

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF IRELAND



SENIOR
STUDENT'S
WORKSHEETS

UNIT 3

Revised 1999

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Committee on the Instruction of the Young
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland

LESSON 1

Studies in the Shorter Catechism

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT (1)

Catechism Questions - 53, 54

Scripture Text - Lev. 19:12; Ps. 29:2; Eccl. 5:1-7

1. From each of the following references show the meaning of the name which was given.

Reference	Name	Meaning
Exodus 2:10	_____	_____
Genesis 30:24	_____	_____
Acts 4:36	_____	_____
Matthew 1:21	_____	_____

2. What promises do you think should be made in the following circumstances?

(a) on coming into communicant membership of the church

(b) at each Communion

(c) in marriage

(d) at the baptism of a child

3. How can God's name be taken in vain, that is, irreverently, in the following?

(a) behaviour in Sabbath School and Church

(b) private prayer

(c) public prayer

(d) singing praise

(e) reading and hearing of the Word of God

4. If the answers to Question 3 show defects in your conduct or your worship, what promises do you feel you should make in each case?

LESSON 2

Studies in the Shorter Catechism

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT (2)

Catechism Questions - 55, 56

Scripture Text - Lev. 24:10 - 16; Mal. 1:6 - 8, 12 -14; 2 Sam. 12:9 -14.

1. The third commandment has been applied to four different areas. Indicate what you consider to be required or forbidden in these four areas:

(a) Promises _____

(b) Worship _____

(c) Speech _____

(d) Conduct _____

2. Show from the Old Testament and New Testament how seriously breaches of this commandment were viewed.

Old Testament - Leviticus 24:10 - 16 _____

New Testament - Acts 5:1 -11 _____

3. List some ways in which misuse or pollution of the environment is a breach of this commandment.

4. What action do you think a Christian should take when others use profane language?

5. List some ways in which God's name can be taken, that is, lifted up in a good sense.

LESSON 3

Studies in the Shorter Catechism

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT (1)

Catechism Questions - 57, 58

Scripture Text - Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12 - 15; Gen. 2:2, 3; Ex.31:13 -17.

1. Make a list of things to which the word 'Holy' is attached in the Bible.

Exodus 28:29 _____

Exodus 28:2 _____

Joel 3:17 _____

Deuteronomy 7:6 _____

Exodus 30:32 _____

Nehemiah 11:1 _____

Exodus 35:2 _____

Others? _____

2. What is the basic meaning of the word 'Holy'? A,B,C or D?

- A. Special
- B. Perfect
- C. Separate
- D. Consecrated

3. In what ways do you think the Sabbath should be a different day.

(a) in the area of work? _____

(b) in the area of worship? _____

(c) in the area of recreation? _____

LESSON 4

Studies in the Shorter Catechism

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT (2)

Catechism Questions - 59, 60

Scripture Text - Neh. 13:15-22; Isa. 58:13-14; Lev. 23:3; Mk. 2:23-28; Acts 20:7; 1Cor. 16:1,2.

1. List ways in which the Sabbath is beneficial to us.

2. What names are given in the Bible to the day which is to be kept holy to the Lord, and what is especially emphasised in each?

Genesis 2:2, 3 _____

1 Corinthians 16:2 _____

Revelation 1:10 _____

3. Is there any Biblical ground for the use of the name Sunday?

4. What kind of things can be considered as 'works of necessity and mercy'?
See Mark 2:23, 27; Luke 13:15; Luke 14:5; Mark 3:1-4

5. Suggest ways in which the Sabbath can be made more of a delight than it often is.

LESSON 5

Studies in the Shorter Catechism

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT (3)

Catechism Questions - 61, 62

Scripture Text - Ex. 31:12 -17; Eze. 20:12, 20; Isa. 58:12 - 14; Heb. 4:4 - 11.

1. When do you think preparation for keeping the Sabbath holy should begin? A, B, C or D?
 - A. Early on Saturday evening
 - B. Late on Saturday evening
 - C. Early on Sabbath morning
 - D. Late on Sabbath morning (After sleeping in!)

2. Indicate ways in which your keeping of the Sabbath might be different from unbelievers, (not that you might be proud, but that you might find ways of witnessing to them).

3. Make a list of ways in which by God's grace you will use the Sabbath more effectively for your own good as a day of service to the Lord.

LESSON 6

Studies in the Shorter Catechism

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT (1)

Catechism Questions - 63, 64

Scripture Text - Ex. 20:12; Col. 3:18 - 4:1; Rom. 12:10; 13:1-7; 1Thes. 5:12, 13; 1 Pet. 2:13-18.

1. List ways in which respect for authority can be shown:

(a) in school _____

(b) in Sabbath School _____

(c) in Church _____

(d) in B.B. or G.B. or other youth organisations _____

(e) in society _____

2. How do you think we can show respect for our equals?

3. Proverbs, chapters 1-7, give counsel to young people about their attitude to parents and those who teach them. List some of them and note especially (by underlining) those that have to do with instruction. Here are two to start you off:

Proverbs 1:8, 9

Proverbs 2:1-5

(In preparation for the next lesson you might note some passages in these chapters of Proverbs which promise long life to those who are obedient).

LESSON 7

Studies in the Shorter Catechism

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT (2)

Catechism Questions - 65, 66

Scripture Text - Eph. 5:21 - 25; Eph. 6:1-9; Mal. 1:6; Matt. 15:1-9.

