions: What does Jesus have to do with me? and Does God have a plan for my life? Starting at square one, thirteen lessons explore important topics such as God's existence, man's purpose, forgiveness, temptation, the Holy Spirit, and much more. You will love the clear Scriptural teaching, practical application and over fifty real life stories.

STUDY

3

Kingdom Disciple

Is there a difference between a Christian and a follower of Jesus? What is a disciple? What does Jesus really expect? These are a few of the questions that are answered in *Kingdom Disciple — Building Your Relationship with Jesus*. This five-lesson study is not a new program about "doing discipleship." It is a guide to create authentic disciples. Learn how to be the disciple Jesus expects you to be.

STUDY

4

Kingdom-Driven Discipleship

Why is it important to make disciples where you live, work and play? Have you ever considered your job as a kingdom assignment, or your office as a kingdom outpost? *Kingdom-Driven Discipleship — Making Disciples in the Middle of the Harvest Field* equips disciples to be disciple-makers. This five-lesson study is excellent training for seasoned believers.

All four books are available at www.bible-study-lesson-plans.com. To learn more, read online what others say about these discipleship books. In addition, many free resources are available including our discipleship newsletter, small group leader training, devotions, Sunday school lessons, audio sermons and more.

Visit our Website: www.bible-study-lesson-plans.com



Leader Guide

PURPOSE

Bible Basics identifies fundamental truths about God, the Bible, Satan, Sin and Jesus. It is uniquely designed for people who are unfamiliar with basic Bible teachings.

LAYOUT

Bible Basics is composed of **six lessons**. Following lesson six, there are two additional sections to help you wrap up the study. **Resurrection Symbols** allows you to further explore the events surrounding the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. **Finding Peace with God** is a practical way to explain how to become a follower of Jesus. It is best used one-on-one.

STRUCTURE

This study is designed for a group setting. If you have a mid-size group, consider having members sit at tables with one leader per table.

PREPARATION

No advance preparation is required for the participant. The leader should read through all six lessons and discussion questions before the first session. As you prepare, look at the material through the eyes of your group to anticipate potential questions.

THE SESSIONS

Read aloud each lesson section by section. To facilitate group discussion, use the questions that are included for that lesson. Ask the questions at appropriate times throughout the session. Don't wait until the end.

TIMETABLE

Jesus taught people, not lessons. If necessary, devote multiple sessions to one lesson.

THE OPEN YOUR HEART  SERIES

*If you can read it...
...you can lead it!*

Bible Basics

OVERVIEW

Bible Basics is a six-lesson introduction to Christianity. This study identifies the basic truths about God, the Bible, Satan, Sin and Jesus.

LESSONS

- 1 God
- 2 The Bible
- 3 Satan & Sin
- 4 Jesus: His claims
- 5 Jesus: His character
- 6 Jesus: His resurrection

WRAP UP

Resurrection Symbols

Finding Peace with God



In determining relationships we must begin somewhere; there must be a fixed center against which everything else is measured. Such a center is God. He is the living God. He never changes.

God

In the Bible the creator of heaven and earth is called “God” and “The Lord.” But what is God like? What kind of God is He? Thankfully, God has revealed Himself through nature, the Bible and His Son. God’s self-revelation makes it possible for us to know Him. Here are some things God has revealed as being true of Himself:

Eternal Creator

God has always existed and always will exist. He is self-sufficient and does not depend upon anyone or anything.

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

ACTS 17:24-25

Unique

There is only one true God.

I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me.

ISAIAH 45:5-6

Personal

God is personally involved with his creation.

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.

PSALM 139:1-3

Perfect / Holy

“Holy” means spiritually perfect. God is different from everything and everyone. God is always right and pure. He has no faults.

Let them praise your great and awesome name — he is holy. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

PSALM 99:3, 5, 9

All knowing / Wise

God sees and knows everything. He knows our every action and thought.

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

PROVERBS 15:3

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

HEBREWS 4:13

Loving

God is accepting and compassionate. He gives us everything we need.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love.

