



the 3:10 discipleship course
to know the person, the power & the passion of Jesus Christ

THE 3:10 DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

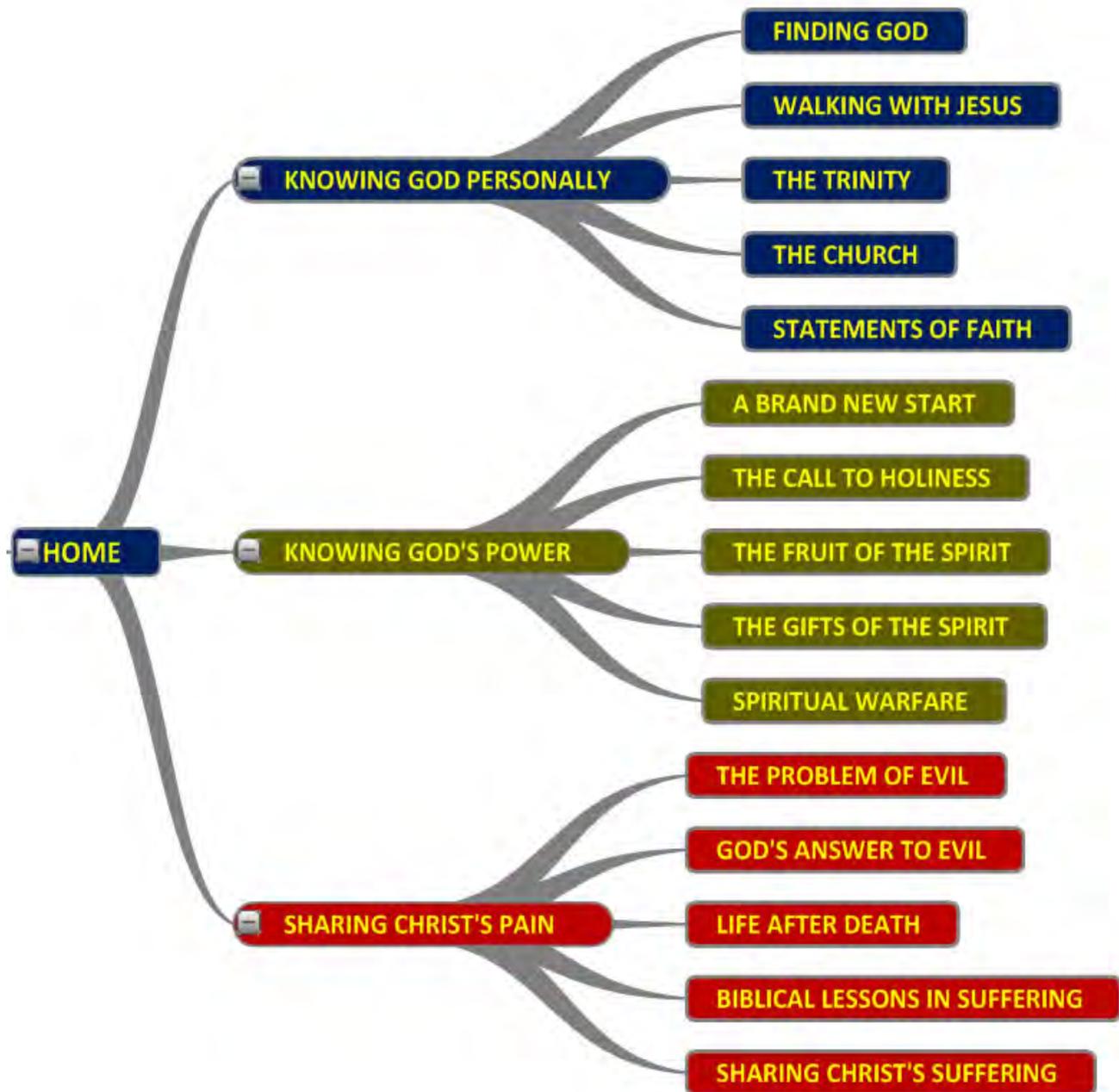


LEADER'S GUIDE

Level 1: The Basics of the Faith

Outline of The 3:10 Discipleship Course

Below is a site map of The 3:10 Discipleship Course outlining the main units and topics.