1. List practical ways in which you can honour your parents.

2. What motives can you give for obedience to parents and caring for them?

E p h e s i a n s 6 : 1

E p h e s i a n s 6 : 2

E p h e s i a n s 6 : 3

1 T i m o t h y 5 : 4

M a t t h e w 7 : 1 2

3. List passages in Proverbs, chapters 1 -7, which promise long life to those who are obedient.

LESSON 8

Studies in the Psalms

GOD'S ETERNITY AND MAN'S FRAILTY

Psalm 90

Scripture Text - Psalm 90; Genesis 3:8-19; Numbers 13:26-33; Numbers 14:26-35

1. When you pray how can you be aware of the greatness of God?

2. Are there other Psalms that you have found helpful in bringing God's greatness clearly before you? Make a list to which you can refer.

3. Several ways were suggested in the lesson to make us more aware of our sinfulness. Which of these do you find helpful?

The calamities and disappointments of life _____

The fact the God knows all about us _____

The fact that our days may be short _____

The sacrifice of Christ for our sins _____

Memorise Psalm 90 in the metrical version (or in the Alternative Version of the Psalter).

LESSON 9

Basic Truths

DOES GOD REALLY EXIST?

Scripture Text - Psalm 53; Romans 1:16-32

This is the most basic question that could be asked. Yet it is a question you cannot answer by yourself. The remarkable thing is that we can answer the question only because God has told us that He does exist.

1. The folly of denying God
Have you ever been planning a day at the seaside and when the day comes, the weather is very overcast? You are quite sure in your 'heart of hearts' that it is going to turn out wet and windy. Yet you do not really want to think of that and you make plans for your trip imagining how good it will be to plunge into the warm surf and then lie on the golden sands soaking up the warm sun. How foolish!

Read Psalm 53 verse 1. How is the person who denies the existence of God described?

- (a) God has given man clear evidence of His existence.
From the set passage can you say where this evidence is? and what this evidence is?

- (b) Can any one claim then that he has never heard about God?

- (c) A well-known Christian writer has said, 'There are no atheists.' Do you agree? See Romans 1:18, 21.

(d) What happens to people when they deny the existence of God:

(i) to their mind?

(ii) to their behaviour?

2. The joy of knowing God

Jesus said, 'This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.'

(a) We know God by faith and that faith must be in Christ. (Jn. 14:6) Why is it wrong to describe faith as 'a leap in the dark?'

(b) Some suggest that all religions worship the same God. Why is this statement false?

(c) What aspects of God's character

(i) encourage you as you pray?

(ii) restrain you from sinning?

(iii) encourage you in your daily life?

LESSON 10

Basic Truths

GOD HAS SPOKEN

Scripture Text - Psalm 19.

The following slogan was seen on a boarding, 'Stopping advertising to save money is like stopping a watch to save time'. All commercial enterprises know that if they are to sell their product they must advertise to get their particular product well known by the public. They have a message to get across, a message that may be true or false, but a message that is absolutely vital to them, and so they use the best means at their disposal to present that message.

What is the best method of presenting a message, by voice alone, by picture alone or by voice and picture? The obvious answer by voice and picture. It is generally recognised by educational experts that an audio/visual message commands a three times higher attention level than either audio or visual alone.

God reveals Himself to us in various ways. Unscramble the letters to give three ways in which God speaks and briefly explain how.

n-te-i-c-a-o-r _____

e-p-d-o-r-v-n-e-i-c _____

p-s-i-c-r-e-t-u-s-r _____

To think about - If the most effective means of communication are by the use of audio/visual aids, are we justified in using such things as dance and drama either to supplement or to replace the sermon? Compare 1 Cor. 1:21 and Rom. 10:14, 15.

LESSON 11

Basic Truths

GOD'S WORD WITHOUT ERROR

Scripture Text - 2 Timothy 3:14 - 17.

During the Second World War the German authorities were very conscious of the value of propaganda. To that end, they broadcast very regular 'news' bulletins and messages that were heard both by the allied troops and also by the people in Britain. The object of these broadcasts was to demoralize the British people by spreading false rumours concerning the progress of the war, and to discourage the troops by telling them that the people in Britain were being totally destroyed by bombing and that they were agitating for surrender. These tactics had some success initially, but gradually people came to realise that the so-called 'news' broadcasts were nothing but lying propaganda; then they lost their effectiveness because everybody knew that what was said could not be trusted. So the nightly voice of 'Lord Haw-Haw' (William Joyce) calling from Germany became a source of entertainment rather than terror.

QUESTIONS

1. What makes somebody's words reliable?

2. Can the word of any man be completely without error?

3. List the personal responses that you must make to the fact that all Scripture is 'Godbreathed' and therefore absolutely true.

4. Has the Bible anything to say about the important decisions we have to take in choosing a career, getting married, where we should live, etc? What reasons would you give for your answers?

5. What do we mean by the authority of the Bible?

6. What is the source of that authority?

LESSON 12

Basic Truths

SCRIPTURE AND SCIENCE

Scripture Text - Genesis 1; Genesis 2.

