

# Promise and Deliverance

## Student Workbook

Volume 17

Level 4

Harvey De Groot

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# Preface

When S.G. De Graaf wrote his four-volume series, *Promise and Deliverance*, he showed educators how to teach Bible stories from a redemptive-historical perspective. Rather than turning Bible stories into moralistic tales, De Graaf taught us how all the Bible shows God revealing himself as the God of the covenant, who is working out His redemptive plan for humanity and all of creation.

The 80 workbooks written by Harvey De Groot are meant to supplement De Graaf's work. They are divided by volume and level number: 20 volumes with four levels per volume. Workbook lessons are written at four levels so that families with students in various grades can study the same Bible stories during the week in preparation for their classes on Sunday. Prior to class, the Sunday School teacher should study the lesson in De Graaf's book. The teacher and students can go through the workbook during class.

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

- **Level One:** Grades K-1
- **Level Two:** Grades 2-3
- **Level Three:** Grades 4-6
- **Level Four:** Grades 7-8

Each volume contains 12 or 13 lessons, and each lesson has the following sections:

- **Reference:** The volume and lesson number in De Graaf's series.
- **Scripture:** The passage from Scripture on which the lesson is based.
- **Memory Verse:** A memory verse related to the lesson.
- **Lesson Truth:** A short statement to help the class focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Lesson:** The lesson itself, which the teacher can read in class. For older grades, the teacher may opt to assign it as homework.
- **Questions:** Items to be discussed in class. For older grades, the teacher can assign these questions as homework but should also use them as a basis for class discussion. These are not the only questions that could or should be asked. Teachers should encourage students to come with their own questions as well.

This edition was written by Harvey De Groot and edited by his son Norlan De Groot.



## Lesson 1

# Alone

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 76

**Scripture:** Luke 23:26-31

**Memory Verse:** “And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.’” (Luke 23:27-28)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ suffers all alone, that His people may know Him again.

### Lesson

Jesus was on the way to the cross after Pilate sentenced Him to death. Both Pilate and Herod tried to avoid dealing with Jesus and wanted to be rid of Him. His own people rejected Him so that as He left Jerusalem, Jesus was utterly alone. A huge crowd followed out of curiosity and some women cried when they saw He could not carry the heavy cross. But their tears were merely tears of emotion because they had no idea of the real burden that Christ bore. In contrast to the tears of the women, Jesus expressed genuine sorrow for what He knew would be the eternal destruction of unbelievers.

Pilate delivered Jesus to the will of the Jewish leaders and their followers. Their will was to ban the Redeemer from the city of Jerusalem and nail Him to a cross. As He was led out of the city, it was evident that no one wanted Him. No one knew Him or understood Him. The Lord of all the earth was alone as He carried the wrath of God against sin to the cross. There were some women who mourned and wept when they saw Jesus stumble under the load of the cross. But sadly, their weeping was limited to feeling sorry that He had to carry such a heavy cross. These women had no idea that He carried the sins of the world. They had no idea that the Redeemer who brought God’s grace to mankind was being banned from Jerusalem. Because of their pity for what they could see, these women were prevented from understanding the real burden of the Lord’s grief.

The mourning and weeping of the women of Jerusalem added to the suffering that Jesus endured. These women were Israelites, His own people. They should have known that He was the Redeemer and that He came to atone for the sins of the world. Instead, their crying added to His suffering because Jesus knew the women were weeping for the wrong reason. They were not weeping in grief over the lost condition of mankind, but only for His physical burden under the cross. As Jesus was led down the road to the cross, He was unknown and all alone.

Yet in compassion for His people, Jesus spoke to the women and directed their emotions to the real tragedy of mankind. The Lord expressed genuine sorrow for what He knew would be the destruction not only of Jerusalem but of all unbelievers. Jesus stopped and said to the women, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and your children” (Luke 23:28). The Lord saw clearly the eternal destruction of unbelievers when He said, “For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed! Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ (Luke 23:28-29). In the days of judgment, fear would be so great that women who never had children would be considered blessed. People would rather die than face the wrath of that judgment so they would call for the mountains to fall on them and the hills to cover them.

Those were the words of compassion that Jesus spoke to the women. If only they would weep for that eternal loss, they would plead with God for His grace. Jesus then added a statement about green and dry wood. If

Jesus, who was the green wood, the living tree, was not spared, how could sinners, the dead wood, ever be spared? That was the Lord's lament for the nation of Israel and for unbelievers of all ages. Each step on the road to the cross added to the Lord's suffering that He bore alone. Yet, He was willing to suffer the wrath of God on the cross to atone for the sins of His people.

### **Questions**

1. Who did the soldiers compel to carry the Lord's cross? (Luke 23:26)
2. Who in the multitude that followed Jesus mourned and lamented for Him? (Luke 23:27)
3. How did Jesus address the women who mourned? (Luke 23:28)
4. For whom did Jesus tell the women not to weep? (Luke 23:28)
5. For whom did Jesus urge the women to weep? (Luke 23:28)

6. In the days of judgment that Jesus said were coming who would be considered blessed? (Luke 23:29)

7. What would the people cry to have fall on them because judgment would be so severe? (Luke 23:30)

8. What would the people ask to cover them in this severe judgment? (Luke 23:30)

## Lesson 2

# His Sacrifice

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 77

**Scripture:** Luke 23:32-56

**Memory Verse:** “And when He had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, ‘Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ And they divided His garment and cast lots.” (Luke 23:33-34)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ offers Himself as a sacrifice for the salvation of life.

### Lesson

The soldiers led Christ Jesus to the place called Calvary. There they crucified Him along with two criminals, one on His right hand and the other on His left. Jesus willingly went to the cross to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of His people. It was three days before the Father raised Him from the dead. Jesus sacrificed Himself for the salvation of life.

