

Lesson

1a

A Great Decision

The Journey out of Egypt

“Here are the stages in the journey of the Israelites when they came out of Egypt by divisions under the leadership of Moses and Aaron.” Numbers 33:1

What does it all mean?

Rom. 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- Things have now changed! God sees you differently, and you probably see God differently.
- Let's think about what has happened to you:

You were a sinner!

Rom. 3:23 *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

- Sin includes those things you do that are not _____ to God, as well as your natural tendency to walk in _____ to God.

As a sinner, you could not please God.

Rom. 3:10 *As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away; they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not one*

- Most of us live our lives without ever considering what God might expect from us.
- Even when you try to live right and please God you can't because without _____ it is impossible.

You see, you were dead in your sin!

Ephesians 2:2

- Even though God loved you, you were _____ from Him.
- Because God is totally good and perfect, He cannot allow _____ in His presence.

Because God loves you so much...

- He still dealt with your heart through the influence of the _____.

If you had refused God's love...

Ephesians 2:1-3 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

- If you had refused to accept God's love and offer of eternal life through Jesus Christ then you would have remained in your sin and continued to be separated from God.
- If you had died separated from God you would have been condemned to an eternity without God in a place the Bible calls "hell".

What did it mean when you got saved?

Eph. 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast*

- You were saved by _____. It was _____, _____, and _____.

Ephesians 2:12 *Remember that at the time you were separate from Christ...without hope and without God in the world.*

- Because of your faith in Christ, you now have grace and are in God's favor. Now you can enter God's presence boldly, knowing that you have received mercy and forgiveness. God accepts you now through the work of Christ.

Now what is expected of you?

Ephesians 4:1-3 *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

- With God's help through the power of the Holy Spirit, you are expected to "live a life worthy" of God's salvation, reflecting your new relationship with God.
- Your new life should be different from your _____ life.
- As you walk with Christ, you will learn _____, _____, _____, and many other virtues that will help you to please God.

Questions to Consider...

1. How did God see your life before your decision to receive Christ?
2. What did you do to become a Christian?
3. What one thing caused you to see your need for Christ?
4. How has your life changed since receiving Christ?
5. If you died right now, would you go to heaven? Why?

Lesson
1b

Repentance

Key Verse:	“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’ ” (Acts 2:38 NASB).
Key Scriptures:	Luke 3:7–14; 15:11–31 Ezekiel 18:30–32 Romans 2:4; 3:23; 6:23 2 Timothy 2:25 2 Corinthians 7:9–10 Isaiah 59:2 2 Chronicles 7:14
Objective:	This lesson will show the student the difference between true and false repentance and how to experience true repentance.
Introduction:	Repentance is essential to constructing a firm foundation in Christ. There is a great difference between true repentance and worldly sorrow, and unfortunately, too many have confused the two. The work of repentance originates from God through the convicting work of the Holy Spirit, but you have a vital role to play in the process, too. A clear understanding of sin and repentance will lay a strong foundation in your life, and upon it you can build the other vital principles of your faith.

I. What is sin?

- **To sin is to do something that displeases God.**

Ps. 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

1. Every person born into the world is a _____.

- **Natural life is sinful because it is centered upon self rather than upon God. Rom. 3:23**
- **Sin not only displeases God, but it also separates the people He created from the glory He intended for them.**

1. Sin is destructive and _____ people from God.

- **Sin has terrible consequences.**

1. It grieves God (Gen. 6:5–7).
2. It brings guilt (Ps. 51:3–4).
3. It brings separation from God (Isa. 59:1–2).
4. It brings judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46).
5. It enslaves (Rom. 6:17).
6. It causes spiritual blindness (2 Cor. 4:4).
7. It causes spiritual death (Eph. 2:1).
8. It brings lack of hope (Eph. 2:12).
9. It corrupts (Titus 1:15).
10. It condemns (James 5:12).

