

Truth Direct

16 essential Bible studies

Paul Adams & Rick Creighton

BeaconLight

© Paul Adams & Rick Creighton 2007

First Published in 2007 by **BeaconLight**
BeaconLight Trust,
150 High Street,
Banstead,
Surrey SM7 2NZ,
United Kingdom

Email: books@beaconlight.info

Website: www.beaconlight.info

ISBN 978-1-906526-03-0

First Edition (titled Life Direct) 2007

Second Edition 2007

Third Edition 2009

Paul Adams and Rick Creighton have asserted their right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, to be identified as authors of this work.

Some rights reserved. The copyright holders give free licence for this publication to be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, or stored in any retrieval system of any nature, without prior written permission provided that such use is for non-commercial purposes. Full acknowledgement of author, publisher and source must be given.

You shall not without the copyright holder's prior written consent modify or otherwise alter this publication.

Your rights for permitted fair dealing under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 are in no way affected by the above.

This book is not for profit. Any costs to the recipient are solely those of printing and distribution.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Acknowledgements

Material is contained in this publication for which publishing permission has been sought, and for which copyright is acknowledged. Permission to reproduce such material cannot be granted by the publishers and application must be made to the copyright holder.

Adapted from '*Directions: Fifteen Bible Study Outlines on Basic Christianity*' by Norman Warren, published in 1969 by Kingsway. Used with permission.

Printed by Lulu.com

Contents

Contents	3
How to use this book	4
1. I Believe in God the Father	5
2. I Believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ	8
3. I Believe in God the Holy Spirit.....	11
4. Creation.....	14
5. Our Biggest Problem.....	18
6. God’s Remedy (Part I): The Cross.....	21
7. God’s Remedy (Part II): The Resurrection & Ascension	24
8. Our Response.....	27
9. Christian Certainty	30
10. The Cost of Discipleship	32
11. The Bible	35
12. Prayer	38
13. The Christian Church.....	41
14. On Active Service	44
15. The Downfall of Satan.....	47
16. Jesus’ Return.....	50



How to use this book

The course

The **Truth Direct** course is designed to help you understand the essential truths revealed by God in the Bible. There are 16 studies, each covering a different area of Biblical truth – about God, our world and ourselves.

Biblical truth is also the foundation for our relationships. Understanding it helps us relate properly to God and others. Without this knowledge it is easy to go ‘off track’ – but as we put truth into practice we become wise.

Many Christians would say that they know the ‘Bible basics’ reasonably well – but there is still a great value in a disciplined review. That is what this course provides.

How to do the course

You need to set aside time! It will probably take you about an hour or so for each study. You will need to be disciplined, and avoid interruptions and distractions.

Start by praying that the Lord will open your understanding to what He has written.

Each study is based on commonly asked questions.

- First, read the question and think of your immediate response.
- Then read the Bible passage and discover how God’s Word answers that question.
- Then write down, in your own words, the answer which you have found in that verse. (Space is provided for your answer in the larger box alongside the verse reference.)

When you have completed all the questions in each section, it is important to pray about how God wants you to respond to His Word.

Learning in community

Lots of people have completed this course on their own. It is also valuable to do the course in parallel with someone else – or with a group. Finding a regular time to meet helps your study-discipline and allows you to compare notes, to pray together, and to encourage each other with what you are learning. There are questions at the end of each study – these are particularly designed to spark group discussion.

Feedback

Many people also find it useful to ask a local church leader to look over or ‘mark’ their answers when they have finished a few sections and at the end of the course. This gives you an opportunity to receive helpful feedback on what you have written. This is very worthwhile; both to point out any mistakes or omissions – and to encourage you about the things you have understood correctly!



1. I Believe in God the Father

We all have ideas about who God is, and what we think He is like. But it's not our thoughts that define God; He has chosen to reveal Himself to us. The way we find out what God is really like is by reading what He says about Himself in His Word, the Bible.

Who is God?

<i>Colossians 1v3</i>	
<i>Ephesians 1v17</i>	
<i>2 Corinthians 1v3</i>	

What is God like?

<i>1 John 4v8</i>	
<i>Isaiah 6v3</i>	
<i>Psalms 90v2,4</i>	
<i>Psalms 139v7-10</i>	
<i>Job 42v2</i>	
<i>James 1v17</i>	
<i>John 14v7-9</i>	



How can we be sure God loves us?