The Lord Jesus was led to Calvary like a common criminal and was crucified with two other criminals, one on either side of Him. As He was crucified Jesus prayed to His Father asking, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (John 23:34). When Jesus asked the Father to forgive them, He was thinking primarily about chief priests and elders of who had insisted that He be crucified. To say that they did not know what they were doing was an understatement. Jesus had told them plainly that He was the Christ, the promised Redeemer. Yet their eyes were blinded because of their ignorance of the Word of God. Because of their ignorance, Jesus could pray for their forgiveness. He was willing to take the curse of their ignorance upon Himself. The Lord Jesus knew that only by God’s grace could the truth of their ignorance be revealed to the Jewish leaders. And if their ignorance was revealed to them, they could no longer remain ignorant. By God’s grace they would see the guilt of their ignorance and the sins they committed in ignorance. It was tragic that the elders led the people in mocking and jeering the Lord Jesus as he was hung on the cross. They sneered saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ the chosen of God” (John 23:35). Sadly, the soldiers also joined in this mockery as they nailed the inscription over His head: “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS” (Luke 23:38). Still, the Redeemer gave himself as a sacrifice to atone for this ignorance and mockery.

The amazing thing about the unspeakable gift of Christ’s sacrifice was that He sacrificed Himself for all sins. Not only did He sacrifice Himself for the sin of ignorance, but he also sacrificed Himself for the sin of a wasted life. This was evident in the discourse heard on the cross between Jesus and the two criminals. The one joined in the mockery and blasphemed the Lord by saying, “If you are the Christ, save Yourself and us” (Luke 23:39). But God’s grace was also evident when the second criminal rebuked the first by asking, “Do you not even fear God seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly for we receive the due reward for our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong” (Luke 23:40-41). Then the second criminal addressed Jesus and said, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom” (Luke 23:42). It seemed that this criminal was asking for Jesus to remember him in the future in the glories of His heavenly Kingdom. But Jesus is the Redeemer. He gave himself as the sacrifice for the sins of all who believe. He was ready to accept the wasted life of a criminal who looked to Jesus as his Lord. Jesus answered the criminal with the most blessed words that anyone could ever hear. He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).



God the Father is a just God and cannot tolerate sin. To satisfy the demands of the Father, Christ offered Himself as the sacrifice for the sins of His people. He was utterly forsaken by the Father during the three hours that the sun refused to shine and the veil of the temple was torn. With Christ's sacrifice all the animal sacrifices in the temple came to an end. Now He placed the fruits of His suffering into the hands of His Father when He cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46). Following this commitment, the Lord Jesus died. The events surrounding the Lord's death were so spectacular that even the Roman centurion glorified God when he said, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" (Luke 23:47).

Following the Lord's death, a council member named Joseph took the Lord's body, wrapped it in linen, and placed it in a new tomb. Joseph was a believer from Arimathea who confessed that Jesus was the long-expected Redeemer. After three days Jesus was raised from the dead. Communion between the Father and the Son was restored which made it possible for His people to live in eternal communion with God.

### Questions

1. What was the place called where they crucified the Lord Jesus? (Luke 23:33)
2. What did Jesus ask the Father to do on behalf of the leaders who put Him to death? (Luke 23:34)
3. What did the rulers say with a sneer? (Luke 23:35)
4. What did the soldiers mockingly ask Jesus? (Luke 23:37)
5. What inscription written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew was placed over Jesus? (Luke 23:38)

6. How did one of the criminals blaspheme the Lord? (Luke 23:39)

7. What did the other criminal request of Jesus? (Luke 23:42)

8. What did Jesus cry out to the Father in a loud voice? (Luke 23:46)

## Lesson 3

# The Redemption of Life

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 78

**Scripture:** Luke 24

**Memory Verse:** “He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ And they remembered His words.” (Luke 24:6-8)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ arises as the Redeemer of life.

### Lesson

Christ Jesus, the true Man, redeemed human life when He was delivered from the bonds of death. He revealed Himself as Israel’s Redeemer to those who were grieving His death and burial. The Lord showed His disciples the nail prints in His hands and His sword-pierced side to confirm that He was truly alive. He then gave His disciples the assignment to bring the Word of God as witnesses to all nations. Christ assured them that they would be given power from on high to carry out this assignment. He then parted from them and went to heaven to present His sacrifice to the Father.

The Sabbath day had ended and now early on the first day of the week some women went out to the tomb where Jesus was buried. They brought spices to anoint His body. Imagine how they felt when they found the huge stone rolled away from the tomb’s entrance and the tomb empty. As they discussed what could possibly have happened, two men in shining garments stood next to them. The women knew that these were not ordinary men, so they bowed with their faces to the ground. It must have sounded incredible when the angels, who appeared as men, asked them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” (Luke 24:5). It was even more incredible to hear them say, “He is not here, but is risen!” (Luke 24:6). Then to help these women understand, the angels reminded them of Jesus’ own words to them. He told them, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again” (Luke 24:7). Then the women remembered Jesus’ words and rushed back to Jerusalem and told the eleven disciples. When he heard the women’s account, Peter hurried out to the tomb to check and found it just as the women had said. Still, Peter marveled at what could have happened. If Jesus rose from the dead, then the power of death was broken, and the Lord’s promise of eternal life was real.

Toward evening on that first day of the week two of Jesus’ followers were walking back to the town of Emmaus. As they walked, they discussed all the things that had happened in Jerusalem. They talked about Jesus’ crucifixion and burial and also about the women’s experience at the tomb. As they were walking, a stranger caught up with them and joined in their conversation. He asked them why they were so sad as they walked and talked. They explained to this stranger all the things that had occurred, including the women’s report that the tomb was empty. Sadly, these men did not recognize that the stranger walking with them was Jesus. From Jesus’ words we know that they could have recognized Him because He called them foolish and slow of heart to believe. They could have known that the prophets foretold the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of the Redeemer. As they walked Jesus opened the Scriptures for them. He wanted them to believe the Word of God and base their confidence on that Word and not only on His appearance.

As the men neared the village of Emmaus, Jesus indicated that He was going to continue His journey. But the men persuaded Him to stay with them and eat with them. When they sat down to eat, Jesus took some bread and broke it and blessed it before He gave it to them. Immediately their eyes were opened, and they knew Him.