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01: THE BASICS OF THE FAITH

Week 1: FINDING GOD: How Different People Come To Encounter God

AIMS: *To explore together how God meets us in our unique situations in different ways. There are many different journeys to faith but only one way to a personal relationship with God as Heavenly Father through faith in Jesus Christ as God reveals our sin, Christ's righteousness and our need to be saved from going to a Christ-less eternity in hell.*

COURSE UNIT: **KNOWING GOD: Finding God A.1, especially A.1.8 Steps On The Road To Faith and A.1.9 Journeys To Faith**

MAIN POINTS:

- 1 The Bible shows God can reveal himself to individuals in any situation and using anything - through angels; creation; dreams; prophets; but supremely through Christ **HEBREWS 1:1-2**
- 2 An opportunity for members of the group to share their personal encounters with God.
- 3 How did you know it was God and not just a hallucination or figment of your imagination?
- 4 Examine several examples of individuals who had a personal encounter with God -
 - a. In the New Testament eg *Paul; the Ethiopian; Timothy; Cornelius*
 - b. In history eg *Augustine; Martin Luther; John Newton; John Wesley; Charles Spurgeon*
 - c. Today eg *Chuck Colson; Nicky Cruz; Bobby Ball*
- 5 The essential elements of a genuine encounter with God are -
 - a. A revelation of our sinfulness and need of God's forgiveness
 - b. God's unmerited love for sinners and his grace in taking the initiative in reaching out to us
 - c. A revelation of who Jesus Christ is, why he died on a Roman cross outside Jerusalem and that He is the only way to God
 - d. My need to confess/admit my sin (rebellion) & repent/turn to God through faith in Christ
 - e. God's promise of a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in me to enable me to go his way
- 6 A look at the marks of a genuine experience of a work of the Holy Spirit (see A.5.5 *How Can I Be Sure?*)

MEMORY VERSES: The Main Points

HEBREWS 1:1-2	God's revelation of himself is through 'progressive revelation' from OT to NT
JOHN 3:16-18; 16:8-11	God's love for sinners, Christ's Person & work on the cross; the Spirit's work
JOHN 6:33	No one can come to me (Jesus) unless the (God) Father draws him
JOHN 14:6	Jesus said: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life
EPHESIANS 2:8-10	God's initiative in revealing himself and giving us faith in Christ
ROMANS 8:9-11	God's gift of the Spirit as a guarantee of the reality of our salvation



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01: THE BASICS OF THE FAITH

WEEK 2: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE 'BORN AGAIN'? Can I Be A Christian Without Being Born Again?

AIMS: To examine the meaning of Jesus' statements in JOHN 3:3,6,16-18; 16:8-11; and 17:3; to recognise two kinds of life - physical (*bios*) and spiritual (*zoe*); to recognise things only God can do and things only we can do in the process of being 'born again' or 'from above'

COURSE UNIT: KNOW POWER A BRAND NEW START, especially *A New Creation* and *Biblical Meditation: a practical exercise* using JOHN 3:3 and 6

MAIN POINTS:

1. There are two NT Greek words for **life** - (a) **bios** = **physical life**; (b) **zoe**=**spiritual life**
2. **Flesh** gives birth to **fleshly/physical life** (*bios*). The **Holy Spirit** gives birth to **spiritual life** (*zoe*).
3. When Nicodemus comes to see Jesus and says he has obviously been sent by God, Jesus says the only way to have eternal life with God in heaven is to be '**born anothen = (i) again; (ii) from above**' JOHN 3:3,5-8
4. In other words, Jesus is saying **eternal life involves a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit**.
5. **To be born again** involves -
 - a. **Things only God can do** - convict me of sin, show me Jesus died in my place for my sin, & give me eternal, spiritual life (*zoe*)
 - b. **Things only I can do** - confess my sin/rebellion against God, repent & turn to God through faith in Christ
6. In JOHN 16:8-11 Jesus says that **the Holy Spirit will convict individuals of three things** -
 - a. **Human sin** - specifically the sin of man's rebellion against God & refusal to believe in his Son Jesus Christ
 - b. **God's righteousness** - in sending his Son into the world to die in our place & take our punishment for sin
 - c. **Satan's judgement** - by his death on the cross & resurrection from the tomb, Jesus disarmed, disgraced and defeated sin, death & satan (COLOSSIANS 2:15) and sealed satan's final destruction in hell
7. Eternal life, Jesus says in JOHN 17:3, is *to know God and the one whom God sent*. The Greek verb *ginosko*= *to know intimately through personal experience*
8. To be a Christian involves -
 - (a) **a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit from above** baptising a person into the invisible Body of Christ after
 - (b) **an act of confession of & repentance from sin and profession of faith in Jesus Christ** through baptism in water