<i>Romans 5v8</i>	
<i>1 John 4v9-10</i>	
<i>Joshua 23v14</i>	
<i>Psalms 34v8</i>	

In the modern world we often want to ‘prove’ things. But as humans, our knowledge is limited. We cannot *prove* that love or beauty exist – at least, not like we can prove a chemical or mathematical formula – but we do still have plenty of evidence that they exist. In the same way, we cannot *prove* God – but again, we do have strong evidence of His existence all around us.

What evidence does the world provide of God’s existence?

<i>Psalms 19v1</i>	
<i>Psalms 139v13-14</i>	
<i>Romans 1v20</i>	

How else can we know that God exists?

<i>John 1v1,14,18</i>	
<i>John 20v30-31</i>	
<i>2 Peter 1v16-18</i>	



Memory verse: Romans 5v8

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection, or Group Discussion

- Do you ever struggle with doubts about whether God is there?

- What truths would help you to overcome doubts like that?

- Suppose a young child asks you 'What is God like?' How would you answer them (in a couple of simple sentences)?

- How do you know God loves you?



2. I Believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ did not come into existence when He was born to Mary at Bethlehem.

What does the Bible tell us about Him before He came to earth?

<i>John 1v1-3</i>	
<i>Colossians 1v15-17</i>	
<i>Isaiah 9v6</i>	

How do we know Jesus is truly human?

<i>Luke 2v7,40</i>	
<i>Luke 4v2</i>	
<i>Matthew 8v23-24; 9v36</i>	
<i>John 19v32-33</i>	

How do we know that Jesus is truly God?

<i>John 1v1</i>	
<i>John 10v30</i>	
<i>Mark 4v37-41</i>	



<i>John 11v25,43-44</i>	
<i>Mark 2v5-12</i>	
<i>John 14v8-9</i>	

Because Jesus is truly human – a real man, who lived on this planet in real history - He knows and understands all we go through in life. Because He is also truly God, He is able to give us all the help and power we need.

Did Jesus face temptation, and did He sin?

<i>Hebrews 4v15</i>	
<i>2 Corinthians 5v21</i>	

**What do the following verses tell us about Jesus as:
Our Representative?**

<i>Romans 5v18-19</i>	
-----------------------	--

Our Mediator?

<i>1 Timothy 2v5</i>	
----------------------	--

Our Example?

<i>1 John 2v6</i>	
-------------------	--

Both Jesus and Adam are representatives. Adam represented us in sin, and won us death. Jesus represents us in obedience, and wins us life. That is how Jesus makes us right with God, and that’s why He is our example to show us how we should live.



Memory verse: John 14v6

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you’ve learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- Jesus shared our humanity, and He faced our temptations.
How does knowing this help us when we are tempted ourselves?

- “Jesus is the only person you can trust with your life for all eternity.”
Do you agree? (Why?/Why not?)

- What are some of the things you find most inspiring about Jesus?



3. I Believe in God the Holy Spirit

How do we know the Holy Spirit is a person?

<i>Romans 8v27</i>	
<i>Acts 5v3-4; 8v29</i>	
<i>Ephesians 4v30</i>	

What is His work in the world?

<i>John 16v7-9</i>	
<i>John 3v6-7</i>	

What does the Spirit use to bring people to new birth?

<i>1 Peter 1v23</i>	
<i>1 Thessalonians 2v13</i>	

True or false (and explain why): “Only some Christians have God’s Spirit.”

<i>Romans 8v9</i>	
-------------------	--

What did Jesus promise that the Spirit would do for the original Apostles?

<i>John 14v25-26</i>	
<i>John 16v12-13</i>	



Similarly, when we read and reflect on the Scriptures (which the Apostles and Prophets wrote) what can we expect?

<i>2 Timothy 2v7</i>	
<i>1 Corinthians 2v12</i>	

What other work does the Spirit do in the Christian?

<i>Galatians 5v22</i> <i>(see also Romans 8v9)</i>	
<i>Acts 1v8</i>	

God generously gives us gifts and abilities through His Spirit. List some examples:

<i>1 Corinthians 12v8</i>	
<i>Ephesians 4v11</i>	

What does the Bible tell us about these gifts?