PSALM 103:8

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.

PSALM 145:15

Forgiving

God is merciful. He does not hold our sins against us.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits — who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.

PSALM 103:2-3

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12

Whatever comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.

A.W. TOZER, THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY, HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS

Discussion questions:

As you discuss each characteristic of God, ask these questions.

1. How is this characteristic of God the same or different from your idea of God?
2. How does this characteristic of God make God different than people?
3. How is this characteristic of God a benefit to you/mankind?

The Bible

The Bible is a collection of writings (also called the Scripture and God's Word).

The Bible consists of 66 different books. The Bible was written by many different writers and primarily in two languages — Hebrew and Greek. It has been translated into over 400 languages. The writers were of many social ranks — rich, poor, kings, farmers, fishermen, priests, tax-collectors, tentmakers, educated, uneducated, Jews and non-Jews. The writers were mostly unknown to each other. The Bible was written over a space of 1600 years.

The Bible deals with one subject — man's salvation — how mankind can be reunited with God. It is divided into two parts — Old Testament and New Testament. Find the division of the Old and New Testaments in your Bible. The word *testament* means

covenant. A covenant is a mutual and total commitment between two people. The old covenant was established through Moses (a Jewish leader who lived about 1500 BC) and was based on the Ten Commandments (a list of 10 laws that God gave the Jewish people in the time of Moses). The new covenant is established through Jesus and is based on God's grace (undeserved forgiveness toward people).

Review the books and structure of the Bible in the lower part of this page.

Each book of the Bible is divided into chapters and verses. These divisions were introduced in the 13th and 16th

centuries. Look at the first book of the Bible, Genesis. The big numbers are the chapter divisions. The little numbers are the verse divisions. This system allows people to easily find any sentence in the Bible.

The Bible originated with God. We know God's mind because He has spoken. II Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed." This means that the Bible came from God's mouth. He spoke it and men wrote down what He said. God would be a stranger to us if He had not spoken. Behind every word that anybody speaks stands the person who speaks it. God's Word has authority because of who He is. The Bible is more than

a book that was once written; it is a voice that is now speaking.

The Bible is God's autobiography. It is God's revelation about Himself. To understand it we must read the Scriptures as God's revelation, not as a religious Wikipedia or text book. God's primary goal is to help us know Him. The Bible explains who God is, what God values and how God works. It reveals that God is the Creator, Savior and Judge of all the earth.

The Bible is personal. The scriptures were designed to enter our hearts and form

us into people who reflect God's likeness. The greatest portion of God's Word is devoted to persuading people to change their ways and live as God wants. In order to learn to obey God we must approach the Bible with an open mind and desire to do what God says.

The Bible is relevant to every culture and in every time period; it will never become obsolete. Everything in the Scriptures is for you. It is a living message for the contemporary world. The Bible is universal. It is a message for all people everywhere. In the Bible we don't just learn ideas, but see Jesus Himself.

O L D T E S T A M E N T



The Law

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
I Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings
I Chronicles
II Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Poetry

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor Prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

N E W T E S T A M E N T



Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

History

Acts

Letters by Paul to Churches

Romans
I Corinthians
II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
I Thessalonians
II Thessalonians

Letters by Paul to Others

I Timothy
II Timothy
Titus
Philemon

General Letters

Hebrews
James
I Peter
II Peter
I John
II John
III John
Jude

Prophecy

Revelation

New Testament Statistics

■ 27 books

■ Written in Greek

■ Covers Jesus' birth until about AD 95

■ Four types of books:

- 4 books of the story of Jesus' life (the Gospels or the "good news")
- 1 book of the History of the church
- 21 books of Letters (written to churches and individuals)
- 1 book of Prophecy

Useful Bible Study Website

www.crosswalk.com
(Click on Bible study tools.)

Discussion questions:

1. What is the difference between the Bible and other history books?
2. What is the difference between studying the Bible to learn facts and studying the Bible to know God and become like him?
3. What do you want to learn from the Bible?