At that instant He vanished from their sight. These men were also astounded at what had just been revealed and they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples.

As the disciples were discussing their encounters with Jesus, He appeared to them and greeted them. This startled the group and made them think that they were seeing a ghost. Then Jesus assured them that He was their Lord and Redeemer. He showed them His hands and feet and asked them to touch Him. The Lord then opened the Scriptures to the whole group. He pointed out that everything that was written in the Law of Moses and the prophets had to be fulfilled. The disciples not only had to believe what God said in His Word, but they also had to be witnesses to things they had seen and heard. This Word had to be proclaimed to every tribe and nation and tongue.

Christ Jesus then led them out to Bethany where He blessed them and was then taken up to heaven. Jesus had given His life as a sacrifice on the cross, now He went to heaven to present His sacrifice to His Father. By God's grace the disciples saw that Jesus was the promised Redeemer!

### **Questions**

1. Who went to the tomb of Jesus very early on the first day of the week? (Luke 24:1)
2. What question did the angels ask those who were seeking Jesus' body? (Luke 24:5)
3. What astounding thing did the angels say happened to Jesus? (Luke 24:6)
4. Who drew near and went with the men from Emmaus? (Luke 24:15)

5. What did Jesus say to the men from Emmaus because they did not understand the Scriptures? (Luke 24:25)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What happened when Jesus broke bread and gave it to the men from Emmaus? (Luke 24:30-31)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What did Jesus show His disciples to assure them that it was truly He who spoke to them? (Luke 24:39)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Where would the disciples need to preach remission of sins and repentance? (Luke 24:47)

## Lesson 4

# The True Light

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 1

**Scripture:** John 1:1-34

**Memory Verse:** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” (John 1:1-3)

**Lesson Truth:** The true light was coming into the world.

### Lesson

It is nearly impossible to fully comprehend what it meant to have the Light of the world come to dispel the darkness. Yet John tells us that is what happened when Jesus came to earth. He came as the Light to shine in the darkness. He was the Word of God that became flesh. John the Baptist heralded His coming by urging the people to make straight the way for the Lord. He also proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God who stood in their midst.

The purpose for the gospel of John is stated clearly in John 20:31: “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” It is essential that we know Jesus the Redeemer as the Son of God. John is careful to tell us that the Christ is God. He is the One who made all things as the Creator God. At the time of creation, mankind was in communion with God and communed as a friend does with a friend. But mankind rejected that communion and as a result all the light went out of life. That is why it is so tremendous to learn about the True Light that shines in the darkness. That is the electrifying message of John’s Gospel that in the Word of God, Christ Jesus is life and that life is the light of men. What was lost in the darkness of sin and rejection is restored in the Light that shines in the darkness. The communion that man once had with God can be restored through Jesus in His covenant of grace. That is why we must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, because those who believe are given the right to become children of God.

In paradise, Adam and Eve were in communion with God. They had the privilege to establish that communion with God for all mankind, but sadly, they rejected it. For that reason, Jesus agreed to become flesh to act as the Head of the human race to take Adam’s place and restore communion with God. Think for a moment about the love and grace of God! The Word, who was the Creator God, became flesh in order to restore communion of mankind with God! Think also of the heart-wrenching report from John saying, “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11). Yet grace was evident because there were those who did receive Him and to those, He gave the right to become children of God. John then made it clear that no one has ever come to know God on his own. It is the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father who has declared Him. There is no way to know of God’s grace except through Jesus, the Son of God.

The Son of God became flesh and therefore He looked like other men. For that reason, God sent John the Baptist to introduce the Lord Jesus as the Redeemer. John told the people that he was not the Christ or Elijah or any other prophet. He told them that he was the man that Isaiah had predicted would come. He was, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way for the Lord” (John 1:23). This did not satisfy the Pharisees and Sadducees because they saw John baptize people with a baptism of repentance. They were afraid the people would reject their teachings because they taught that keeping the Law brought salvation. John responded that his baptism was with water, but there was One who stood among them who would baptize with

the Holy Spirit. John declared that he was not worthy to loose the sandal straps of the Lamb of God who would follow him.

Then John testified how he knew Jesus to be the Lamb of God. The Lord had come to John to be baptized and when He did, God opened his eyes so he could declare, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). John had seen the Spirit descend on Jesus in the form of a dove and God informed him that, "This is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit" (John 1:33). John testified that this was the Son of God; the Word that became flesh, the True Light!

### **Questions**

1. What according to John's gospel was in the beginning? (John 1:1)
2. What was made by Him that was in the beginning? (John 1:3)
3. Who was the man who was sent from God to bear witness of the Light? (John 1:6-7)
4. What was the response of His own to whom He came? (John 1:11)
5. What did the Word become in order to dwell among men? (John 1:14)

6. Who did John say he was to the men that had been sent from the Pharisees? (John 1:23)

7. What did John feel unworthy to do for the One who would come after him? (John 1:27)

8. Who did John declare Jesus to be when he saw Him coming toward him? (John 1:29)



## Lesson 5

# Confessors

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 2

**Scripture:** John 1:35-51

**Memory Verse:** “Nathanael answered and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.’” (John 1:49-50)

**Lesson Truth:** By means of His call, Christ brings us to a confession of His name.

### Lesson

Before the Lord Jesus called men to do the work of a disciple, He called them to confess His name. The Lord showed His grace by touching the hearts of men to confess that they recognized Him as the Son of God. Today we will review the confessions of five men that Jesus called. The first ones to confess Christ were Andrew and his companion, who was probably John. Later Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathanael confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. Following is the account of the way these men were brought to confess their faith in the Redeemer.