<i>1 Corinthians 12v4-7,11</i>	
<i>1 Corinthians 14v12</i>	
<i>Ephesians 4v12-13</i>	

How does Jesus summarise the Spirit's work?

<i>John 16v14</i>	
-------------------	--



Memory verse: Romans 5v5

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- Have you ever slipped into thinking of the Spirit as an impersonal force, rather than a person, and why? (An 'It' rather than a 'He'?)

- Do any of the verses you've looked at help you think differently about Him?

- How has the Holy Spirit been at work in your life?
What 'fruit of the Spirit' has He produced in you? (Galatians 5:22)
(Can you point to any differences between now and, say, a few years ago?)

- What spiritual gifts has God given you?
How can you use them to honour Him more, and build others up?



4. Creation

Who exactly was involved in Creation? And what exactly was created?

<i>Genesis 1v1</i> (See also <i>Deuteronomy 32v6</i>)	
<i>Colossians 1v16</i> (see also <i>Hebrews 1v2</i>)	
<i>Psalm 104v30</i> (see also <i>v19-29 & Genesis 1v2b</i>)	

What do we learn about the way God created?

<i>Genesis 1v3</i> (& <i>v6-7, v9, v11, v14-15, v24, v30</i>)	
---	--

Our world owes its existence entirely to God. He created it from nothing, just by speaking. He doesn't depend on it, but it depends entirely on him.

What did God think of the world, when He had made it?

<i>Genesis 1v31</i>	
---------------------	--

How should we think of the things that God has created?

<i>1 Timothy 4v4</i>	
----------------------	--

God made a world that was good, a world full of order not chaos, and designed to bring joy.

What marks humans out as different from the rest of creation?

<i>Genesis 1v27</i>	
---------------------	--

Why did God create the world? What is its purpose?

<i>Psalm 19v1</i> (& <i>Psalm 148v1-5</i>)	
--	--



Why did God create us? What is our purpose in life?

<i>Isaiah 43v7</i>	
<i>Psalms 16v11</i>	

What responsibilities come with being made in God’s image?

<i>Genesis 1v26, v28</i>	
<i>Genesis 2v15</i>	

God has created us to be His image, and has made us His ‘deputies’ or ‘stewards’ – to glorify Him and to rule the rest of creation under Him. That means *the way we rule creation* should be in the image of God too.

What is God’s rule like?

<i>Jeremiah 9v24</i>	
<i>Psalms 145v9</i>	

Does human rule match up to what God intends?

<i>Mark 10v42</i>	
-------------------	--

In what way does Jesus provide a true example of God’s rulership?

<i>Mark 10v43-45</i> <i>(see also Hebrews 2v6-9)</i>	
---	--

God made the world good – entirely without evil. But that clearly isn’t the way the world is now. Sin has spoiled everything – and that is what the next page is about



How does the Bible describe the world's present state?

<i>John 7v6-7</i>	
<i>Ecclesiastes 1v14-15</i>	
<i>Romans 8v19-22</i>	

In a sentence - what went wrong?

<i>Genesis 3v1-6</i> <i>(see also v7-24)</i>	
---	--

We will examine what is now wrong with our world more in the next study.

Memory verse: Revelation 4v11

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)



For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- What aspects of creation have you thanked God for recently?
What other things could you thank Him for?

- What would it mean for you to be a ‘good steward’ of creation?
How can you play your part in ‘ruling creation well’?

- One alternative to believing in a Creator God, is to believe that the world is just the product of blind chance. Why does it matter which one is true?
What difference does it make to what your meaning and purpose in life is?

- Work was originally part of God’s blessing and His good purposes for us in the world. What impact does that have on the way you view your work?



5. Our Biggest Problem

Our world is not the way God intended it to be. There is a power within each one of us that means we find it much easier to do wrong than right. We call this ‘human nature’ or ‘our shortcomings.’ The Bible calls this sin.

How does the Bible describe sin?

<i>Romans 3v23</i>	
<i>Isaiah 53v6</i>	
<i>James 4v17</i>	
<i>John 16v9</i> <i>(see also v7-8)</i>	

How widespread is sin?

<i>Romans 3v12, 23</i>	
------------------------	--

Sin certainly involves actions, but what else does it involve?

<i>Matthew 5v21-22 ,</i> <i>27-28</i>	
--	--

Sin is not just stealing, killing or adultery – it involves a whole attitude of heart and mind.