MEMORY VERSES:

- JOHN 3:3** No one can enter the kingdom of heaven unless s/he is born again/from above
- JOHN 3:6** Flesh gives birth to fleshly life; the Spirit gives birth to spiritual life
- JOHN 3:16** God loved the world so much he sent his only Son so that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting (eternal) life
- JOHN 16:8-11** When the Holy Spirit comes, he will convict the world of sin, righteousness & judgement - man's sin, God's righteousness and satan's judgement
- JOHN 17:3** This is eternal life - to know you (Father God) and the one you have sent (Jesus Christ).



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WEEK 3: BAPTISM IN WATER & IN HOLY SPIRIT: The Meaning & Significance of Water & Spirit Baptism

AIM: *To understand the meaning of believer's baptism by full immersion and the significance of being baptised by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament and today.*

COURSE UNIT: KNOW GOD: Believer's Baptism In Water & In Spirit

MAIN POINTS:

1. **Water Baptism** = a ritual washing away or cleansing from sin (practised by Hindus, Jews and Christians).
2. **The person is fully immersed in water** (a river or tank) on confession of and repentance from sin.
3. **Water baptism** is an *external/outward sign of repentance from sin* ie turning away from sin to obey God **MARK 1:4; ACTS 19:3-5**
4. **Jesus went to John the Baptist to be baptised** in the River Jordan (**MATTHEW 3:1-14**) as an example for his disciples to follow **NOTE: Jesus had not sinned and had already fulfilled the Law of Moses**
5. John the Baptist said he baptised people in *water* as a *sign of their repentance*; but *someone greater* than him would baptise with *Spirit and with fire* (**MATTHEW 3:11**) symbolising *a supernatural work by the Holy Spirit of cleansing a person spiritually/inwardly*. [NOTE: **LEVITICUS 20:8; 21:8** God commands his people to be holy because he is holy and promises he will sanctify them/make them holy by a supernatural work of his Spirit.]
6. In the New Testament we see Jesus and others being baptised in **both water and in Holy Spirit**.
7. **Water baptism** is an outward and visible sign of a person's confession of and repentance from sin as a result of his/her realisation of their sin and need to be put right with God **ACTS 19:3-5**
8. **Spirit baptism** is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit baptising the person into the Body of Christ and filling him/her with the supernatural power of God as a sign/guarantee s/he has been forgiven by God and adopted into his family as one of his beloved children **EPHESIANS 1:8-11**.
9. There is **one baptism in Spirit** (into the Body of Christ) **but many fillings** (to enable us to live our daily lives in the power of the Spirit and to minister in the gifts of the Spirit) **EPHESIANS 4:3-5**
10. **The order in which a person is baptised in water and in Holy Spirit may vary**, as we can see from a careful look at the New Testament passages.
 - a. **Jesus was baptised in water and in Holy Spirit simultaneously**
 - b. **Others were baptised in water first and then in Holy Spirit** eg The Ethiopian Chancellor of the Exchequer (**ACTS 8**); the apostle Paul (**ACTS 9**); the Philippian jailer and his family (**ACTS 16**); the Christians in Ephesus (**ACTS 19**)
 - c. **Others were baptised in Holy Spirit first and later in water** eg Cornelius (**ACTS 10**)
11. **The key is not the order in which a person is baptised in water and in Spirit but the fact s/he has been baptised in both water and in Spirit.**
12. **Water baptism** is an outward and visible sign that God has already convicted a person of his/her need to get right with him through confession and repentance from sin and a profession of this fact before others. **Spirit baptism** is confirmation a person has been born from above as a child of God into God's family and is a **guarantee** of eternal life with Christ in heaven.

MEMORY VERSES:

JOHN 3:3 I tell you the truth. No one can see the kingdom of heaven unless s/he is born *again* (or *from above*)

JOHN 3:5 Flesh gives birth to flesh; the Spirit gives birth to spirit

ACTS 2:38 "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

ACTS 19:4-6 "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."