During the last few decades science has made remarkable discoveries. Many of these are of tremendous benefit to the human race and we can look forward to further advances. However no matter how long scientists continue in their pursuit of knowledge they will never have all the facts. Modern scientists may have accumulated much knowledge about the universe but some facts they can never obtain, e.g. the apparent age of the earth when it was formed. Hence when science interprets facts it can never be absolutely sure that the interpretation is correct. At one time in history scientists had accumulated certain facts in such a way as to conclude that the earth was flat. At that time man was prejudiced to think in that direction and so he interpreted the facts to harmonise with his thinking.

In every age man is prejudiced in one direction or another and so it is impossible for him to interpret any set of facts impartially. He needs a higher authority. Science cannot interpret facts correctly apart from the revealed truth of Holy Scripture.

1. In many modern scientific journals statements are often made which conflict with the Bible. In what way might these scientists be prejudiced as they interpret the facts before them?

2. Man can only make judgments on the little that he is able to see, but his vision and understanding is necessarily limited. In a poem by John G. Saxe, six blind men went to see an Elephant, '... that each by observation might satisfy his mind.'

"The first approached the Elephant
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side
At once began to bawl:
"Oh dear me: but the Elephant
Is very like a wall."

'The third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up he spake:
"I see", quoth he, "The Elephant
Is very like a snake."

'And so these men of Industan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong.'

How does this poem relate to the debate about evolution?

3. If man can see only a part, but God knows the end from the beginning and therefore knows the beginning, whose word should we trust?

4. List Scripture proofs for the doctrine of Creation, NOT using Genesis.

LESSON 13

Basic Truths

WHAT IS SIN?

Scripture Text - Genesis 2:4 - 3:6

terrorism - corruption - theft - immorality - murder - strikes - vandalism - hooliganism. These are prevalent in our society. But what is the root cause of it all?

SOME EXPLANATIONS

School of thought	Explanation	Christian Objections
Marxism	_____	_____
Educationalist	_____	_____
Psychologists and Sociologists	_____ _____	_____ _____

What is the Bible's explanation? See Genesis 2:4 - 3:6

BUT WHAT IS SIN?

List 7 characteristics found in the passage you have just read.

If Adam's sin was characteristic of sin in all of us, how do the features we discovered above show themselves in our lives?

LESSON 14

Basic Truths

THE WAGES OF SIN

Scripture Text - Genesis 3.

As a student of the Senior Course you will probably have some experience of employment. In this case you will know all about 'pay packets' and 'pay slips'.

A typical wage slip may look like this :-

Employer	: TOM SMITH AND SONS		
Employee	: JACK SMITH	Works No.	00716
Tax code	: 459L		
N.I.No.	: ZR65012C		
BASIC PAY	£61.00	N.I.CONT	£4.50
EXTRA WORK	£18.00	TAX	£14.50
TOTAL CREDIT		TOTAL DEDUC.	
	£79.00		£19.00
NET AMOUNT	£60.00		

This concept of 'Work and Wages' was certainly well known to the New Testament writers. Paul, for instance, in his letter to the Christians in Rome makes use of it to describe the character of sin and its consequences. 'You were slaves (employees) of sin', (here personified as a master) he writes, but 'what fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed?' (Rom. 6:20, 21) His answer - 'For the end of those things is death.'

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think Paul had in mind when he likened sin to a master?

2. What do you think Paul meant by the term DEATH?

3. What was 'paid out' to Adam and Eve when they obeyed sin and the Devil? (read Genesis 3)

4. Complete the 'Spiritual Wage slip' below? (Romans 3:23)

EMPLOYER : sin	
EMPLOYEE :myself	
CONDITIONS OF SERVICE :_____	
WORK DONE	FRINGE BENEFITS
Commandments rejected	guilt_____
God rejected	_____
Bible ignored	_____
Duties neglected	_____
Lusts indulged	_____
Gifts wasted	_____
Spirit resisted	_____
TOTAL 'CREDIT'	
'The passing pleasures of sin' Heb. 6:25	
PAYMENT IN FULL	DEATH

LESSON 15

Basic Truths

MAN AS HE REALLY IS

Scripture Text - Genesis 4:1 - 6:8.

During the summer of 1981 there were serious riots that took place in various cities in England. The comments that were made on radio and television and in the newspapers were very interesting and revealing. There were various reasons given for the disturbances:- unemployment, bad housing and 'inner city' deprivation. The reasons were sought solely in man's environment and not in man himself.

One of the reasons for this attitude is that people have been taught that man is basically good and that if his social surroundings are pleasant then he will behave in a responsible manner. We know from Scripture and our experience confirms that this is not so.

- 1. What factor is ignored in this kind of assessment? See Mark 7:21 - 23

- 2. Can man be made better by improving his standard of living?

- 3. Does a man become evil because of his environment? See Psalm 51:5

- 4. Check your own life:-

Sinful thoughts, desires, etc.

Resulting evil practice

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

- 5. How can these problems be dealt with in your life? See 2 Cor. 5:17

LESSON 16

Basic Truths

THE CALL OF GOD

Scripture Text - Genesis 12:1 - 9

Have you ever felt really alone? All of us at some time or other are lonely. It may be when we are starting a new school or job; it may be when moving away from home for the first time; it may be because of some problems which we feel unable to share with anyone else.