Where does sin come from?

<i>Mark 7v14-22</i>	
<i>James 4v1</i>	

5. Our Biggest Problem



We often blame 'outside' forces for our sin – maybe God, or other people, or our circumstances. We grow up saying things that try to shift the responsibility elsewhere: 'He made me angry!' 'I couldn't help it!' 'That's just the way I am!' But Jesus doesn't let us dodge our responsibility. He tells us the real fault lies on the inside.

How does God feel about sin?

<i>Genesis 6v5-6</i>	
<i>Psalms 45v7a</i>	
<i>Deuteronomy 32v20</i>	
<i>Romans 1v18</i>	

What are the results of sin?

<i>John 8v34</i>	
<i>Romans 6v23</i>	
<i>2 Thessalonians 1v7b-9</i>	
<i>2 Timothy 2v16</i>	

Apart from Christ, is there any hope that we can solve this problem?

<i>Romans 7v21-25</i>	
-----------------------	--

The important words in that last question are 'apart from Christ [NIV]'. Apart from Him, we stand no chance of dealing with sin ourselves. That's why Jesus came. We'll look at how He dealt with sin in the next study.



Memory verse: Romans 3v23

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- Suppose a young child asks you 'What is sin?' How would you answer them (in a couple of simple sentences)?

- Why do we sometimes find particular sins so hard to resist, even when we know they are wrong?

- What truths would help you to resist temptation?

- Are there on-going sins you need to confess to God and repent of?



6. God's Remedy (Part I): The Cross

God did not want us (human beings) to drift onwards, on our self-destructive course towards God's wrath. We didn't have the power to save ourselves – but God did. At huge cost to Himself, He put into operation His plan to clear up the mess we created for ourselves.

What is God's attitude to this sinful world?

<i>John 3v16-17</i>	
---------------------	--

How did he prove his love for us?

<i>Romans 5v8</i>	
-------------------	--

Why did Jesus come?

<i>1 Timothy 1v15</i>	
<i>Mark 10v45</i>	
<i>Hebrews 2v14-15</i>	

Why was He called Jesus?

<i>Matthew 1v21</i>	
---------------------	--



How did He save us from our sins?

1 Peter 3v18	
1 Peter 2v24	

What happened to Him because He bore the penalty of our sins?

2 Corinthians 5v21	
Galatians 3v13	
Matthew 27v46	

Did death defeat Jesus?

Acts 2v24	
-----------	--

Memory verse: John 3v16

What the text says	What the text means
--------------------	---------------------

6. God's Remedy (Part I)



Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- Why did Jesus come into our world?

- What happened at the cross?

- Do you think Jesus' life was good enough to win God's approval?
Are you confident in relying on Him to secure your eternal destiny?

- How do you feel, knowing that Jesus died as your representative and substitute?
What attitudes, emotions and responses do you have to this?



7. God's Remedy (Part II): The Resurrection and Ascension

We do not worship a dead teacher, but a risen Lord.

Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important?

<i>1 Corinthians</i> 15v14, 17-19	
<i>2 Corinthians</i> 4v13-14	
<i>1 Peter</i> 1v3-4	
<i>Acts</i> 17v31	

The Christian faith stands or falls on whether or not Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day. If He did, then responding rightly to Him is the most important issue in our lives. If He didn't, then Christianity is false and meaningless.

How do we know Jesus rose from the dead?

<i>Luke</i> 24v1-7,36-43	
<i>John</i> 20v6-9,19	
<i>Acts</i> 4v10	
<i>1 Corinthians</i> 15v5-8	

The Resurrection proclaims Jesus' victory. What did he achieve?

<i>Romans</i> 4v25	
--------------------	--



<p><i>Ephesians 1v19b-21</i> (compare with 6v12)</p>	
<p><i>Philippians 3v21</i></p>	
<p><i>1 Corinthians 15v55-56</i></p>	

The Ascension – what does Jesus’ return to Heaven tell us?