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01: THE BASICS OF THE FAITH

WEEK 4: WALKING WITH JESUS DAY BY DAY: Developing My Daily Walk With God

AIM: *To develop a disciplined personal walk with God day by day, practising the four spiritual disciplines Jesus practised: a quiet time alone with God; speaking to God in prayer; listening to God in Bible reading, meditation & fasting; and praising & worshipping God*

COURSE UNIT: KNOW GOD: Walking With Jesus Day By Day

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus had an extremely close relationship with God as his heavenly Father and wants us to enjoy the same.
2. He maintained and developed this relationship by practising and teaching his disciples **four spiritual disciplines**:
 - a. **Spending time alone with God** in a quiet place
 - b. **Speaking and listening to God in prayer**
 - c. **Listening to God through Bible reading & meditation**
 - d. **Praising & worshipping God**
3. Keeping a **daily quiet time** involves **personal discipline born out of love for Jesus**.
4. **The Lord's Prayer was the pattern/model for speaking to God Jesus taught his disciples**. It consists of two parts -
 - a. **Focus on God as Father** - telling God I love him & joining the angels in singing *Holy! Holy! Holy!*
 - b. **Focus on my needs** - physical, emotional, mental and spiritual
5. **Bible reading is a way of letting me listen to God speaking to me through his Word - The Bible**
6. There are **two main forms of Bible reading** - **Devotional (*the heart*)** and **Systematic study (*the head*)**
7. **Meditation** is a way of **allowing God to speak to me through Scripture**
8. **Journaling** is a way of **recording what God says to me so I can meditate on it and then obey**
9. **Fasting** is a way of **bringing my bodily desires under the control of my spirit** as a way of showing God I mean business and want to submit myself completely to his will
10. **Praise and worship flow naturally from a heart filled with gratitude to God** for what he has done for us in sending Jesus into the world to save us from going to hell and for giving us new life in the Spirit.

MEMORY VERSES:

LUKE 11: 2-4	The Lord's Prayer
PSALM 27:7-8	David's prayer and response to God's call
PSALM 51:1-12	A sinner's confession of sin and cry to God for a fresh infilling of his Spirit
PSALM 103:1-5	A song of praise and thanksgiving
PSALM 119:97	The joy of meditating on God's Word
PSALM 149	A song of praise and a song of battle



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WEEK 5: KNOW POWER: The Battle between the Old & New Natures

AIMS: *To appreciate the tripartite nature of human beings, the reality of the daily battle between our old fleshly nature & our new spiritual nature in Christ; to learn how to maintain our daily spiritual walk with God.*

COURSE UNIT: KNOW POWER : The Battle Between The Two Natures

MAIN POINTS:

1. Human beings are made in God's image and consist of three distinct but indivisible parts – body, soul & spirit.
2. At conversion the Holy Spirit causes us to come alive spiritually. But this does not change the sinful fleshly nature of body and soul.
3. The result is that we soon realise that we are involved in a battle between the two natures - what the Bible calls the *fleshly sinful nature* which wants to continue its rebellion against God and the *new spiritual nature*, created by the Holy Spirit to want to go God's way.
4. Paul describes this battle between the fleshly and the spiritual natures in **ROMANS 7:15-25**
5. This battle has been compared to **The Law of Gravity vs The Law of Aerodynamics**.
6. The key to maintaining our spiritual victory over the fleshly nature is to practise the daily spiritual disciplines Jesus practised – *a quiet time alone with God; speaking & listening to God in prayer; listening to God through Bible reading & meditation; and praise & worship*.
7. We need to
 - a. *Crucify the flesh;*
 - b. *Be transformed by the Holy Spirit renewing our minds with God's Word;*
 - c. *Be continually filled with the Holy Spirit* so that we become more like Jesus day by day (through the process of sanctification).

MEMORY VERSES:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

ROMANS 7:18-19 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway

ROMANS 7:22-23 I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another law at work within me that is at war with my mind.

ROMANS 7:24-25 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

GALATIANS 5:22-23 The Holy Spirit produces the following kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!



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WEEK 6: SPIRITUAL WARFARE: Living In A Spiritual Warzone

AIMS: To realize that as Christians we live in a spiritual warzone and learn how to use the spiritual weapons God has given us to win the spiritual battle over the flesh, the world and the devil.