II. What is repentance?

- **Repentance may be defined as a change of _____ and _____ leading to a change of _____ (2 Chron. 7:14).**
- **Today, the word *repent* has come to mean simply feeling sorry for what you have done, or regretting something.**
 1. The Bible, however, has a much deeper, more profound meaning to the word.

III. What characterizes true repentance?

- **True repentance is a complete about-face in thought and action.**
 1. First, you change your _____.
 2. Then, you change your _____.

- Repentance is *not* just a mental acceptance of truth or just worldly sorrow. It is characterized by the following:
 1. Godly sorrow for sin (Ps. 38; 2 Cor. 7:10)
 2. Confession of sin (Ps. 32:5; 1 John 1:9)
 3. Willingness to give up sin (Prov. 28:13)
 4. Hatred of sin (Ezek. 20:43–44)
 5. Inclusion of restitution (Luke 19:8; Lev. 6:1–7)

IV. The story of the Prodigal Son teaches three important elements of repentance (Luke 15:11–31 NKJV).

- Repentance recognizes sin’s awfulness: “Father, I have sinned” (Luke 15:21).
 1. Sin first offends _____, then others.
- Repentance feels true sorrow: “I am no longer worthy to be called your son” (Luke 15:21).
- Repentance is volitional. True repentance always involves the _____: “I will arise and go to my father” (Luke 15:18).
 1. It is not enough to turn away from sin; you must turn to God

V. What is the role of forgiveness in the process?

- Repentance does not stand alone; forgiveness is its spiritual companion.
 1. God gave His only Son so that you might have _____.
- All heaven is made glad when sinners repent.

- **Repentance brings pardon and forgiveness.**
- **The _____ is poured out upon those who repent and turn to Christ.**

Summary:	Because of the Fall, sin is part of human life. Sin displeases God and separates us from Him. To be forgiven of sin, we must first repent of it. Repentance means much more than feeling sorry for sin. It includes confession of wrongdoing, willingness to give up the sin, conscious turning from it, and acceptance of Jesus' sacrificial death as atonement. True repentance brings pardon, forgiveness, and restoration. All heaven is made glad when even one sinner repents!
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Questions and Discussion Points

1. Can a person truly repent if he doesn't really know how God views his life and actions?
2. Why isn't it enough just to be sorry for your sins?
3. What would you say to someone who doesn't want to repent because he thinks life will become dull and boring?
4. In practical terms, what does true repentance involve in your daily life?

5. When you go God's way instead of your own, what will rule in your heart? (See Col. 3:15–17.)

Lesson

1c

The New Birth

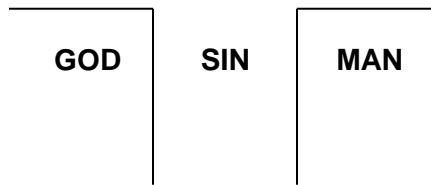
Key Verse:	“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God’” (John 3:3 NASB).
Key Scriptures:	John 3:16–17 Romans 3:21–28; 10:9–13 Luke 13:23–25
Objective:	This lesson will provide the student with a solid understanding as to what the new birth is and how to share the new birth with others.
Introduction:	<p>The first of the fundamental teachings that Paul lists in Hebrews 6:1–2 is by far the most elementary. It is where Christianity begins, and it deals with the truths surrounding the new birth (John 3:1–7). Probably no phrase more inclusively summarizes the definition of the new birth than the phrase restoration of spiritual life.</p> <p>In order to be saved and follow the Lord Jesus as His disciples, we must first believe that we are sinners and that Jesus died for our sins. We must repent and ask God to forgive us. Then we must yield our lives to Jesus and make Him our Lord and Savior (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; John 1:12).</p>

I. What is saving faith?

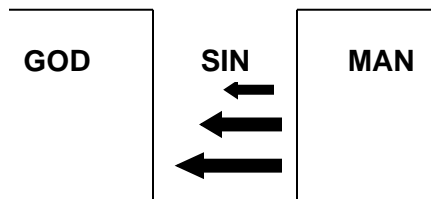
- **Saving faith is faith that leads to salvation. It implies the following aspects:**
 1. Committing your life to God (Ps. 37:5).
 2. Believing in Jesus (John 3:16).
 3. Obeying from the heart (Rom. 6:17).
 4. Believing with the heart (Rom. 10:9–10).
 5. Believing the Bible to be the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16–17).
 6. Putting your trust in God (Heb. 2:13).
 7. Inviting Jesus into your life (Rev. 3:20).