When Jesus came toward him, John the Baptist had declared Him to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Now, a day later John the Baptist was standing with Andrew and his companion when he saw Jesus again. As he saw Jesus walking, he declared a second time, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36). This time when Andrew and his companion heard it, they decided to follow Jesus. They wanted to accompany the Lord and still they were not sure why they had this desire. When Jesus saw them following, He stopped and asked them what they were seeking. They didn’t really know what they were looking for, so they asked, “Rabbi, where are You staying?” (John 1:38). Of course, Jesus knew that God the Father had put this desire to be with Him, in their hearts. So, the Lord told them to come and see where he was staying. Jesus reached out to these men in love and communed with them as the Son of God. This was the way that they were led to confess that Jesus Christ was their Lord and Redeemer.

We know that Andrew and his companion confessed that Jesus was the Messiah because of their contact with Peter. Andrew went to find his brother Simon Peter and told him: “We have found the Messiah” (John 1:41). Then he brought his brother to Jesus. As soon as Jesus saw Simon Peter; He knew all about Simon’s nature and how he would be used in His Kingdom. The Lord said to him, “You are Simon the son of Jonah, you shall be called Cephas” (John 1:42). The name Cephas means rock in the Aramaic language, and Peter means rock in the Greek language. Jesus knew that Simon wanted to be as unmovable as rock, the first time He saw him. But the Lord had to work in Simon Peter’s heart to make this impetuous fisherman into the rock that would build His church.

The next morning Jesus wanted to return to Galilee, but before He left, He spotted Philip. When He saw Philip the Lord said to him, “Follow Me” (John 1:43). To Philip this was more than an invitation that he could either accept or decline. To Him it was a revelation! The Son of God asked him to follow because He knew that Philip had a desire to commune with God. Philip never hesitated but immediately agreed to follow Jesus. He was so excited about following the Lord that he went to find Nathanael. It was to Nathanael that Philip made his confession about the Lord. He told Nathanael that they had found the Messiah that the prophets had written about. The Messiah was Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

When Nathanael heard that Jesus was from Nazareth; he asked if anything good could come from Nazareth. Philip did not argue with Nathanael about good things coming from Nazareth, but simply said to him, “Come and see” (John 1:46). Jesus saw Nathanael coming and knew that he had faith and would be called to confess the Messiah’s name. So, He said of Nathanael, “Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom is no deceit” (John 1:47). When Nathanael heard this, he asked Jesus how He knew him. Jesus replied that He knew him even before Philip called him because he saw him under a fig tree. This prompted Nathanael to confess Jesus as the Messiah when he said: “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” (John 1:49). The Lord in His grace called men to confess His name. Are you a confessor of the name of Jesus, the Redeemer?

### Questions

1. What did John the Baptist declared when he saw Jesus walking? (John 1:36)
2. What did the disciples do when they heard John speak? (John 1:37)
3. What was the name of one of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus? (John 1:40)
4. What did this disciple confess to his brother Simon? (John 1:41)
5. What did Jesus say when He saw Simon? (John 1:42)

6. What command did Jesus give Philip when He found him? (John 1:43)

7. What question did Nathanael ask when he knew that Jesus came from Nazareth? (John 1:46)

8. What confession did Nathanael make to Jesus? (John 1:49)

## Lesson 6

# Life's Renewer

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 3

**Scripture:** John 2:1-12

**Memory Verse:** “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ's revelation of Himself as the Renewer of life.

### Lesson

It is encouraging for God's people to know that the Lord Jesus came not only as the sacrifice for sins, but also as the One who renews life. God's people may be assured that if they have been reconciled to God and have communion with Him, they may enjoy life in that communion. Jesus showed that He was the One who renewed life when He attended a wedding feast at Cana of Galilee. There was a question if this was the hour that the Father had appointed for Him to reveal Himself. Still, Jesus gave a sign of the power of His grace by changing water into wine. The disciples saw this sign and believed that He was the Christ.

God's people do not need to deny all the pleasures of life in an attempt to gain favor with God. Jesus showed that He was the One who restored everything for His people by atoning for their sins. He showed how He restored the joy of a wedding feast when He went to Cana of Galilee. This must have seemed strange to the disciple who had been with John the Baptist, because he had denied himself all of life's pleasures. John lived a life of fasting and prayer that showed how mankind lost everything because of sin. He was the preacher that called people to repent. Now Jesus came and showed that He restored all of life, including its pleasures, by making Himself a sacrifice for sins.

A few days after Jesus called a number of His disciples to confess His name, He arrived at Cana. Jesus learned that His mother was at a wedding feast. He and his disciples were also invited to this wedding feast and accepted this invitation. Apparently, more guests attended this feast than the hosts anticipated, because they ran out of wine. When Jesus' mother realized that they were out of wine she made a point of telling Jesus about the situation. The Lord responded harshly to His mother when he asked, “Woman what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come” (John 2:4). Jesus was telling Mary that she could not force Him to reveal Himself until it was the hour His Father had appointed for that revelation. Still, Mary found it difficult to ignore the problem. So, she told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do.

Even though Jesus had said that His hour had not yet come; He was ready to show a sign that He was the One who restored life. He saw six twenty-to-thirty-gallon water pots standing there. Jesus told the servants to fill these pots with water. After they had done so, He told them to pour out some of this water and bring it to the master of the feast. Imagine the surprise of the servants when the master of the feast asked them why they had kept the best wine until last. By the power of His grace Jesus had changed the water into wine. Also, by the power of His grace His people are restored to joy of communion with God.

From the record of the gospel of John, this was the first miracle that Jesus performed. This miracle demonstrated that Jesus controlled all things by the power of His grace. He used His miraculous power to restore the joy of life at this wedding feast. The Lord's disciples had been with Him only a few days and already they had been called to confess His name. Now they saw the miracle of changing the water to wine as a

manifestation of His glory, and it confirmed their faith. His disciples believed in Him and were now fully convinced that they had found the Messiah.

We can also know Jesus as the Messiah, the One who restores life. In Jesus we need not live a life of deprivation and denial of all pleasure. The Redeemer has atoned for our sins and restored the joy of life for His people. They have been restored to communion with God and can live in the joy of that communion!