COURSE UNIT: KNOW POWER: Spiritual Warfare

MAIN POINTS:

1. **When we became Christians, we changed our allegiance/team from** being under satan's control **to** God's and realise **we are involved in a war between The Kingdom of God vs The Kingdom of Satan.**
2. **Satan now is our spiritual enemy** and will attempt to win back the possessions he has lost.
3. The war involves ***the flesh, the world's way of thinking & the devil and his forces***
4. (a) The war began with **rebellion in heaven**, and (b) continued **rebellion on earth** in **GENESIS 3**
5. **The results of Adam and Eve's disobedience were sin, suffering and separation from God**
6. Jesus came to earth to **inaugurate God's eternal kingdom-rule (MARK 1:14-34)** and **destroy the work of the devil (1 JOHN 3:8)**
7. **At the Cross Jesus disarmed, disgraced & defeated all the forces of the enemy (COLOSSIANS 2:13-15)**
8. **The key in this spiritual warfare lies in realising -**
 - a. **Satan was defeated by Jesus at Calvary** when Jesus died, rose again & ascended back to heaven
 - b. **Because the ultimate battle has been won, we fight from victory, not for victory**
 - c. **The warfare is spiritual ie supernatural, not simply physical, mental or emotional BUT it involves our body, soul (mind, will & emotions) and spirit**
9. **The warfare is supernatural, the warriors are supernatural; and the weapons are supernatural.**
10. **The Bible describes the nature of the warfare, the warriors and the weapons on each side** in the war. Archangels, angels & Spirit-filled human beings vs Dark angels, spiritual rulers & demonic spirits
11. **To win the victory, we must submit ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ** in every area of our lives; **put on the spiritual weapons God has provided (EPHESIANS 6:10-18); and resist the flesh, the world & the devil daily.**
12. **We need to put on the whole armour of God daily** (see a prayer based on *The Whole Armour of God*) and
 - a. **crucify the fleshly lusts (GALATIANS 5:24; 2:20; ROMANS 13:14)** through fasting & being Spirit-filled
 - b. **be transformed by the renewing of our minds (ROMANS 12:2)** through Bible reading & meditation
 - c. **be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (EPHESIANS 5:18)** as we surrender ourselves daily to Jesus
13. **To keep close to Jesus, we need to practise the spiritual disciplines he practised -** a quiet time alone with God; speaking to God in prayer; listening to God through Bible reading & meditation; praise & worship

MEMORY VERSES:

1 JOHN 3:8	The reason the Son of God came into the world was to destroy the works of the devil
COLOSSIANS 2:14-15	At the cross Christ disarmed, disgraced & defeated all the powers of the enemy
2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5	For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.
EPHESIANS 6:10-18	Put on the whole armour of God
EPHESIANS 5:18	Don't get drunk on wine - it only leads to trouble - be continually filled with the Holy Spirit
JAMES 4:7	Surrender yourself daily to God; (then) resist the enemy (in God's power) & he will flee



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01: THE BASICS OF THE FAITH

WEEK 7: THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: Why Bad Things Happen To Good People

AIM: *To examine the problem of evil & suffering and see how God has answered the problem through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ*

COURSE UNIT: SHARE PAIN: The Problem of Evil and God's Answer To Evil – The Cross of Christ

MAIN POINTS:

1. **Postmodernism denies the idea of moral absolutes** by saying that all moral ideas are relative and depend on culture/upbringing. There is no such thing as absolute good and evil which presume the existence of God.
2. **The problem is that evil and suffering are a reality for human beings**, especially for those who believe in God.
3. **The classic statement of the problem of evil is:**
 - a. **If God is all good**, why does he allow evil to exist?
 - b. **If God is all powerful**, why does he not do something about evil and suffering?
4. The Bible describes the origins of evil and suffering in terms of -
 - a. **Rebellion in heaven** by satan and his rebellious angels –**result: satan & a third of the angels were expelled**
 - b. **Rebellion on earth** by **Adam & Eve, instigated by satan giving him authority on earth**
5. **The results of human rebellion were disastrous -**
 - a. **Sin - the tendency of all human beings to rebel and go their own way**
 - b. **Suffering - physical pain, emotional anguish & spiritual bondage**
 - c. **Separation - from God both on earth and for eternity**
6. **God's answer to the problem of evil is outlined in PSALM 62: His love & his power**
7. **God's love & power were demonstrated supremely by the death on the cross and resurrection from the dead of God's Son Jesus Christ, who came**
 - a. **to destroy the works of the devil and reverse the consequences of the Fall**
 - b. **to inaugurate God's kingdom-rule on earth** in preparation for its consummation at his Second Coming.
8. **We live between the First and Second Coming of Christ.** God's kingdom-rule has been inaugurated but not completed. That's why bad things still happen to good people.
9. **Because of this Christians and others are still subject to a world dominated by satan but have been given the supernatural weapons to be able to overcome all the power of the enemy through the Holy Spirit.**
10. **The final victory over sin, death and satan is described in The Book of REVELATION**, where God sweeps away all sin, suffering & sorrow for his saints and satan & his followers are consigned to eternal punishment in hell.