<p><i>Hebrews 7v25</i></p>	
<p><i>Hebrews 9v24</i> (see also v25-28)</p>	
<p><i>John 17v4-5</i></p>	
<p><i>1 Peter 3v21b-22</i></p>	
<p><i>Philippians 2v9-11</i></p>	

Jesus has done everything that needs to be done to win salvation for us. He redeemed us – completely, fully and totally. That’s why, in the language of Hebrews, He ‘sat down’ (His work was finished) on the throne of God. (‘Sat down’ = ‘job done’ – see Hebrews 1v3, 8v1 & 10v11-12).

What benefits are ours because of His completed work?

<p><i>John 14v2-3</i></p>	
<p><i>John 16v7</i></p>	

N.B. John 14v2-3 does not mean Jesus has an extra job to do once He returns to heaven. It is the very act of ‘going’ – through cross and resurrection/ascension – that prepares the place. Similarly it is this same act of ‘going’ that enables Him to send the Spirit.



Memory verse: 1 Peter 1v3

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- How do you feel, knowing that Jesus has totally defeated death?
How does it change the way you think about your own death?

- Why is it good news that Jesus has also won resurrection bodies for us?
What aspects of the resurrection body would you most look forward to?

- Why is it good news that Jesus is reigning in heaven now?



8. Our Response

People certainly are clever – we can control the world in amazing ways with science and technology. However, there are some things that we cannot do. For example, we cannot save ourselves from either the power of sin, or the results of sin.

Why can't we save ourselves?

<i>Romans 3v20</i>	
<i>Isaiah 64v6</i>	
<i>Ephesians 2v1 (see also v2)</i>	

Salvation is 'by grace.' What does 'grace' mean?

<i>Ephesians 2v8-9</i>	
------------------------	--

What two responses does Jesus require to this good news about God's gift of salvation?

<i>Mark 1v15b</i>	
-------------------	--

We shall look at each response in turn.

Faith

It is vital that we 'have faith in' or 'believe in' Jesus. Another way of saying this is that we need to trust Jesus, depend on Him, rely on Him. All these words are getting at the same basic idea.

Why is faith so important?

<i>Hebrews 11:6</i>	
---------------------	--



Why can we depend on Jesus?

<i>Hebrews 7v24-25</i>	
<i>John 10v27-28</i>	
<i>John 6v39-40</i>	

Repentance

To 'repent' basically means to 'turn around,' to 'change direction,' to 'change your mindset.'

Why is repentance so important?

<i>Luke 13v3,5</i>	
--------------------	--

What does repentance involve?

<i>Ezekiel 18v30-31a</i>	
<i>Acts 26v20</i>	

Faith and repentance are really two sides of the one coin. We can't depend on Jesus, without turning away from sin (and turning to follow him). We can't turn from sin to Jesus, without trusting him. We can't have faith without repentance, and we can't have repentance without faith.

Can we believe in Jesus, and live as if He didn't exist? Why/Why not?

<i>Romans 6v15-18</i>	
-----------------------	--



Memory verse: John 1v12

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- How would you explain to someone what 'repentance' and 'faith' are, without using technical or religious words?

- 'If we are saved by grace, then that means it doesn't matter how we live.'
Is this true or false? (And why?)

- If someone asked you, 'How do you know you can trust yourself to Jesus Christ?' what would you say?



9. Christian Certainty

Christians trust the Living Word (Jesus Christ) for salvation, and the written Word (the Bible) for assurance. 'Assurance' simply means 'confidence' or 'certainty' – the certainty that Jesus has rescued us from sin.

Give one reason why the Bible was written.

<i>1 John 5v13</i>	
--------------------	--

You have chosen to welcome Jesus Christ into your life.

What does He promise to do?

<i>Revelation 3v20</i>	
------------------------	--

What does He promise you?

<i>John 1v12; 6v47; 10v27-28</i>	
--------------------------------------	--

'I don't feel Christ is with me.'

<i>Matthew 28v20b</i>	
-----------------------	--

'I can't keep it up.'

<i>Jude 24</i>	
----------------	--

How can you be certain that you are a child of God?

<i>Romans 8v16 (see also v14-17)</i>	
--	--

When someone becomes a Christian, does that mean they never sin again?

<i>1 John 1v8,10</i>	
----------------------	--



When you sin as a Christian, you do not have to receive Christ all over again. Jesus has already died for all your sins (past, present and future!). You are still God’s child – sin clouds your friendship with Him, but it doesn’t mean you aren’t forgiven.

When we sin, what must we do, and what does God promise?