### **Questions**

1. Where was the wedding that Jesus' mother attended? (John 2:1)
2. Who was invited to this wedding feast in addition to Jesus' mother? (John 2:2)
3. What problem occurred at the wedding feast that Jesus' mother shared with Him? (John 2:3)
4. What did Jesus say to His mother that indicated that this was not the time to reveal Himself? (John 2:4)
5. What did Jesus tell the servants to do with the water pots? (John 2:7)

6. What had become of the water in the water pots? (John 2:9)

7. What did the master of the feast say about the quality of this wine? (John 2:10)

8. What was the disciple's response to this miracle of Jesus? (John 2:11)

## Lesson 7

# The Kingdom as a Revelation

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 4

**Scripture:** John 3:1-21

**Memory Verse:** “This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” (John 3:2-3)

**Lesson Truth:** The Kingdom of God is a revelation to us.

### Lesson

The Kingdom of God is a mystery that man cannot find for himself; it must be revealed to him. When the Kingdom is revealed to man, he experiences a new birth. The only way that man can learn of the revelation of the Kingdom is by faith. This Kingdom that causes men to be born again originated in God’s love. Jesus shared the mystery of the new birth into God’s Kingdom with a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus. Jesus told Nicodemus that a person had to be born again in order to enter the Kingdom. Men cannot find the Kingdom of God by keeping the Law, but only by grace and a new birth.

Not long after Jesus began His public ministry, He left Galilee and went to Jerusalem. At Jerusalem He did a number of miracles that caused many people to believe. Yet, their belief in Jesus as a miracle worker from God, did not always result in a life of full surrender. The difficulty for the people was that they had been taught for years that they had to earn their salvation by keeping the Law. They could not understand what Jesus was saying when He proclaimed a kingdom of grace. How could there be a kingdom in which everything is freely given through grace? One man who believed that Jesus was a teacher who came from God was Nicodemus. But sadly, Nicodemus did not understand the mystery of the Kingdom of grace. Nicodemus came to Jesus one night to question Him about the kingdom He proclaimed.

Nicodemus confessed that only someone who came from God could do the miracles that Jesus did. But Jesus knew that his confession was not a confession that he believed his salvation was by grace. The Lord had to correct Nicodemus from his false idea that he could earn salvation himself. Jesus’ response to Nicodemus must have shocked him. He said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Now, Nicodemus was completely confused, and he asked if a person had to enter a second time into his mother’s womb. Jesus told him that the new birth He was talking about was a birth of water and the Spirit. The Lord had to help Nicodemus understand that what is born of the flesh is flesh, but what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Anyone born of the Spirit would trust only in God’s grace for salvation. New birth is entirely God’s work and for that reason man cannot search it out. That is why Jesus compared this new birth with the wind for Nicodemus. Just as we do not know where the wind comes from or where it goes so, we do not know how God works this new birth in the hearts of His people. Because new life comes from God alone, we cannot investigate it by our human wisdom. Only faith can help us understand what God tells us about this new life.

Nicodemus was not yet ready to listen to Jesus in faith. He was still trying to understand the mystery of a new birth by his human understanding. In his doubt about a new birth, he asked Jesus how such a thing was possible. Jesus then asked Nicodemus, if he being a teacher in Israel did not understand these things. The reason he did not understand was because he had not taught the people about the power of God’s grace. Nicodemus had taught the people to trust in obeying the Law. If they obeyed the Law, then they would earn a place in heaven.

Then Jesus assured Nicodemus that He had come down from heaven and that He was the Son of Man to whom people must look for salvation. It would be like the time Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. Only those who looked to the serpent in faith were saved. In that same way the Son of Man would be lifted up on the cross, and those who believed in Him would have eternal life.

Jesus then told Nicodemus, as well as all believers, where His Kingdom of Grace came from. It came from God's love! God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world. That is what the Pharisees expected. Instead, He told Nicodemus and all believers, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). When believers believe in that love of God, the light of life comes into their hearts. Then they live by faith in God's gift of love.

### **Questions**

1. Who was the man who came to Jesus by night? (John 3:1-2a)
2. From where did this man believe that Jesus had come? (John 3:2b)
3. According to the Lord's words what must happen for one to see the Kingdom of God? (John 3:3)
4. What question did Nicodemus have for Jesus about a new birth? (John 3:4)
5. Of what must a person be born in order to see the Kingdom of God? (John 3:5)



6. What is that which is born of the flesh? (John 3:6)

7. According to Jesus' words why did God give His only begotten Son? (John 3:16)

8. According to Jesus' words what did men love rather than light? (John 3:19)

## Lesson 8

# The Bridegroom

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 5

**Scripture:** John 3:22-36

**Memory Verse:** “John answered and said, ‘A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but, I have been sent before Him.’” (John 3:27-28)

**Lesson Truth:** The Bridegroom receives the bride from the hand of the Bridegroom’s friend.

### Lesson

John the Baptist talked about Jesus as the Bridegroom. It was the Bridegroom and not John, His friend, who was the central figure in the story of redemption. John made it clear that in God’s plan for redeeming his people, Jesus must increase but he must decrease. John then gave testimony that the Lord Jesus was from above, that is from heaven. He instructed his disciples that He who comes from above is above all. John urged his disciples to believe in the testimony of Jesus.

After Jesus had instructed Nicodemus in the absolute necessity of being born again, He went to the land of Judea. In Judea, Jesus and His disciples went to the same area where John the Baptist was baptizing. This was the area in Aenon near Salim. John was preaching and baptizing in this area because there was sufficient water for baptism to take place. Jesus chose to go to the same place where John was baptizing because it was time for the people to focus on the Redeemer. The focus had to change from the messenger who announced the coming of the Redeemer, to the Redeemer Himself.