MEMORY VERSES:

1 JOHN 3:8 The reason the Son of God came into the world was to destroy the works of the devil

ROMANS 5:12 Through one man sin entered the world and through sin death, and in this way death came to all men

ROMANS 5:17-19 Through Adam's sin came death and condemnation; through Christ come a right relationship with God and eternal life

1 CORINTHIANS 15:21-22 Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive

ROMANS 8:1-2 There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus because the law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death

1 JOHN 4:4 The Spirit who is in you is greater than the spirit that is in the world

REVELATION 12:10-11 The final arrival of the kingdom of God and overthrow of satan

REVELATION 21:4 There will be no more death or mourning or sorrow or pain

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01: THE BASICS OF THE FAITH

WEEK 8: LIFE AFTER DEATH: Did Jesus Really Rise From The Dead?

AIM: *To look at the evidence for Jesus' resurrection from the dead; at the various attempts to cast doubt on it; and how we can be certain Jesus is alive*

COURSE UNIT: SHARE PAIN: LIFE AFTER DEATH

MAIN POINTS:

1. A look at the evidence for Jesus' resurrection in terms of:
 - a. **The accounts in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles**
 - b. **Paul's testimony & statement in 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-5**
 - c. **The evidence in terms of changed lives and the growth of the Christian Church**, especially through persecution
 - d. **Personal experience:** *You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.*
2. **An examination of the different attempts to cast doubt on Jesus' resurrection from the dead**
 - a. **At the time** - somebody stole the body
 - b. **Theories advanced since Paul's lifetime**
 - c. **Modern day attempts** to prove Jesus never rose from the dead
3. **Jesus' warnings about looking for signs & wonders as proof of his resurrection instead of faith in the Word of God and the works of God in my life**
4. **The importance of full assurance:** *How do I know Jesus is alive and that I'm going to heaven when I die?*
5. **The Rationality of the Christian Faith:** faith based on *both* reasoned examination of the **evidence** and personal **experience** of God's grace and mercy in my life

MEMORY VERSES:

JOHN 14:6 Jesus said: *I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. Nobody comes to God the Father except through me.*

MARK 10:32-34 Jesus predicts his arrest, passion, crucifixion & resurrection

MATTHEW 27:62-66 The precautions taken to guard Jesus' body in the tomb
quoting Jesus' prophecy of resurrection on the third day

LUKE 24:19-27 Jesus' encounter with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus

ACTS 2:22-24 Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-5 Paul's summary of the gospel

1 JOHN 5:11-12 The test of a Christian



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01: THE BASICS OF THE FAITH

WEEK 9: THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST & THE FAMILY OF GOD

AIMS: *To look at what it means to be part of the Body of Christ and a member of a local fellowship*

COURSE UNIT: **KNOW GOD: The Church as The Body of Christ & The Family of God**

MAIN POINTS:

1. **When a person is born again, s/he is baptised supernaturally by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ** - the invisible Church of Jesus Christ - which consists of all believers, past and present, throughout the world and in heaven.
2. One result is that members of the Body share a sense of belonging together as brothers and sisters in Christ through a **spiritual bond of unity which only the Holy Spirit can produce**.
3. **An important part of our membership of the Body of Christ is to maintain this spiritual unity by seeking to grow in our daily walk with Jesus and become more Christ-like** - displaying the fruit of the Spirit and exercising the gifts of the Spirit for the building up of the Body of Christ.
4. This involves *both* (a) a **personal disciplined daily walk with God** through spending time alone with God, prayer, Bible reading, and praise & worship; *and* (b) **seeking to build healthy relationships within the Body of Christ** through meeting together for fellowship, prayer, Bible study and praise & worship.
5. **The pattern for this is to be seen in the early Church as outlined in ACTS 2:42-47** and elsewhere in ACTS and the New Testament epistles.
6. **The features of the Jerusalem Church** included -
 - Apostles' Teaching what Jesus had taught aimed at equipping the disciples for the work of the gospel
 - Regular times of sharing fellowship meals together as well as celebrating the Lord's Supper
 - Vibrant prayer meetings
 - A sense of God's presence
 - Evidence of God working supernaturally through healings and other miracles
 - A real sense of unity and fellowship (*koinonia*) based on a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in each member
 - Sharing of material resources and possessions
 - Financial help for those in need
 - Corporate praise & worship in The Temple as well as in house groups
 - Favour with the local population and increase in numbers being saved
 - Commitment to evangelism
7. **The result** was
 - a. **The church reached out to the local community with the love of Christ**
 - b. **People were being saved on a daily basis**
8. **The Churches in Antioch & Ephesus** were examples of **missionary outreach & evangelism**, involving church planting, teaching of doctrine (eg baptism in water and in Holy Spirit), and the use of secular places for meetings
9. **The Corinthian Church** demonstrates a vibrant church plant in the midst of pagan idolatry and immorality and their experience of the gifts of the Spirit. It also demonstrates the way these gifts may be abused and the need for sound teaching on such subjects as tongues and prophecy. Paul wrote several letters to the Church in Corinth which are an important source for teaching on the gifts of the Spirit.
10. **Two important aspects of the life of any fellowship** are sharing in
 - a. **Believer's Baptism in water & in Holy Spirit**
 - b. **Celebration of the Lord's Supper** on a regular basis