Old Testament Statistics

■ 39 books

■ Written in Hebrew

■ Covers the creation of the world until 400 BC

■ Four types of books:

- 5 books of the Law
- 12 books of Jewish History
- 5 books of Poetry
- 17 books of Prophecy

BC — Before Christ

AD — Anno Domini, which means "In the Year of our Lord."



Satan is the great enemy of God and man.

In the Bible, Satan is often called the devil. Other titles

for Satan include: the evil one,

the father of lies, a murderer and

the tempter. The origin of Satan is

uncertain, but the Bible implies that he

was once an angel who was condemned

because of his ambitious pride and

rebellion against God. (Isaiah 14:12-15)

In his fall, Satan drew other evil angels

with him. These angels that followed

Satan are called demons.



Satan, the Devil

Satan is engaged in a worldwide struggle against God and all goodness. He is ever-seeking to defeat God's plans and try to get people to do wrong. His primary method is deception. He tries to deceive people into believing that God's ways are not the best for them. The Bible says that he is a spiritual being, very intelligent, very powerful, and totally evil. Even though Satan is not all-powerful as God, he is powerful. Jesus believed in his existence and warned of his power and influence.

▼ Jesus talked with the devil. *Jesus was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. The devil said to him "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"*

LUKE 4:1-4

▼ Satan is real. Satan is most deceptive when he persuades people that he does not exist. Satan tries to deceive people into thinking that he is good. *Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

II CORINTHIANS 11:14

▼ The devil is the enemy of all followers of Jesus. *Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

I PETER 5:8

▼ God is the ultimate authority in the universe, not the devil. Satan's doom is certain. Satan is a defeated enemy. Jesus promised that eternal fire is prepared for the devil and his angels. *And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of burning fire ...and will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

REVELATION 20:10

Sin

God made man sinless. Man was created to reflect God's perfect likeness. Today man does not always reflect God's likeness. The Bible calls this condition sin. All people have sinned; it is a universal spiritual condition. Only Jesus is without sin. Sin is any thought, word or action that falls short of reflecting God's likeness. Scripture describes sin several different ways:

- Failing to live up to God's standards
- Doing what is morally wrong by lying, cheating, stealing
- Perverting what is good
- Disregarding a known boundary and doing what is forbidden
- Neglecting to carry out clear instructions from God

Sin causes humans to live as if they are accountable to no one. Sin is the decision to live life away from God rather than toward Him. Sin is opposed to God. We sin when we do not submit to the rule of God. We sin when we place ourselves in charge of our lives. God designed us to love Him first. Sin puts our will before God. The effect of sin is always negative.

Sin is...

Congenital: *(from birth)*
Sin is an inherited spiritual disease. We are born with its infection in our nature. It is present at birth.

Addictive:
Sin is drug-like. It's easy to get hooked and hard to break free.

Alienating: *(separating)*
Sin cuts us off from God and creates conflict with others.

Destructive:
Sin destroys our conscience, self-worth and reputation.

Enslaving:
Sin captures and imprisons. 'Slave' describes many people. Habitual sin makes people its slave.

Sin is like putting your hand in a bucket of glue and then trying to wipe it clean. Everything you touch becomes sticky and it's impossible to get totally clean. Sin has created an unloving world. We all share some responsibility for the sin that is in the world today.



The solution for our condition is to discover a way to deal with sin and get God back into our lives. Thankfully, God loved us and sent His Son Jesus to provide us with such a solution. Jesus Christ died for our sins. Through His death on the cross, our sins are forgiven.

Followers of Jesus are forgiven for their sins. They also can overcome the devil's influence.