Man is lost because of sin, lost and alone. Certainly he is surrounded by crowds of people, he may even have many close friends, but there are times when he realises that he is really alone. As he faces major problems, as he is confronted with a family bereavement, as he thinks of the end of his own life, the sense of being alone comes home to him. Man separated from God is alone and what he needs above everything else is to be brought into a state of friendship with God his Creator. Though man may not realise it, this is his fundamental need. To quote Augustine, 'Oh God! Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our souls are restless till they rest in Thee.'

God's call to Abraham brought him into friendship with his Creator.

1. List from scripture as many individuals as you can who were addressed personally by God and called by Him.

2. How did these individuals respond to God's call?

3. What response does God's call in the Gospel require of us?

4. Why is it wrong to say that a person may believe in Jesus as Saviour and then at some later date yield to Him as Lord? See Luke 14:27, 33.

5. What blessing does God promise to those who respond obediently to his call?

6. In what way are 'the people of the earth' blessed through believers?

LESSON 17

Basic Truths

SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Scripture Text - Genesis 22:1 - 14

The term substitute is very familiar to people interested in sport. Whether your interest is in soccer, hockey or cricket you will be aware that each team has at least one substitute. What is a substitute? He is a player who is not initially selected to play in the match but should someone sustain an injury or have to leave the field of play for any reason the substitute takes his place. A substitute takes the place of another. In sport a substitute only takes the place of one player. No player could ever be so skilful as to replace the entire team.

When Jesus was crucified He suffered and died as a substitute. However He took the place, not of one person, but of the millions who would believe on Him. Only Christ could be the substitute for so many because He was wholly man and wholly God.

1. (a) How many sports can you list that makes use of substitutes?

(b) What incident in Genesis chapter 22 illustrates Christ's work as a substitute?

As sinners we all deserve the punishment due to us for sin. The fact that Christ became our substitute illustrates God's love for us (Jn. 3:16). Grace is the undeserved love and mercy of God. Hence it is only by God's grace that we are saved.

2. (a) Abraham and Isaac were sinners. What evidence is there in the passage to suggest that they were recipients of God's grace?

(b) Why is it that no one can be saved apart from God's grace?

The Scriptures makes it clear that for Christ to become our substitute we must believe in Him as the One who took our place. We need to trust in Him as our Saviour. We demonstrate our faith to be genuine by our obedience to His Word.

3. (a) Abraham is known as a man of faith. In the passage what evidence is there to illustrate this fact?

- (b) What evidence is there in your life to suggest that you have trusted Christ as your substitute?

LESSON 18

Worshipping God

THE MEANING OF WORSHIP

Scripture Text - Ps. 92:1, 2; Ps. 95; Ps. 96; Gen.12:7, 8; Gen. 28:10-22; Ex. 3:1-5; Ex. 33:7-10.

In Ps. 92:1, what four things does the Psalmist say it is good to do?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

From Ps. 95 write down at least six reasons why we should worship God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

From Ps. 96 write down at least six ways in which we can worship God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Can you think of reasons why we worship in groups - families and congregations?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

LESSON 19

Worshipping God

THE MARKS OF A TRUE WORSHIPPER

Scripture Text - John 4:24; Phil.3:3; Matt.15:9; Col.2:23.

1. Where can we worship?

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____
- (e) _____

2. True worship is reverent. Name 4 ways in which people may be irreverent in Church.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____

3. Suggest qualities that a true worshipper will show to non - Christians.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____
- (e) _____
- (f) _____

LESSON 20

Worshipping God

THE PLACE OF THE WORD OF GOD IN WORSHIP

Scripture Text - Nehemiah 8 : 1- 12

1. If you worked in a large firm and the Managing Director were to speak to you and the other members of staff, would you listen to him, continue working or turn your attention to other things?

Why then do so many people not listen to God's Word when it is read and explained in a worship service?

2. If your father was away from home, do you think you would miss receiving his letters or reading them over for yourself? Why do people not consider it important to hear from their Father in heaven and read His Word and instructions.

3. From the passage in Nehemiah
 - (a) What should be our attitude to the worship service?

(b) What should we be seeking when we come?

(c) What should be our attitude to the Bible?

(d) Who should come to church?

(e) How should we listen to the sermon?

(f) Why is the pulpit given a central position at the front of our churches?

LESSON 21

Worshipping God

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN WORSHIP

Scripture Text - 1 Cor. 2 : 10 - 14; 1 Cor. 3 : 16 - 17; 1 Cor. 12 : 4 - 11; Rom. 8 : 26 - 27.

Find which of the texts given at the bottom of this page proves the following statements.

1. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the deep things of God which are foolishness to natural man.

2. The Holy Spirit imparts power to discern and learn what He has taught.

3. The Holy Spirit enables believers to communicate to others in power the truths they have been taught.

4. The Holy Spirit helps, guides and gives power in prayer.

5. The Holy Spirit moves the believer to worship.

6. The Holy Spirit guides in praise and thanksgiving.

Eph. 6 : 18; Acts 1 : 8; Romans 8 : 26, 27; 1 Thess. 1 : 5; Phil. 3 : 3;
1 Cor. 2 : 1 - 5; Eph. 5 : 18 - 20; 1 Cor. 2 : 9-14

LESSON 22

Worshipping God

THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS IN WORSHIP

Scripture Text - Acts 2 : 41 -47.

Before you bake something you need a recipe that tells you which ingredients you require.