1 John 1v9	
------------	--

Memory verse: John 6v37

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you’ve learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- ‘If you’re not sure of your faith in Christ, you should start off by looking at Christ again, not looking at your faith again.’ Why is this good advice?

- How can someone know whether they are a Christian?

- ‘If you are still sinning, how can you be sure you are really a Christian?’



10. The Cost of Discipleship

We have seen that no one can earn their own salvation or win their own way to Heaven. Eternal life is a free gift promised to all who trust in Jesus Christ. While it costs nothing to become a Christian, it costs everything to be a Christian.

What does it mean to be a Christian?

<i>Romans 12v1-2</i>	
----------------------	--

Following Jesus Christ means giving up certain things. What are these?

<i>Hebrews 12v1</i>	
---------------------	--

What are some of the things which hinder the Christian?

<i>Luke 12v15; Mark 4v19</i>	
<i>Colossians 3v5 (see also v6-11)</i>	

Following Jesus Christ means taking on new things. What are these?

<i>Acts 17v11</i>	
<i>Colossians 4v2</i>	
<i>Hebrews 10v24-25</i>	
<i>Matthew 10v32-33</i>	
<i>Luke 10v25-37</i>	



What else does following Jesus involve?

<p><i>2 Corinthians 8v7</i> (see also 9v6-7)</p>	
<p><i>1 Chronicles 29v14</i></p>	

It's important to think through the cost of following Jesus. How big is the cost? Is it too much for you?

<p><i>Luke 14v25-35</i></p>	
-----------------------------	--

What did it cost Jesus to save us?

<p><i>Philippians 2v6-8</i></p>	
---------------------------------	--

What other motivations are there for living like this?

<p><i>Romans 6v2</i></p>	
<p><i>Romans 6v16</i></p>	
<p><i>2 Corinthians 5v14-15</i></p>	

Memory verse: Romans 6v23

<p>What the text says</p>	<p>What the text means</p>
---------------------------	----------------------------



Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- 'It's OK for Christians to sin, because Jesus has paid for all our sins.'
Is this true? Why/Why not?

- What does it mean that Christ's love 'compels' us? (2 Corinthians 5v14-15)
How does His love compel you to live for him?

- What is the 'cost' of following Jesus Christ?
How would you sum it up?

- What has it cost you personally to follow Christ?



11. The Bible

Christian disciples are meant to grow more like Jesus. As our human body needs food daily to grow properly, so each Christian needs spiritual food daily if they are to grow and mature. The Bible is our greatest source of spiritual food – the Bible is where we hear God speak to us personally.

How did Jesus view the Bible?

<i>John 10v35b</i> <i>Matthew 22v29</i>	
<i>Luke 4v1-13</i>	
<i>Matthew 5v17-21</i> <i>Luke 24:44</i>	

How was the Bible given to us?

<i>2 Peter 1v21</i>	
---------------------	--

Why was the Bible given to us?

<i>John 20v31</i>	
<i>2 Timothy 3v15-17</i>	
<i>1 John 5v13</i>	

How should we begin our Bible reading?

<i>Psalms 119v18</i>	
----------------------	--



In what attitude should we study the Bible?

<i>Jeremiah 15v16</i>	
<i>Isaiah 66v2b</i>	
<i>James 1v22</i>	

In what other way should we read the Bible?

<i>Acts 2v42</i>	
------------------	--

Why should we feed daily on God's word?

<i>Acts 20v32</i>	
<i>Psalms 119v11, 105</i>	

Memory verse: Psalm 119v9

What the text says	What the text means



Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- How would you sum up what Jesus himself thought of the Bible?

- If we learn to have the same attitude to the Bible that He did, what will that mean in practice?

- What could you do to get into the Bible more?



12. Prayer

When we read the Bible, God speaks to us. When we pray, we speak to God. The Christian life is a two-sided friendship. Prayer is not about reciting words and sentences in a dry or automatic way. It is speaking to our heavenly Father, naturally yet reverently, about anything, anywhere.

What reasons are there why a Christian should pray?

<i>Mark 1v35</i>	
<i>1 Samuel 12v23</i>	
<i>Hebrews 4v16</i>	

How should a Christian pray?

<i>Philippians 4:6-7</i>	
<i>Psalms 32v5</i>	
<i>1 Thessalonians 5v17</i>	
<i>Matthew 6v5-6</i>	
<i>Matthew 6v7-8</i>	

There is special value in praying with other Christians. What is this?