▼ *Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

JAMES 4:7

▼ *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

I CORINTHIANS 10:13

Discussion questions:

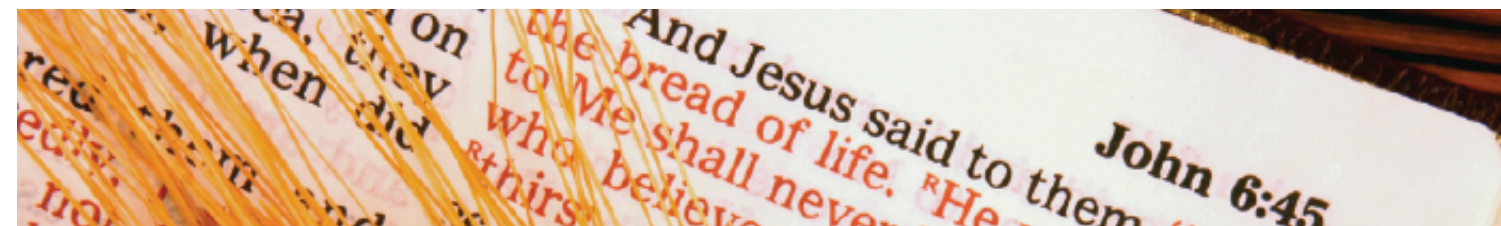
Integrate throughout the lesson when appropriate.

1. How is this description of the devil and sin the same or different than your ideas about them?
2. How have you seen the evidence of sin in the world?
3. How have you experienced that people cannot overcome their sin all by themselves?

Satan & Sin



Jesus *His Claims*



The search to find God always begins with Jesus. Why? Because if Jesus is not who he said he was, and if he did not do what he said he had come to do, the foundation of Christianity would collapse.

The evidence about Jesus is contained in the New Testament.

*The evidence is three-fold: His **claims**, His **character**, and His **resurrection**.*

Jesus' teaching was centered on Himself; who he was, what he was like and what he could do.

Here are the Claims of Christ:

(What do each one of these mean?)

▼ *I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*

JOHN 6:35

This means that Jesus is...

▼ *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

JOHN 8:12

This means that Jesus is...

▼ *I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am.*

JOHN 8:58

This means that Jesus is...

▼ *I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved.*

JOHN 10:9

This means that Jesus is...

▼ *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

JOHN 10:11

This means that Jesus is...

▼ *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies.*

JOHN 11:25

This means that Jesus is...

▼ *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

JOHN 14:6

This means that Jesus is...

▼ *I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

JOHN 15:5

This means that Jesus is...

▼ *You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.*

JOHN 18:37

This means that Jesus is...

Jesus demonstrated that he was equal with God by his miracles:

▼ *The miracles I do in my father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.*

JOHN 10:25

▼ *But that you may know that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins, He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all.*

MARK 2:10

Conclusion:

Many people today believe that Jesus was a great teacher, but not the Son of God. **If** Jesus' claims were false he could not be a great teacher. **If** his claims were false, he was either an imposter or completely crazy. **If** his claims were true, then he is the Lord and deserves our allegiance.



Claims



Jesus *His Character*

Why is it important for a person's character to be consistent with his claims? Who we say we are must be aligned with the way we live.

The evidence for Jesus' sinless-ness can be summarized under the following four headings:

Character

Even though Jesus' character does not prove that his claims are true, it strongly confirms them. Both Jesus' claims and his character were unique. Jesus was in a moral category by himself. In regards to sin, he was not like others. He was without sin. That makes him supernatural.

What Jesus Did

Jesus' actions were perfect — without fault. In addition to teaching about God, Jesus met many physical needs by feeding the hungry and healing the sick. Regardless of status, He compassionately accepted and served all people.

▼
A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

MATTHEW 8:2-3

▼
While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples.

MATTHEW 9:10

▼
Then little children were brought to Jesus to him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

MATTHEW 19:13-15

1

What Jesus' Friends Said

Peter describes Jesus as a lamb without blemish (imperfection); Jesus committed no sin; no deceit was found on his lips.

▼
"Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

1 PETER 1:19

▼
John declares that in Jesus there is no sin.

1 JOHN 3:5

2

Jesus once healed a blind man. The Pharisees (religious leaders) questioned the healing.