Worship is a bit like that. The recipe for worship is in the Bible and that is where you will find a list of the ingredients, or in other words, the elements of worship.

1. In Acts 2: 41-47 we see the New Testament church at worship. Study the passage and write down the 6 main elements of worship found recorded there and quote the verse or verses in which you find them.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____
- (e) _____
- (f) _____

2. In this passage the believers set a good example for us to follow in WHEN and WHERE to worship. How often did they worship God? _____
Where did they worship God? _____ and _____

3. Worship cannot be separated from conduct. List ways in which the conduct of believers improved as they met for worship.

4. Why it is important to stick to the recipe?

Ann's Grandma wasn't well but she fancied some soda bread and so she gave her recipe to Ann and asked her to make some. Ann got the ingredients together - the

plain flour, the baking soda, the salt and the buttermilk. But she wasn't content with that and decided she could improve on Grandma's recipe and so she added some sugar, margarine and dried fruit to the original ingredients. The result was that instead of soda bread she got bannock. A little change had made a big difference. Feeling very pleased with herself she took the bannock to Grandma who thanked her but said 'You know dear, my freezer is full of bannock. I would have been so content with a nice farl or two of soda.'

Sadly, many people seem to think that they can improve on God's recipe for worship by stirring in their own human ingredients - organ music, anthems, ritual, splendour, soloists, and anything else they fancy - but the result is that instead of producing true worship that centres on Christ they produce will-worship that centres on man - something that God does not want. 'These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body; but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.' (Col .2:23)

LESSON 23

Worshipping God

PREACHING AND ITS PURPOSE

Scripture Text - Acts 13 : 13 - 52

'The proclamation of the Word is the centre and climax of Public Worship' - Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, page 26.

This narrative about Paul in Pisidian Antioch is a perfect example of how the preaching of God's Word is the centre and climax of congregational worship. In Paul's sermon we see the Biblical doctrine about preaching being put into practice.

Preaching is like sowing seed; and, as in sowing, there are certain things you must get right.

1. **THE RIGHT SEED**

God's Word is good seed. It alone can produce fruit that is pleasing to God. Anything less will produce a harvest of weeds. Write down the verses you can find in the passage that show the primacy of God's Word in Paul's preaching.

2. **THE RIGHT CLIMATE**

Without heat and moisture, seed will never grow and without the Holy Spirit, there will be no response to the preaching of God's Word. There are 4 verses in Chapter 13 which show how Paul's ministry was accompanied by the Holy Spirit. Write them out.

3. THE RIGHT SOIL

Good seed needs the right soil and good preaching needs to be received by attentive hearers who listen with understanding, faith and reverence. In Pisidian Antioch which listeners would be compared to 'good soil'?

Who could be compared to 'the wayside' of Matt. 13:19?

4. THE RIGHT SOWER

A farmer will only entrust the sowing of his valuable seed to someone who knows how to sow. Similarly, Christ only entrusts the sowing of His precious Word to those whom He calls and equips. In which verses do we find Paul's ordination in this chapter?

5. THE RIGHT PURPOSE

A farmer sows because he wants to reap; he has the right purpose in view. Similarly, preaching must have one great purpose. What is this purpose? You will find it in a text in the passage.

CONCLUSION

Nowadays people try to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by all sorts of man-centred methods, drama, art, music and dance. But God's method for spreading the Gospel is by the Christ-centred preaching of the Word. Let us follow the example of the Gentiles in v.48 and give honour and pride of place to the Word of the Lord.

LESSON 24

Worshipping God

PRAYING TOGETHER

Scripture Texts - Acts 4 : 23 - 31

1. When people pray together the group can be so concerned about prayer needs that they overlook other vital aspects of prayer. From Acts 4:23-31 describe:-

(a) How the group began their prayer.

(b) What passage of Scripture did they quote in their prayer?

(c) In what way had this prophecy been fulfilled?

(d) What were their specific requests?

(e) What was the consequence of their prayer-meeting?

2. (a) List 4 things for which your group could praise God as the prayer time begins.

- (b) (i) If we are to follow the example of the Christians described in Acts 4 and quote Scripture in our prayers what is necessary for this to be done properly?

- (ii) What plan are you following to memorise Scripture?

- (c) List 4 ways by which you see God's promises being fulfilled today.

- (d) Write down the needs of the young people in your congregation for which the group might pray.

- e) What blessings have you received when praying with others?

LESSON 25

Worshipping God

PRAISING GOD

Scripture Text - Ps. 98; Eph. 1 : 3 - 14; Eph.5 : 19, 20; Luke 17 : 11 - 19.

Today's lesson has been on why and how we should praise God. When you go home, make out two lists - one of God's general blessings to you. i.e. blessings which are common to all believers in this country, and the other of special blessings He has given to you as an individual.

Now, think about the quality of singing praise in your congregation and fill in the following check-list. (More than one may be ticked in some sections).

1. The singing in my congregation is : good..... fair..... poor.....
2. My contribution is : wholehearted..... moderate..... closed mouth.....
3. The congregation's singing practice is : well attended..... attended by me
attended by 'choir' only..... non-existent
4. Presbytery choir practice is : attended by me not attended by me
5. Our congregation learns new tunes : regularly..... sometimes..... never.....
6. As praise is commanded by God and I want to honour Him, I shall :
 - sing more thoughtfully
 - ask the precentor what can be done to improve things
 - try to learn more about reading music

LESSON 26

Worshipping God

THE OFFERING

Scripture Texts - 2 Corinthians 8 and 9; 1 Corinthians 16 : 1 - 4.