<i>Matthew 18v19,20</i>	
-------------------------	--



God often answers prayers with a 'Yes'.

Why can we be confident when we pray to our heavenly Father?

<i>Matthew 7v11</i> (see also v9-10)	
---	--

God sometimes answers prayers 'No'.

Why did God say 'No' to Paul on this occasion?

<i>2 Corinthians</i> <i>12v7-9</i>	
---------------------------------------	--

Why else might God say 'No'?

<i>James 4v2</i> (see also v3)	
-----------------------------------	--

Sometimes God answers prayers with 'Wait'. Does this mean we should stop praying?

<i>Luke 18v1-8</i>	
--------------------	--

Memory verse: Hebrews 4v16

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)



For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

Think of some of your own recent prayers.

- Which ones has God answered 'Yes'?
How have you responded to that?

- Which ones has God answered 'No'?
How have you responded to that?

- Which ones has God answered 'Wait'?
How are you responding to that?



13. The Christian Church

The Church is not a building or a denomination. It is people – God’s people – it is all who trust in Jesus Christ. The word ‘church’ means ‘congregation’ or ‘assembly’ or ‘gathering.’ The Christian Church is made up of all true believers drawn from all countries and backgrounds – they are found in the many thousands of local churches throughout the world.

How is the Church described?

<i>1 Peter 2v9-10</i>	
<i>1 Corinthians 12v12, 27</i>	
<i>John 10v16</i>	
<i>Ephesians 2v19-22</i>	
<i>Ephesians 5v25-27</i>	

What is the purpose of the Church?

<i>1 Peter 2v9</i>	
<i>Acts 2v42</i>	
<i>Acts 1v8</i>	
<i>John 13v34-35</i>	
<i>1 Thessalonians 1v6-8</i>	



What promise is given to Christians meeting together?

<i>Matthew 18v20</i>	
----------------------	--

Why should we as Christians meet together (as the Church)?

<i>Luke 4v16</i>	
<i>Acts 2v42,v46</i>	
<i>Hebrews 10v24-25</i>	
<i>Acts 14:26-27</i>	
<i>1 Corinthians 12v21</i>	

God is calling to Himself ‘a people’, not just a fragmented group of individuals. If we don’t want to be part of Christ’s people/body/church/family, we are rejecting His purposes for us. When we are part of it, we are able to serve Him the way He wants us to.

What is God’s desire for us as believers together?

<i>Galatians 6v1-2</i>	
<i>Ephesians 4v14-16</i>	



Memory verse: Matthew 18v20

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- Do any of the Bible's descriptions of the church give you a new appreciation of your local church?

- What things sometimes discourage you from going to church?
What reasons are there for still being involved in spite of that?

- In what ways have you been helped by other Christians at church?
In what ways can you be a help to others?



14. On Active Service

Every Christian is saved to serve. That’s actually what ‘worship’ involves – that we serve God because we honour Him. Being a disciple and servant of Jesus Christ means that our aim in life is to serve and please Him. There are many ways of serving Him – the following includes some of the most important.

In what attitude should you serve and worship God?

<i>Psalm 46v10a</i>	
<i>Psalm 100v4</i>	
<i>John 4v23-24</i>	

Is worship *only* about what we do in church?

<i>Romans 12v1-2</i>	
----------------------	--

What responsibility did Jesus give to us?

<i>Matthew 28v19-20</i>	
-------------------------	--

Why must a Christian witness for Christ?

<i>Ezekiel 3v17-19</i>	
<i>2 Corinthians 5v11-21</i> <i>(esp. v11, 14, 20)</i>	
<i>James 5v20</i>	

Witnessing for Jesus Christ is not just telling others about Him. It is also living a consistent, Christ-like life in the world and society in which we live.



How should a Christian witness?

<i>Matthew 5v16</i>	
<i>Mark 5v19-20</i>	
<i>1 Peter 3v15</i>	

In what way can the Christian serve and worship God at work?

<i>Colossians 3v22-25</i>	
<i>Titus 2v9-10</i>	

What attitude should Christians have towards one another, whatever their background or need?

<i>Matthew 22v34-40</i>	
<i>John 13v34-35</i>	
<i>Galatians 3v28</i>	

Does this apply only to other Christians?