John’s disciples soon learned that many people were going to Jesus and were being baptized by His disciples. This troubled John’s disciples for two reasons. First, they were envious that people would go to Jesus and His disciples to be baptized instead of to John. Second, they thought that Jesus and His disciples did not follow such rules as hand washing and other cleansing rituals. It was a question about these rules that made John’s disciples dispute with the Jews. Although John’s disciples followed some of these rules; Jesus taught that baptism was a sign of complete cleansing. Because of their troubled spirits John’s disciples went to him to complain. They told John that the Man about whom he had testified was having His disciples baptize many. In their anxiety they exaggerated what was happening by saying, “All are coming to Him!” (John 3:26). These disciples were afraid that John was losing his following to another preacher.

Now it was time for John to teach his disciples about the reality of the Messiah. He told them not to worry about the people going to Jesus because the Lord could receive nothing unless He received it from heaven. He then reminded them about the things they had heard him say before, that he was not the Christ, but that he was the one sent to go before Him. John then used the example of a bride and bridegroom to help his disciples understand his relationship to Jesus. At a wedding, a friend of the bridegroom introduces the bride to the bridegroom. Because the friend brings the two together, he may not desire to have the bride for himself. Instead, the friend rejoices at the joy the bridegroom finds in his bride. John said that he was the friend of the Bridegroom and therefore he rejoiced to see the Bridegroom receive His bride. The bride was the Lord’s people who would become His church. John was so filled with joy to see the people flock to Jesus the Redeemer that he told his disciples, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). John did not want to come between the Redeemer and His people, and he did not want his disciples to come between them.

John then used this opportunity to testify that Jesus was the Messiah. He said that He who came from above was above all; the One from heaven is above all! John testified, “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure” (John 3:34). This meant that God does not give His Spirit in a limited way. God the Father gave God the Holy Spirit to God the Son completely without any limits. That is why John’s disciples should also rejoice to see the people flock to Jesus.

It did not bother John that the people followed Jesus, but it did bother him that the people did not accept the Lord’s testimony. Only those who believed that Jesus was the Messiah testified that God was true. Only those who believe in the Son of God, have eternal life. Sadly, those who do not believe the Son of God shall not see life, but God’s wrath abides on them. John rejoiced to see the bride, who are the people of the church, follow the Bridegroom.

### Questions

1. Where did Jesus go after He instructed Nicodemus? (John 3:22)
2. Who was baptizing in the area of Aenon where Jesus went to baptize? (John 3:23)
3. Between which two groups did a dispute arise about purification (baptism)? (John 3:25)
4. About what problem did John’s disciples complain to him? (John 3:26)
5. What did John remind his disciples that he had said? (John 3:28)

6. Who has the Bridegroom according to John? (John 3:29)

7. According to John he must decrease, and Jesus must do what? (John 3:30)

8. What do those who believe in the Son have? (John 3:36)

## Lesson 9

# The Gift of God

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 6

**Scripture:** John 4:1-42

**Memory Verse:** “Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’” (John 4:13-14)

**Lesson Truth:** The Christ is the gift of God to all nations.

### Lesson

Because Jesus and His disciples were baptizing more people than John, questions arose among the Pharisees. The Lord was not ready to be drawn into a controversy with the Pharisees at this time, so He left Judea to go to Galilee. In going to Galilee Jesus elected to go the direct route through the land of Samaria. As He was going through Samaria, He stopped at Jacob’s well and there encountered a Samaritan woman. In a conversation with this woman Jesus told her about living water and revealed to her that He was the Messiah. While in Samaria, Jesus reminded His disciples that the harvest for the souls of men was ready. During His short stay in Samaria Jesus began an interim harvest of Samaritan believers.

As Jesus traveled through Samaria, He came to the city of Sychar. Just outside of Sychar was the well that Jacob dug on the piece of ground that he later gave to his son Joseph. Because Jesus was weary from travel, He sat down by Jacob’s well while His disciples went to buy food. While Jesus was resting at the well, near mid-day, a woman from the village came out to draw water. When this woman came out to the well and met Jesus, the providence of God was evident in the grace offered to her. It was very unusual for a Jew to be at a well in Samaria, because it was customary for the Jews to go around Samaria to get from Judea to Galilee. The Jews didn’t want to have anything to do with Samaritans because they were a mixed race. It was also unusual for a woman to come to draw water at mid-day because that was hottest part of the day. But this woman was an outcast even among the Samaritans, so she avoided coming to draw water in the evening with the other women. But this was the day God had chosen to have a sinful woman of Samaria meet her Messiah.

When Jesus asked the woman for a drink, she could not help but ask why a Jew asked a Samaritan woman for water. Jesus responded by reminding her that if she knew the gift of God, and who it was that asked her, she would have asked Him for living water. This woman knew that Jesus was not talking about water from the well, but she was a sinful woman and wanted to avoid any reference to her sins. So, she said to Jesus that He had nothing with which to draw water from the well. From where would He draw this living water He talked about? Was He greater than Jacob who dug this well? Then Jesus addressed her with the compassion of the Redeemer when He said, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:13-14). She still tried to avoid the Lord’s invitation when she said to Jesus, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw” (John 4:15).

Even though the woman tried to put Him off, Jesus knew what was in her heart and He knew that she needed His grace. So, He asked her to call her husband and to come to Him. Still resisting, the woman told Jesus that she did not have a husband. Imagine her surprise when Jesus told her she had spoken the truth. He told her that she had five husbands and the man she was living with at present wasn’t her husband. Now the woman tried to change the conversation by acknowledging that Jesus was a prophet. She then asked Him about the

place to worship; was it in Jerusalem or on Mount Gerizim? In response Jesus gave her the good news that the covenant would be open to Jews and Gentiles alike. Worship would not take place at either Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim, but it would take place in the hearts of men. Men would worship the Father in spirit and in truth. At last, the woman was touched, and she began to yield to the Lord's grace. She confessed that she knew that the Messiah was coming and that He would tell all things. Then Jesus told her plainly who He was. He said: "I who speak to you am He" (John 4:26). Finally, she was overcome by the Lord's grace.