1. Old Testament Teaching

What principle concerning the proportion that should be returned to God is established in Old Testament passages such as Gen. 14:20, Numbers 18:26 and Malachi 3:10?

2. Christ's Attitude To Giving

(a) What did Jesus teach about giving in Mark 12: 17?

(b) What did Jesus teach about giving in Mark 12: 41-44?

3. Paul's Attitude To Giving

(a) What three examples did Paul set before the Corinthians to persuade them to give generously? 2 Cor.8:1-7; 2 Cor.8:8, 9; 2 Cor.9:15

(b) What practical help did Paul give the Corinthians to assist them in their giving?

(c) Look up the verses and list the promises to those who give.

2 Cor.9:8-11 _____

2 Cor.9:12 _____

2 Cor.9:12, 13 _____

2 Cor.9:14 _____

4. Your Attitude To Giving

Consider your own giving. Does it meet the requirements of Scripture? What is the Scriptural requirement for giving?

LESSON 27

Worshipping God

THE SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM

Scripture Text - Romans 6:1- 7. (compare Colossians 2:8 - 15).

Today we have looked at the meaning of baptism, in particular what is symbolised by it. You will remember from the lesson that the passage in Romans 6 is not speaking about outward water baptism, nor is it showing us the immersion of believers as some people argue. State the reasons.

This passage is speaking about what outward water baptism symbolises - the real inward 'baptism of the Holy Spirit' (i.e. when a person is 'born again') - with its two results. When you were baptised with water this is what was symbolised :

1. Cleansing from sin.
Think of some things you've cleansed with water lately. In a similar way your heart must be cleansed from sin and you must put your trust in Christ, if you are to be acceptable to Him. A person who is convicted of his sinfulness in God's sight will seek this cleansing.
2. Union with Christ
The inward work of the Holy Spirit is to join you with Christ in all the things He did for your salvation. He was taking your place. When He died you died, when He was buried you were, when He rose and ascended you did too. (Look up Eph. 1:3,4.) That means that if you are a Christian you share in Christ's victory over sin. You will not be sinlessly perfect until you reach heaven, yet you are called to walk in victory over sin NOW. Do you claim that victory over sin every day?

These are the glorious truths that are symbolised by baptism through the sprinkling (or pouring) of water. The question is - Have these things, symbolised in your baptism, become a reality in your life?

LESSON 28

Worshipping God

COMING TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Scripture Text - 1 Corinthians 11 : 17 - 34

Read - In Remembrance of Me, Chapter 5.

How many times have you come to the Lord's Table? _____

In your Christian life has the sacrament been (a) very valuable? _____

(b) of little value? _____

(c) harmful ? _____

Some of the Corinthians would have needed to mark the final space (v. 17). They had not taken time to think about what they were doing and were treating the Lord's Supper irreverently and selfishly. Although God alone can make the sacrament a blessing, we are responsible for preparing ourselves to receive His blessing.

A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup (v. 28). Our self-examination does not have to show that we have no sins or doubts, but certain qualities should be present in our lives. What are they?

1 Cor. 11: 29 _____

2 Cor. 13 : 5 _____

1 Cor. 10: 17 _____

1 Cor. 5 : 7, 8 _____

Check your answers with Question 97 of The Shorter Catechism.

If you do not think that, in the light of the above requirements, you are ready to come to The Lord's Table, should you stay away? See Luke 22 : 19 _____

What should you do? See 1 John 1 : 8, 9 _____

SUGGESTED COMMITMENT - In obedience to God's Word to me in 1 Cor. 11:28, I will spend some time before each Communion in careful self-examination. (Perhaps using Chapter 5, In Remembrance of Me). YES / NO.

LESSON 29

Coming to terms with the World

THE STATE OF THE WORLD

Scripture Text - Genesis 1 : 26 - 31; Genesis 3 : 17 - 19, 23 - 24.

- 1. Ever since Adam sinned and work became toil, man has had an increasingly negative attitude to work. List some of the present-day problems which are a result of this.

- 2. Suffering too, is the result of sin. List some of the places where there is suffering today.

Consider carefully how you, as a Christian, could do something helpful to alleviate the suffering in the world today. Make a list of the ideas you have and ask God to show you your responsibility in this matter.

- 3. What are the 2 deaths mentioned in Genesis 2:17?

1. _____ 2 _____

What are the differences between these two deaths?

How can man escape spiritual death?