<i>Galatians 6v10</i>	
-----------------------	--



Memory verse: Mark 10v45

What the text says	What the text means
--------------------	---------------------

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- In which areas of your life do you currently serve and worship God?
Are there other areas where you could serve and worship Him more?

- What opportunities has God given you, to make Him known by how you live and what you say?

- How can you serve God in your work? (or study, or homemaking, or ... ?)



15. The Downfall of Satan

The devil or Satan is often thought of as a cartoon creature with cloven feet, horns and a tail – something of a joke. The Bible shows him as having once been a heavenly being of great power and beauty. Pride and ambition brought about his fall to become the enemy of God and humanity.

How is Satan described?

<i>John 8v44</i>	
<i>2 Corinthians 11v14-15</i>	
<i>Matthew 13v19</i>	

How did Jesus defeat Satan?

<i>Hebrews 2v14-15</i>	
<i>Colossians 2v15</i>	
<i>Colossians 1v13</i>	
<i>Ephesians 2v5 (see also v1-4 esp. v2)</i>	

How can we be confident that Satan’s days are numbered?

<i>Romans 16v20</i>	
---------------------	--

Because he knows his days are numbered, Satan is all the more desperate to do whatever damage he still can.



How does the Bible describe Satan's intentions?

<p><i>1 Peter 5v8</i></p>	
---------------------------	--

How does Satan go about trying to devour people?

<p><i>Matthew 4v1</i></p>	
<p><i>2 Corinthians 4v4</i></p>	
<p><i>James 3v14-15</i></p>	

How can we overcome Satan's schemes?

<p><i>James 4v7</i></p>	
<p><i>1 Peter 5v9</i></p>	
<p><i>Ephesians 6v11</i></p>	

What is the armour of God?

<p><i>Ephesians 6v13-18</i></p>	
---------------------------------	--

What will be the devil's final end?

<p><i>Matthew 25v41</i> <i>Revelation 20v10</i></p>	
---	--



Memory verse: James 4v7

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you’ve learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- Why is it a mistake to be flippant or casual about Satan?

- Why is it a mistake to be over-awed or terrified of him?

- How do you feel, knowing that Jesus *has already* defeated Satan?



16. Jesus' Second Coming

Jesus has already won the victory over sin, evil and death – He has done that through His cross and resurrection. Jesus is King already – but His rule is not yet universally acknowledged. We are still waiting for the day when He comes back to make all things new.

How do we know Jesus will come again?

<i>Daniel 7v13-14</i>	
<i>John 14v2-3</i>	
<i>Acts 1v10-11</i>	

How does the Bible describe His second coming?

<i>Matthew 24v30,44</i>	
<i>Revelation 1v7</i>	
<i>1 Thessalonians 4v16</i>	
<i>2 Peter 3v10</i>	

What will happen when He comes back?

<i>1 Thessalonians 4v16-17</i>	
<i>1 John 3v2</i>	
<i>Philippians 3v20-21</i>	



<p>2 Thessalonians 1v7-9</p>	
----------------------------------	--

What will happen to those who reject him?

<p>Revelation 1v7</p>	
<p>Matthew 25v31-46</p>	

When Jesus returns He will bring in a whole new creation, restored, redeemed and healed.

What will the New Heavens and New Earth be like?

<p>Revelation 21v1-4</p>	
<p>Revelation 22v1-5</p>	

How should this affect our thoughts and attitudes?

<p>Romans 8v24-25</p>	
<p>Psalms 130v5-8</p>	
<p>1 Corinthians 13v9-12</p>	

How should the certainty of Jesus' coming again affect our daily lives?

<p>Titus 2v11-14</p>	
----------------------	--



Memory verse: Philippians 3v20

What the text says	What the text means

Make a note of one or two important things in this study that you've learned, or been particularly reminded of, or challenged by.

(Optional: Make a note of any outstanding questions you still have.)

For Individual Reflection or Group Discussion

- Suppose you knew Jesus was going to return within the next week. What situations or relationships would you want to sort out before then?

- How do you feel about knowing there will be a final judgement for everyone – both believers and non-believers?

- Up to this point in your Christian life, have you spent much time thinking about life in the new heavens and the new earth?
How does thinking about that future help with this life now?