

UNCOVERED

TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



- A BIBLE STUDY COURSE -

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LESSON 9

THE GOSPEL

JESUS' FINAL NIGHT
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THE RESURRECTION
WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?
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CHART 1 - JESUS' FINAL NIGHT

As Jesus' ministry grew and attracted more attention, the Jewish religious leaders became jealous of Jesus and conspired to kill Him. After His arrival in Jerusalem, the Jewish holy city, Jesus' enemies began to put their plans of murder into action.

They made an agreement with Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, for him to betray Jesus by leading the religious leaders to Him so they could falsely arrest Him.

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus would share one final meal with His disciples. This meal has come to be known as 'The Last Supper'. During this meal, He revealed to them that He would be beaten and He would shed His blood in order to bring about a new covenant between God and man.

» **READ: Matthew 26:26-28**

Events Leading to Jesus' Death

- » Jesus shares one final meal with His disciples.
- » Jesus leads His disciples to a garden called Gethsemane to pray.
- » Judas Iscariot guides Jewish authorities to Jesus and identifies Him with a kiss.
- » Jesus is illegally forced to stand trial for crimes He did not commit.
- » The Jews send Jesus to the Roman authorities demanding that He be crucified.
- » Roman authorities (Pontius Pilate) find Jesus to be innocent.
- » The Jews threaten to riot if Jesus is not crucified.

CHART 2 - THE CRUCIFIXION

When the Roman authority (Pontius Pilate) examined Jesus, he concluded that Jesus was innocent of any crime worthy of death. However, in order to satisfy the people's demand that Jesus die, and to prevent them from causing an uproar, Pilate orders Jesus to be crucified.

» **READ: Luke 23:20-24**

SIDE NOTE: In ancient times, crucifixion was a way of torturing criminals to death. Two posts would be put together forming a 'T', which the criminals would be attached to by having spikes pounded through their wrists and feet. The fixture, with the criminal attached, would then be set up vertically. The criminal would hang on the wooden cross until death, caused by blood loss, exhaustion, or suffocation.

Despite His innocence, Jesus was beaten, whipped, scourged, mocked, and had a crown of thorns pressed on His head by the Romans. After He was beaten beyond recognition, He was then forced to carry His cross to a hill outside of Jerusalem called Calvary.

There He was nailed to His cross and set upright for all to watch Him die. Even as He hung on a cross, He still demonstrated His love and mercy toward those who hated Him.

» Luke 23:34 "Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

While on the cross, Jesus supernaturally felt the punishment of every sin of every human being who ever lived. He felt like He was totally separated from God and experiencing the torture of hell.

» **READ: Matthew 27:46**

After hanging on the cross for hours, He signified that He had completed His mission of dying to bring about a New Testament.

» John 19:30 "...He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

CHART 3 - THE RESURRECTION

After Jesus had officially been pronounced dead, He was taken down from His cross and buried in a tomb. The Jewish authorities then asked the Romans to appoint two guards by the tomb to make sure that none of His disciples would come and steal the body.

As the guards stood watch at the tomb of Jesus, something miraculous took place.

» **READ: Matthew 28:1-8**

Jesus had risen from the dead! This proved to all His followers that He was truly the Christ. Although some of His disciples did not initially believe that He had risen, He would appear to them, proving His power over death.

- » Acts 1:3 "...He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs..."
- » 1 Corinthians 15:4-6 "...He rose again the third day...and that He was seen by Cephas (*Peter*), then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren..."

The Resurrection is what separates Jesus from all other men. Over the course of time many have come and claimed to be someone great, but none had the power to be resurrected from the grave.

SIDE NOTE: The devil knows that the Resurrection is the event that verifies Jesus as God in the flesh. From the moment it happened up to this very day, Satan's agenda has been to cover up the Resurrection and pretend it never happened.

Extra Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:11-15

CHART 4 - WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Let's talk about 'the gospel'. What is the gospel of Jesus Christ? The word 'gospel' literally means 'good news'. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the 'good news' for all of humanity.

» **READ: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

Why would a death be good news? It's good news because we (all of humanity) are supposed to be the ones who experience death for all eternity.

We have sinned against God by not obeying His guidelines for our life, and because of our guilt we should be sentenced to eternal death in hell.

The good news is that instead of us being punished for our sins, Jesus was punished for us. He took our place. That's why He had to die...to save us from eternal death.

EXAMPLE: Imagine that you committed a crime worthy of death and had to stand trial before a judge. The evidence is overwhelming and there's no doubt that you are guilty. Now imagine that just before the judge sentences you to death, an innocent man stands up, and asks the judge if he can take your place. Instead of you being put to death, the innocent man is put to death and you get to live.

That is exactly what Jesus did for us!

Pay attention to these verses:

- » Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- » Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- » Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The gospel is GOOD NEWS!

CHART 5 - APPLYING THE GOSPEL

After we know what the gospel is, our next question should be “How do I apply the gospel to my life personally?”

That journey begins and ends with FAITH. It is not enough to know about the gospel, we must BELIEVE the gospel and put all of our hope of salvation into depending upon the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If we believe the gospel to be the only way to salvation, then our faith will lead us to obeying the gospel.

- » Hebrews 5:9 “...He (*Jesus*) became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”
- » 2 Thessalonians 1:8 ...vengeance will be poured out “on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Q. *Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection was 2,000 years ago; how do I obey the gospel today?*

A. *We obey the gospel by following in Jesus’ footsteps into a personal death, burial, and resurrection.*

Identifying with the Gospel

We must REPENT (confess and forsake our sins) ---- DEATH

- » Luke 13:3 “...unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

We must be BAPTIZED (immersed in water) ---- BURIAL

- » Romans 6:4 “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism...”

We must receive the HOLY SPIRIT (God living in you) ---- RESURRECTION

- » Romans 8:11 “...If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit...”