A VERSE TO REMEMBER

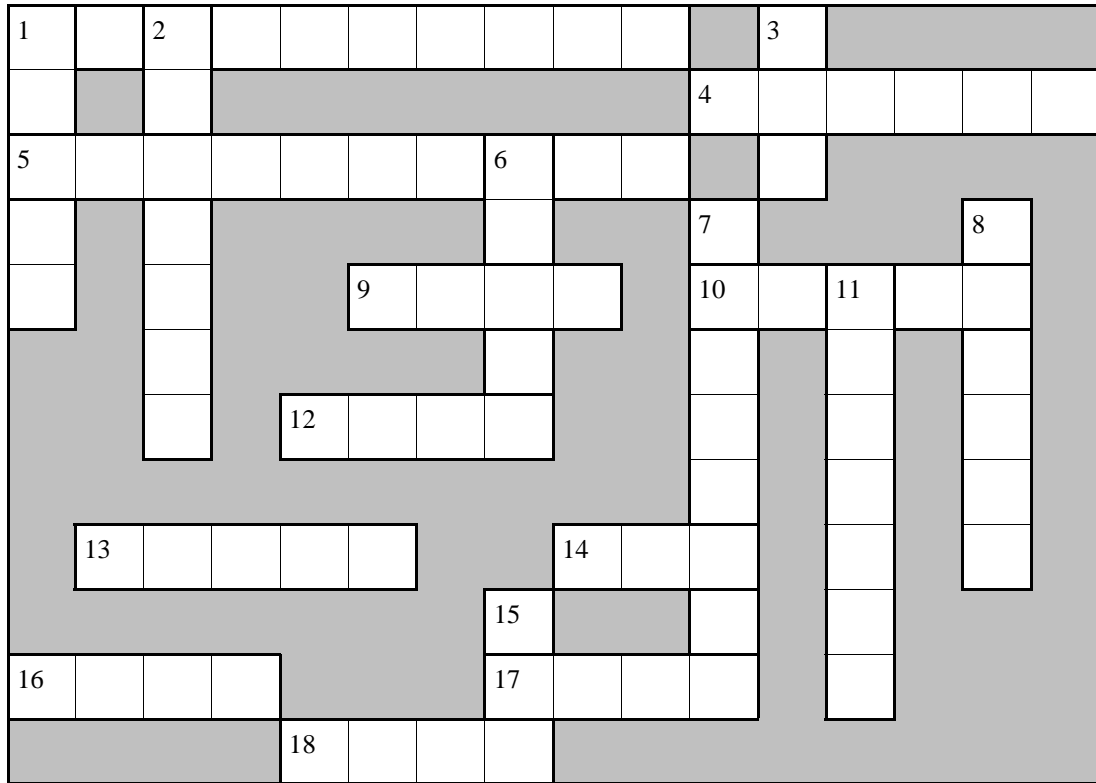
....'the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord'. Romans 6:23

LESSON 30

Coming to terms with the World

WHO RULES THE WORLD?

Scripture Text - Colossians 1: 9 - 20.



ACROSS

1. 'You have put all things in _____ under His feet.....' (Heb. 2:8)
4. 'That you may lead a life _____ of the Lord fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work..'(Col. 1:10)
5. 'Having disarmed principalities and powers..... _____ over them in it' (Col. 2:15)
9. 'And you are complete in Him, who is the _____ of all' (Col. 2:10)
10. 'The _____ is the Lord's.....'(Ps. 24:1)
12. 'At the name of Jesus every _____ should bow' (Phil. 2:10)
(see over)

13. '..... now the _____ of this world' (John 12:31)
14. '..... the prince of the power of the _____' (Ephes. 2:2)
16. '..... for he is a _____' (John 8:44)
17. 'The _____ reigns' (Ps. 93:1)
18. '..... He does according to His _____' (Daniel 4: 35)

DOWN

1. Who said this? 'All these I will give you.....' (Matt. 4:9)
2. 'Whose minds the god of this age has _____' (2 Cor. 4:4)
3. '.....All things were created through Him, and _____ Him' (Col. 1:16)
6. 'He is the _____ of the invisible God' (Col. 1:15)
7. '.....He has _____ Him' (John 1:18)
8. 'He is the Head of the body, the _____' (Col.1:18)
11. 'The Lord reigns; let the earth _____' (Ps. 97:1)
15. 'And He put _____ things under His feet.....' (Eph. 1:22)

LESSON 31

Coming to terms with the World

RESIDENT ALIENS

Scripture Text - Hebrews 11 : 8 - 16; Hebrews 13 : 14 - 16.

1. What warning and instruction are given in 2 Thess. 3: 6-13 regarding work?

2. What does Romans 13:1-7 teach with regard to the laws of the land?

3. What does Gal.6:10 tell us concerning our responsibility to others?

4. What things must the Christian avoid in this life? From your own experience list some of these.

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5. What did Jesus mean when He said, ' Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth....but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.' (Matt. 6:19-21)?

6. Complete the following registration form.

RESIDENT ALIEN REGISTRATION FORM (please print)	
Name	Title (Rom.4:18)
Father's name (Gen. 11: 26)	Place of birth (Gen.11: 27, 28)
Current address (Gen.12: 5)	
Citizen of what country/city (Heb.11:10)	
Anticipated length of stay (Heb. 11 :8, 9)	
Purpose of being here (Romans 4:20)	
Status (tick one)	
Permanent worker <input type="checkbox"/>	Visitor <input type="checkbox"/>
Temporary worker <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Occupation (Heb.13 :15, 16)	Employer (Heb. 11 : 16)
Signature	Date

LESSON 32

Coming to terms with the World

CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

Scripture Text - Philippians 3 : 12 -21.