MEMORY VERSES:

EPHESIANS 4:1-3 **Live humbly, bearing with one another & striving to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17 **Live lives of holiness based on the love of Christ, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you**

1 CORINTHIANS 13 **Above all love one another with *agape*-love. Without it the exercise of spiritual gifts leads to carnality and chaos.**



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01: THE BASICS OF THE FAITH

WEEK 10: THE LORD'S SUPPER: Its Meaning & Importance in the Life of a fellowship

AIMS: To examine the different views of the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion in the Body of Christ and understand its importance in the life of a fellowship

COURSE UNIT: KNOW GOD: The Lord's Supper

MAIN POINTS:

1. **The Lord's Supper is central to the life of the fellowship and to us as individual Christians** because **it reminds us what it cost Jesus to deal with our sins** and enable us sinners to have a relationship with a holy God at all.
2. **Its origins are The Last Supper celebrated by Jesus with his disciples** the night before he was crucified ([MATTHEW 26:17-30](#); [LUKE 22:7-38](#))
3. **The Last Supper was actually a celebration of The Passover Meal**, which was a **memorial** of God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and of their journey to the land God had promised Abraham centuries earlier (cf **EXODUS 12**) (The Passover Meal is celebrated today by devout Jews as the *seder*)
4. **Jesus took two main elements of the Passover Meal - unleavened bread (*matzos*) and wine** (the Cups of Blessing) - to symbolise his **body** that was about to be broken and his **blood** that was about to be shed the next day at Calvary.
5. **He instituted the Lord's Supper with the words of dedication** in the gospels and in **1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-29** which we still use today and told his disciples to **observe the meal as a memorial until he comes again**.
6. **Two different interpretations** have grown up over the centuries **regarding the significance of the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion** -
 - a. **The Reformed or Protestant View** based on the words of Jesus and Paul stress that it is a **memorial/reminder** of what Jesus did for us to save us from facing the punishment our sins deserve. In other words it is a **REPRESENTATION / REMINDER** of what it cost Jesus. According to this view the **bread and wine** are **symbols/representations of Christ's body and blood**.
 - b. **The Roman Catholic view** treats Holy Communion, or **Mass**, as a **RE-PRESENTATION by the priest** of the sacrifice Christ made at the cross for our sins. Over the centuries the **bread and wine** became viewed as **the actual body and blood of Christ** through a magical process called *trans-substantiation* (meaning the bread and wine are changed from one substance into another). Protestants have regarded this as wrong because Christ's death did away once and for all time with the Old Testament system of sacrifices for sins, as we read in **HEBREWS 9:11-10:18**.
7. **We celebrate the Lord's Supper as a reminder/memorial** of what it cost Jesus to save us from going to hell and facing God's punishment for our sins.
8. **Because it is so important to our lives as Christians, we make every effort to attend as part of our gratitude to God for what he has done for us.**
9. **It is also a powerful reminder of our unity in Christ as brothers and sisters, bought by the precious blood of Jesus.**

MEMORY VERSES:

LUKE 22:19-20 Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying: *"This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."* After supper he took the cup (The Cup of Redemption) and said: *"This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you."*

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 Paul's words of the Institution of the Lord's Supper, as a reminder until Christ comes again.