▼
Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet... Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing!"

JOHN 9:17, 32-33



What Jesus' Enemies Said

His enemies accused him of ■ blasphemy (speaking against God) ■ evil associations ■ a frivolous view of religion (taking religious things lightly, not seriously) ■ breaking worship day traditions

Yet his enemies were not able to say anything against his claims and character. Pilate and Herod (Roman officials) said that they could find no fault in Jesus.

▼
Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death."

LUKE 23:13-15

▼
Judas said, "I have betrayed innocent blood."

MATTHEW 27:4

▼
The thief on the cross said, "This man has done nothing wrong."

LUKE 23:41

▼
The Centurion (a Roman officer in charge of over 100 men) said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

MATTHEW 27:54

3

What We Can See for Ourselves

■ His life is a balanced portrait of consistency. ■ He practiced what he preached. ■ He selflessly served others. ■ Such selflessness is love. ■ God is love.

▼
The Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

MATTHEW 20:28

4

Discussion questions:

1. How is Jesus' character unique from other people?
2. Why is it important that Jesus' enemies also recognized that he was without sin?
3. How would reading the Bible help you decide for yourself who Jesus is?
4. How would talking to Christians and observing their lives help you decide who Jesus is?

If Jesus rose from the dead, then he was beyond dispute, a unique and supernatural figure.

We do not know of anyone else who has had this experience.

Let's examine the evidence.



A

The Body was Gone

The women were greatly surprised to discover that the body of Jesus had disappeared. The tomb was empty. Here are some explanations for the missing body:

- The women went to the wrong tomb
- Jesus wasn't really dead — just unconscious
- Thieves stole the body
- The disciples removed the body
- The Roman or Jewish authorities took the body.
- Jesus rose from the dead.

▼ *There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."*

MATTHEW 28:2, 5-6

Jesus

His Resurrection

▼ *"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him."*

MARK 16:6

▼ *They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

LUKE 24:3

▼ *Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"*

JOHN 20:1-2

B

The Grave-Clothes were Undisturbed

The body of Jesus was gone, but the grave-clothes were not.

▼ *Simon Peter arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.*

JOHN 20:6-7

C

The Lord was Seen

▼ *Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me (Paul) also.*

I CORINTHIANS 15:3-8

Either these appearances were false, hallucinations, or true.



D

The Lord's Followers were Changed

The disciples were changed from cowards to bold witnesses in a remarkably short time. Here are two of many scripture examples...

Apostles before...

▼ *Then the disciples deserted him and fled.*

MATTHEW 26:55

Apostles after...

▼ *They called the apostles in and had them flogged (beaten with whips). The apostles left the Sanhedrin (Jewish court), rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name (of Jesus).*

ACTS 5:40-41

Saul before...

▼ *But Saul began to destroy the church.*

ACTS 8:3

Saul (Paul) after...

▼ *When he (Saul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.*

ACTS 9:26-27

These followers must have experienced something very supernatural!

Discussion questions:

Use during the session as appropriate.

1. What is unlikely about the first five explanations of the disappearance of Jesus' body?
2. Which evidence is most convincing to you?

Resurrection



Coin

Resurrection Symbols

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve apostles, went to the chief priests, and asked, "How much will you pay me to give Jesus into your hands?" And they gave him thirty silver coins. From that time on, Judas watched for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them.

MATTHEW 26:14-16



Praying Hands

Then Jesus brought them (the twelve) to a garden grove, Gethsemane, and told them to sit down and wait while he went on ahead to pray. He went forward a little, and fell face downward on the ground, and prayed, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup be taken away from me. But I want your will, not mine."

MATTHEW 26:36, 39



Chains

When it was morning, the chief priests and Jewish leaders met again to discuss how to induce the Roman government to sentence Jesus to death. Then they sent him in chains to Pilate, the Roman governor.

MATTHEW 27:1-2



Soap

When Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere, and that a riot was developing, he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this good man. The responsibility is yours!" After Pilate had whipped Jesus, he gave him to the Roman soldiers to take away and crucify.