When the disciples returned with the food, the woman hurried to the village and urged her people to come out and see. She confessed that the Redeemer had exposed her every sin and she brought her people out to see the Christ. In the meantime, the disciples urged Jesus to eat. This prompted Him to say that His food was to do the will of His Father. It also prompted Him to alert His disciples to the harvest of souls that was ready for harvest. Not only did many of people from Sychar come out to see Jesus, but they also believed in Him because of the testimony of this woman. An interim harvest of souls took place at Sychar as they experienced God's grace and confessed that Christ was the Savior of the world.

#### Questions:

1. To which city of Samaria did Jesus come to Jacob's well? (John 4:5)
2. What did Jesus ask of the woman who came to draw water? (John 4:7)
3. Why did this woman think it was strange for Jesus to ask her for water? (John 4:9)
4. What would the woman have asked from Jesus if she had known who He was? (John 4:10)

5. What did Jesus say would happen to those who drank from the well? (John 4:13)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. In contrast what would happen to those who drank of the water that He would give? (John 4:14)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Who did the woman say was coming who would tell them all things? (John 4:25)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What did Jesus tell His disciples about the fields of men's souls? (John 4:35)

## Lesson 10

# The Opening Up of Galilee

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 7

**Scripture:** John 4:43-54

**Memory Verse:** “The nobleman said to Him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies!’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way; your son lives.’ So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.” (John 4:49-50)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ opens Galilee up to the gospel.

### Lesson

Many inhabitants of Sychar in Samaria believed that Christ Jesus was the Savior of the world. Sadly, this was not yet true in Galilee where Christ had grown up. Most likely Jesus was talking about Galilee when He said that a prophet has no honor in his own country. Although Galilee tended to be closed to the good news of the Messiah; Jesus went there to share His grace. By His grace he opened up Galilee to the gospel. Jesus brought a nobleman and his family to believe in Christ the Lord as the Redeemer.

On the way to Galilee Jesus stayed two days at the Samaritan city of Sychar. Because of the testimony of the woman that Jesus addressed at Jacob’s well, many of her countrymen came to believe in Jesus as the Redeemer. This is remarkable because the Samaritans were not part of God’s covenant people. To be sure, Jesus came to bring a new covenant that would be proclaimed in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. But at this time the province of Galilee still remained largely closed to the gospel. It was difficult for Jesus to go into Galilee where He had grown up and not be recognized as the Messiah. Still, when He arrived in Galilee the people were eager to see Him. They were eager to see Him because many of the Galileans had been to Jerusalem to the Passover feast and had seen some of the Lord’s miracles. When Jesus came to Galilee the people wanted Him to do miracles, just as He had done in Jerusalem. Sadly, they only believed in the Lord as a miracle worker and not as the Messiah. The sensation of a miracle closed their hearts to the gospel of redemption. But the Lord Jesus wanted their hearts, and the Father gave Him the opportunity to reach their hearts through a Galilean nobleman.

The Lord came into contact with the nobleman from Galilee at Cana. Cana was the place where Jesus had performed His first miracle, when he changed the water to wine at a wedding feast. When Jesus returned to Cana a nobleman from Capernaum heard that He was in Galilee and immediately went to see Him. This nobleman begged Jesus to come to his home in Capernaum to heal his son, because his son was at the point of death. When Jesus heard the nobleman’s request, He spoke to him sharply, saying, “Unless you people see signs and wonders you will by no means believe” (John 4:48). It is evident that the nobleman did believe, which was seen by his coming from Capernaum and begging Jesus to come. But his faith was so small and so imperfect that Jesus spoke to him sharply to increase his faith. The nobleman could only respond by pleading with Jesus to come and heal his son before it was too late. Then Jesus put the nobleman’s faith to the test. He said to him, “Go your way; your son lives” (John 4:50). When the nobleman heard these words from the Redeemer, he believed with a deeper faith that Jesus healed his son, and he went his way.

The Lord Jesus had forced the nobleman to surrender in faith as described in Hebrews 11. He was assured of the things he could not see. This official sensed the power of God’s grace in his heart. Would God in His grace save his son’s life? The nobleman believed that He would. He believed that God’s grace had touched his entire household even though he did not yet see the proof.







## Lesson 11

# The Everflowing Spring

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 8

**Scripture:** John 5:1-18

**Memory Verse:** “Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’” (John 5:5-6)

**Lesson Truth:** God’s grace is an ever-flowing spring.

### Lesson

The story of the man who sat at the pool of Bethesda gives us a glimpse of the condition of mankind in general. This man thought that healing for him was limited to the stirring of the waters in the pool. He was not aware of the ever-flowing spring of grace available in Christ Jesus. When Jesus saw this man at the pool of Bethesda, He offered Him the ever-flowing spring water of His grace. When the Jews objected to the Lord’s healing on the Sabbath Day, He revealed that He did the work of His Father in heaven.

Once again Jesus left Galilee and went back to Jerusalem to attend a Jewish feast. While He was in Jerusalem, the Lord went to the pool of Bethesda that was located near the Sheep Gate. Many handicapped people gathered at this pool in the hopes of finding healing from their handicaps when the water of the pool was stirred. Apparently, each time the water was stirred, people who got into the pool would be healed. However, it was necessary to be in the pool while the water from the spring erupted. As soon as the water that erupted was mixed with the standing water of the pool it lost its healing power. Because there was only a limited number of people healed each time the pool erupted; many waited nearby for the next time it would erupt.

On the day that Jesus went to visit the pool of Bethesda, He saw a man there who had been an invalid for 38 years. He waited at the pool in the hope that he could get to the water when it erupted and be healed. Then a remarkable thing happened. Jesus saw the man in his handicapped condition and asked him, “Do you want to be made well?” (John 5:6). To a man that had been an invalid for thirty-eight years, this must have seemed like a foolish question. Of course, he wanted to be made well! But Jesus was asking him a much more profound question than only a question about his handicap. Jesus was asking him if he wanted to experience the ever-flowing spring of God’s grace. The Lord Jesus wanted to introduce this man to the spring of grace that flows constantly, and not only when the waters were stirred, as the pool of Bethesda. Sadly, the man did not yet see the ever-flowing spring of God’s grace.