- **Saving faith means receiving Jesus as Savior, by faith. It is experienced through the following steps:**

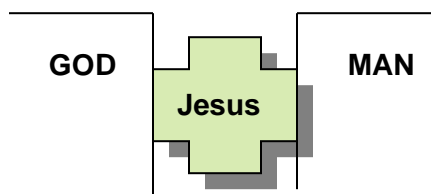
1. All people must realize they are separated from God because of sin (Isa. 59:2; Rom. 3:9, 10, 23; Gal. 3:22; Eph. 2:1–3; Col. 1:21; 1 Tim. 2:4; 4:10).



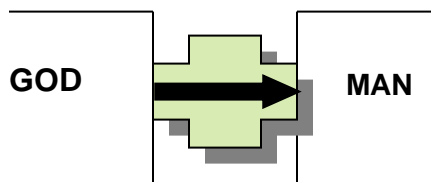
2. They must realize that all their religious, self-righteous, scientific, and philosophical efforts to reach God are futile (Isa. 64:6; Col. 2:6–8).



3. They must realize that Jesus Christ is God's *only* provision for their sin (John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:4–5; Acts 4:12; 13:38–39; 2 Cor. 5:19).



4. They must individually receive forgiveness for their sins through Jesus by *faith* (John 1:12–13; 3:1–8, 15–18, 36; Rom. 3:19–28; Gal. 2:16; 1 John 5:11–13)



II. What does it mean to be born again?

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- **To be born again means to receive life in the deepest part of your being, that is, your spirit (2 Cor. 5:17).**
- **Jesus says that you cannot see the kingdom of God until you are born again.**

III. What are the results of the new birth?

- **The new birth *legally* restores to you all that was lost at the Fall.**
(Titus 3:5; John 1:12-13; Eph. 1:3)
- **You receive God's righteousness:**(2 Cor. 5:17, 21; Rom. 5:19).
- **You receive God's life**
- **You are restored to God's _____**
- **You receive God's rule and authority:** Sin caused humanity to forfeit God's rule within and to relinquish authority upon the earth to establish God's kingdom, but the new birth restores God's original plan. The new birth does this by giving believers' legal authority and power over both sin and Satan.
- **You receive God's blessing.**

Summary:	<p>The new birth is as real and momentous as is physical birth. At the time of the new birth, a person is spiritually reborn. He becomes a part of a very real family, the body of Christ. It is the starting point from which we all begin our Christian journey.</p> <p>The new birth is experienced by a person's confessing of sin, acknowledging his need for a savior, realizing that Jesus is God's provision for sin, and then willfully surrendering his life to Jesus. In that moment, he is born again, and all the rights lost at the Fall are now legally restored to him. Righteousness, eternal life, fellowship, authority, and blessing are now his as a child of God.</p>
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Questions and Discussion Points

1. What would you say to someone who asked, "How do I become a Christian?" (Use simple words that the person could understand).
2. How would you assure him that he is now a Christian?
3. What happens the moment that a person accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
4. In terms of saving faith, why is it important to believe that the Bible is the Word of God?