1.
 - (a) God speaks to His people through _____
 - (b) 2 Timothy 3:14 shows us how important the Bible is. What does each of the verses listed below tell us concerning it?
Verse 15 _____

Verse 16 _____

Verse 17 _____

(c) The Christian speaks to God through _____
 - (d) What is the nature of the different prayers found in the verses below?
Psalm 25:11 _____
1 Chronicles 29: 10-12 _____
Matthew 6:11 _____
John 11:41 _____

2. The citizen of heaven must obey the laws of God. What are some of the commands given in the verses below?
1 Peter 5:6 _____
Mark 12: 30, 31 _____

Romans 13: 1, 7 _____
1 Timothy 2:1-3 _____
Matthew 5:44 _____

3. From the verses given list the different ways in which the believer can sin by yielding to temptation that comes through the weakness of the body.
James 1:14 _____
Ephesians 4:29 _____
1 John 2:16 _____

LESSON 33

Coming to terms with the World

LIGHTING THE WORLD

Scripture Text - Matthew 5 : 14 - 16

In ' The Hiding Place' by Corrie Ten Boom we read of a family acting as light amidst the horror of The Second World War. Look at these extracts and see what you can learn from them.

1. 'We were going to see some of the poor families in the neighbourhood whom Mama had adopted. It never occurred to any of us children that we ourselves were poor; 'poor' were people you took baskets to. Mama was always cooking up nourishing broths and porridges for forgotten old men and pale young mothers - on days that is, when she herself was strong enough to stand at the stove'.

(i) Was Mama Ten Boom hiding the light of Christian compassion? YES / NO

(ii) How did she shed her light? _____

2. 'As for us from morning until light out, whenever we were not in ranks for roll call, our Bible was the centre of an ever-widening circle of help and hope. Like waifs clustered around a blazing fire, we gathered about it, holding out our hearts to its warmth and light. The blacker the night around us grew, the brighter and truer and more beautiful the Word of God. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?..Nay in all these things we are more than conquerers through Him that loved us". I would look about us as Betsie read, watching the light leap from face to face'.

(i) In what way did Betsie and Corrie bring light to these suffering companions?

(ii) Are there situations where you can share the Word of God with others?

3. ' The Davitamon bottle was continuing to produce drops. It scarcely seemed possible, so small a bottle. Now, in addition to Betsie a dozen others were taking it. My instinct was always to hoard it. Betsie was growing so very weak! It was hard to say no to eyes that burned with fever, hands that shook with chill. I tried to save it for the very weakest.....'.

(i) What was Corrie tempted to do?

(ii) Would this have been a light-shedding action?

(iii) How is sharing what we have like Jesus Christ?

LESSON 34

Coming to terms with the World

SALTING THE WORLD

Scripture Text - Matthew 5: 13.

1. The need for salt

- (a) Christ's teaching in Matthew 5:13 implies that the world is in a state of decay. Give examples of recent news reports which confirm that today's world is just the same.

- (b) What does Gen. 6 : 11, 12 tell us about the state of the world?

2. The function of salt

Salt only fulfils its purpose when it comes in contact with what it is meant to preserve.

- (a) In what situations are you likely to meet with people who are not Christians?

- (b) Christ sought to make contact with unbelievers when He was on earth. Read Luke 5: 27-31. What reason did He give the Pharisees for keeping company with 'publicans and sinners'?

3. The effect of salt

- (a) Christ said in Matt. 5:13 'You are the salt of the earth'. To whom was He referring?

- (b) What kind of commitment did Christ require from those who desired to be His disciples? Mark 8:34

- (c) Have you made such a commitment to Jesus Christ? YES / NO

LESSON 35

Coming to terms with the World

PUTTING FIRST THINGS FIRST

Scripture Text - Matt.22 : 34 - 40; Deut. 6: 4 - 9; Deut. 10 : 12, 13.

1. In what ways does God show His love for us?
 - (a) See John 3:16 _____
 - (b) See Romans 5:8 _____
 - (c) See 1 John 4: 9, 10 _____
 - (d) See Romans 8: 32 _____

2. In what ways can we show our love for God?
 - (a) See Deut. 10: 12, 13 _____
 - (B) See John 14: 15, 23 _____
 - (c) See 1 John 4: 20, 21 _____

3. The phrase, 'with all your heart and with all your soul' is found very often in Deuteronomy. Look up the following passages and see what is is we are to do with all our beings:
 - (a) Deut. 4:29 _____
 - (b) Deut. 10:12 _____
 - (c) Deut. 11: 13 _____ and _____
 - (d) Deut. 13:3 _____
 - (e) Deut. 26: 16 _____
 - (f) Deut. 30:2 _____ and _____
 - (g) Deut. 30: 6 _____
 - (h) Deut. 30:10 _____

LESSON 36

Coming to terms with the World

THE OTHER PRIORITY

Scripture Text - Matt. 22 : 34 - 40; Lev. 19 : 11 - 18; Deut. 22: 1 - 4; 1 John 4 : 19 - 21;
Rom. 13 : 8 - 10; 1 Cor. 13.

1. Leviticus 19: 14 forbids cursing the deaf and putting a stumbling-block before the blind. Can you think of ways in which we can be irritated by, or make things difficult for disabled people?

2. Deuteronomy 22: 1-4 tells us that it is no use pretending not to know about your neighbour's need. Can you think of examples of that, e.g. pretending not to see an old person standing on the bus while you are comfortably seated?

3. Give examples from the Bible of people who showed love for their enemies.

1 Samuel 24:2-10 _____

2 Kings 6 : 21 - 23 _____

Luke 23 : 34 _____