In response to the Lord’s question, he answered: “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me” (John 5:7). Still, with His question, Jesus showed His grace to this man and began to awaken his faith. By grace the man began to understand that there was an ever-flowing spring of healing that issued from the Redeemer. Jesus then said to the man: “Rise, take up your bed and walk” (John 5:8). He immediately took up his bed and walked because the man was made well.

As the man walked through Jerusalem the Jews saw him carrying his bedroll, and it was the Sabbath Day. These pious Jews reminded him that it was unlawful for him to carry his bedroll on the Sabbath Day according to the tradition of the Pharisees. But the man responded that the one who had made him well told him to take up his bed and walk. The Jews then questioned who it was that made him well. The man could honestly tell them that

he did not know who made him well, because Jesus had simply mingled with the crowd. Still, Jesus had another lesson to teach this man and He did so later, when he came to the temple.

When Jesus saw the man with his bedroll in the temple, He reminded him that he had been healed of his infirmity. The Lord then charged him to go and sin no more or something worse would happen to him. This was the way Jesus instructed him that his infirmity was the result of sin. Now he was invited to live by God's grace, with the warning that if he refused to live by grace, something much worse would happen to him. Now the man knew who had healed him and he went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus. This made the Jewish leaders even more determined to put Jesus to death. They acted like their evil intent was because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath Day. But the truth was that they not only rejected the word of Jesus, but also of His Father with whom He worked. When they heard Jesus call God His Father the Jewish leaders became obsessed with a desire to put the Son of God to death. This a warning for all of us to plead for God's grace to work in our hearts or our hearts will also be closed to the truth!

### **Questions**

1. Where did Jesus go to attend a feast of the Jews? (John 5:1)
2. What is the name of the pool located by the Sheep Gate of Jerusalem? (John 5:2)
3. What kind of people lie waiting at the pool by the Sheep Gate? (John 5:3)
4. How long did the man by the pool have his infirmity? (John 5:5)



## Lesson 12

# The Bread of Life

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 9

**Scripture:** John 6

**Memory Verse:** “Jesus answered them and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for food which perishes, but for food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.’” (John 6:26-27)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ reveals Himself as the bread of life.

### Lesson

Jesus showed the power of grace when He multiplied the boy’s loaves and fish on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. He declared that He was the bread of life, which was the living bread that came down from heaven. Those who eat this living bread will never die. The living bread that Jesus talked about was His flesh and His blood. Anyone who eats His flesh and drinks His blood has eternal life. Jesus said that those who eat His flesh and drink His blood show that they are part of Him. They are the ones who accept His grace by the faith that comes through His word. A crisis then arose because of the Lord’s teaching. Many turned away from Him and rejected His word; while others believed and bore fruit unto life.

Because of the hostility that began to grow against Him in Jerusalem, Jesus went back to Galilee. In Galilee huge crowds followed Him because of the miracles He performed. In an effort to escape the crowds and to be alone with His disciples, Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. However, it was near the time of the Passover Feast and the crowds also followed Him there without bringing any food. Jesus knew that there wasn’t any place to buy food for all these people. He also knew that He would show His grace and feed them in a miraculous way. But in order to test Philip, Jesus asked him where they could buy bread to feed all these people. Jesus wondered if it would occur to Philip that this was a time when the Lord would show the power of His grace. But Philip never thought about the Lord’s grace, he only pointed out the impossibility of feeding this crowd with the money they had. Andrew went to investigate if the people had brought their own provisions and found a boy with five barley loaves and two fish. He mentioned to Jesus what he had found, but asked, “What are they among so many?” (John 6:9).

Jesus then asked His disciples to help the crowd of nearly five thousand find places to sit on the grass. After the people were seated, Jesus took the loaves and fish and gave thanks to God. He then had His disciples distribute the loaves and fish among the people until they were all fed with as much food as they wanted. When the people were fed, Jesus instructed His disciples to gather up the leftovers. Incredibly, they gathered up twelve baskets of pieces that were left over. When the people saw what had happened, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world” (John 6:14). Now they wanted to take Jesus by force and make Him a king that would free them from the Romans. But Jesus escaped and went to a mountain to pray.

The next morning the people looked for Jesus because He was not in the boat with His disciples when they left. He joined His disciples at night when He walked on the Sea of Galilee. When the crowd could not find Jesus they went to the other side of the sea to look for Him. As soon as they found Him, Jesus reminded them that they only wanted to be with Him because He fed them with the loaves and fish. The Lord then warned them, “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him” (John 6:27). So, they asked the

Lord what they should do in order to do the works of God. Jesus answered, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent” (John 6:29). Then they wanted a sign like the sign of the manna that Moses provided. Jesus then assured them that God the Father gives them the true bread from heaven. He then declared, “I am the living bread, which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.... Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life” (John 6:51, 54)

At these teachings a crisis arose. Many of His followers complained that they could not understand what He taught. Jesus said that to eat His flesh and drink His blood meant that they were part of Him. He then warned that many of His followers did not have true faith because faith is a gift of God. Sadly, many did not bow before God in humble obedience and seek that gift of faith. Now Jesus asked His twelve disciples if they also wanted to go away. Peter spoke for the twelve when he said, “Lord to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). Jesus then assured the twelve that God had chosen them, except for Judas who had a devil. Pray that God will choose us to eat sumptuously of the bread of life!

### **Questions**

1. What did Jesus ask Philip when He saw the great multitude of people? (John 6:5)
2. Who suggested to Jesus that there was a boy who had five barley loaves and two fish? (John 6:8-9)
3. How many men did the Lord feed with the five loaves and two fish? (John 6:10)
4. How many baskets of fragments did they gather up after the people were fed? (John 6:12-13)

5. For what kind of food did Jesus say they should not labor? (John 6:27)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What would never happen to those who come to Jesus, the bread of life? (John 6:35)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. According to Jesus' words what must we eat and drink to have eternal life?(John 6:54)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. According to what Peter said, who has the words of eternal life? (John 6:68)