Lesson
1d

Understanding the Victory of the Cross

Your Power to Complete the Journey

Key Verse:	“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Gal. 2:20 NASB)
Key Scriptures:	1 John 2:1-2, 4:4 1 Peter 2:24 2 Peter 1:3 1 Corinthians 1:18-23 2 Corinthians 8:9 Hebrews 12:1-3
Objective:	The goal of this lesson is to teach you why you need the cross and what the cross has won for you.
Introduction:	<p>The Christian faith rests totally upon what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross for all humanity. Without the victory won on the cross, the Christian would be totally helpless and powerless. Satan does not want you to comprehend the awesome victory of the cross. He wants you to live in unbelief and despair, ignorant of the Father’s great love for you and desire to meet your needs.</p> <p>God has established His promises and principles in the cross of Calvary. If God failed to sustain His people and meet them at every point of spiritual, physical and material need, He would be denying the work He has already accomplished through His Son Jesus (2 Cor. 8:9). When you understand why you need the cross and when you are aware of the areas in which Christ triumphed on your behalf, you can begin the wonderful process of walking in victory in your daily Christian journey.</p>

I. There are five main reasons why you need the cross.

- You need the cross to free you from guilt and _____ (Ex. 34:7; Rom. 3:19).**

1. He bore our sins in His body on the cross.

- You need the cross to deliver you from the oppression of the Devil (Eph. 2:2; Heb. 2:14; Acts 10:38; Matt. 18:34).
- You need the cross to heal you from pain and suffering (Ps. 31:10).
- You need the cross to overcome anxiety and fear (Gen. 3:17-19; 1 John 4:18).
- You need the cross to defeat death (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8).

II. There are four victories in the cross of Christ.

- The victory of _____ is in the cross (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)
 1. Christ has covered all of your sins, and when you come to Him in repentance and confession.
 2. The devil does not want you to walk in Christ's forgiveness of sins.
- The victory of _____ is in the cross (Rom. 8:32; 2 Cor. 8:9)
- The victory of triumph over the _____ is in the cross (Rom. 5:12, 15, 17; 1 John 3:8; Rev.12:11).
- The victory of _____ is in the cross (1 Pet. 2:24; Isa. 53:5; Ps.103:3)

<p>Summary:</p>	<p>The cross Christ is full of power. With it is an integral part of your faith; you can walk in victory over guilt and condemnation and over all the oppression of the devil. With the cross, you are a victor over sickness, suffering, anxiety, and fear. With the cross, you will even ultimately triumph over death. That's how powerful the cross is.. The cross has relevance in every area of your life. In the cross are forgiveness, freedom, provision, and healing. In the cross are found all the answers to life. The cross is the beginning and the end in your Christian journey.</p>
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Lesson
1e

Victory Over the Enemy

In this lesson we will define and explore tools that will help to break the power of the enemy in our life and Christian walk.

I. We must understand that:

- **God's will for you is _____.**
I Corinthians 15:57, II Corinthians 2:14
- **You can _____ the Devil. James 4:7**
- **You must know the devices or tricks of the enemy. Ephesians 6:11**
- **You will find that Satan assumes three basic roles in his attacks and uses three basic weapons with which he hopes to defeat you:**
 1. As the tempter he entices with _____.
 2. As the accuser he seeks to _____.
 3. As the destroyer he attacks with _____.

II. How to be victorious over temptation

- **From James 1:12-15 we learn how temptation works**
- **From 1 John 2:16, we learn there are three areas where believers are tempted:**
 1. The lust of the flesh

2. The lust of the eyes
3. The pride of life

- **How to successfully overcome temptation.**

II. How to overcome the accuser's condemnation

Revelation 12:10-11

- **Satan wants you to quit.**
- **Three areas of protection-Revelation 12:11, tells how believers overcame the accuser of the brethren.**
 1. The blood
 2. The spoken word
 3. Absolute surrender to the Lord

IV. How to turn back the enemy's destruction

- **Satan's major areas of destruction**

1. Physical sickness
2. Bondage-especially to alcohol, drugs or sexual sins
3. Mental and emotional attacks
4. Financial problems
5. Family problems

- **Scriptural ways to resist the devil**

1. Stand on God's promise.
2. Speak the Word.
3. Obey God.

4. Bind and loose.
5. Walk in faith.
6. Stand.

Questions to Consider...

1. What are the three weapons that the enemy will use to attack you?
2. How can we overcome and have victory over temptation?
3. What are some of the scriptures that teach us how we can overcome the enemy?

How has the enemy attacked you? How will you have victory over the enemy?