MATTHEW 27:24, 26



Nails

God let you use the Roman government to nail him to the cross and murder him.

ACTS 2:23



Cross

So, they had him at last, and he was taken out of the city, carrying his cross to the place known as "The Skull," in Hebrew, "Golgotha." There they crucified him and two others with him one on either side, with Jesus between them.

JOHN 19:17-18



Crown

Pilate replied, "But you are a king?" "Yes," Jesus said. "I was born for that purpose. And I came to bring truth to the world."

JOHN 18:37

Pilate posted a sign over him reading, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and the signboard was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that many people read it.

JOHN 19:19-20

Note to Leader:

This object lesson may be used to help teach the story of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Number twelve plastic eggs. Place each item in its corresponding numbered egg. Divide the eggs among the participants. Ask the participants to open the eggs in order, showing the object and reading the verse.

Be prepared to explain the facts of the story.



Receipt... Paid in full

God paid a ransom to save you from the impossible road to heaven which your fathers tried to take, and the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver, as you very well know. But he paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

I PETER 1:18-19

Christ died once for the sins of all us guilty sinners, although he himself was innocent of any sin at any time, that he might bring us safely home to God.

I PETER 3:18



White Cloth

When evening came, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, one of Jesus' followers, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new rock-hewn tomb.

MATTHEW 27:57-60



Stone

Joseph rolled a great stone across the entrance (to the tomb) as he left.

MATTHEW 27:60



Spices

The next evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene and Salome and Mary the mother of James went out and purchased embalming spices. Early the following morning, just at sunrise, they carried them out to the tomb. On the way they were discussing how they could ever roll aside the huge stone from the entrance. But when they arrived they looked up and saw that the stone — a very heavy one — was already moved away and the entrance was open!

MARK 16:1-4



Empty Egg

So they entered the tomb — and there on the right sat a young man clothed in white. The women were startled, but the angel said, "Don't be so surprised. Aren't you looking for Jesus, the Nazarene who was crucified? He isn't here! He has come back to life! Look, that's where his body was lying."

MARK 16:5-6

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Symbols

Finding Peace with

God

Do you feel separated from God? Thankfully, God has provided the solution.

THE PROBLEM

There is a huge gulf between us and God. No amount of "good deeds" can span this gulf. We all need help to get to God.



THE SOLUTION

Since we are not capable of crossing over to God, He provided a bridge. The bridge is Jesus.



Peace

Becoming a Follower of Jesus is as simple as ABC

A *Admit* that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself.

We will come to Jesus only when we admit our need for help and our inability to save ourselves.

B *Believe* that Jesus is God's Son and that He died and rose again to bring you peace with God.

We will be welcomed into heaven based on our faith in Jesus.

C *Commit* your life to following Jesus.

Becoming a follower of Jesus is not a one day decision — it is a life-long commitment.

◀ The Bible teaches that God is perfect (lesson 1) and just and we are imperfect sinners (lesson 3). The just penalty for our sin is death.

▼ *The wages of sin is death.*

ROMANS 6:23

▼ *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.*

HEBREWS 9:27.

Is today your day to trust Jesus?

Respond to His voice right now. Open the door of your heart and ask Jesus to come in.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Echo this prayer in your heart: ▶

Jesus, I admit that I have gone my own way. I am sorry for my sins and need your forgiveness. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead. Now, I open the door of my heart. Come in as my Savior and forgive me. Come in as my Lord and take over. Amen.

◀ Hearing Jesus' words and believing Him is the secret to finding peace with God. He accepts us not because of what we have done but because of what Jesus did.

▼ *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

ROMANS 5:1

▼ *Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."*

JOHN 14:6

What's next?

Once you place your faith in Jesus, take three important steps:

- Become a part of a Bible teaching church.
- Be baptized in the name of Jesus.
- Join a small group with other followers of Jesus.

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You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

JEREMIAH 29:13

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