

Essentials.

The Biblical basis for the core beliefs of
Christianity.

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Philippians 4.20

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Here are the questions you will be able to answer:

1. Why did God make us?
2. Does it matter how we live?
3. Who is Jesus?
4. Can we trust the Bible?
5. Can we influence God?
6. Can Satan influence us?
7. What is our part in God's plan?

Lesson Seven

What is our part in God's plan?

The Great Commission

Here are some ideas and verses we will consider in this lesson:

- What's our part in God's plan?
 - Being before doing
 - Mary and Martha: Luke 10.38-42
 - The Prodigal Son: Luke 15.11-32
 - Cultivating a relationship
 - Get busy and preoccupied
 - Don't consider their point of view
 - No getaways or private time together
 - Don't talk
 - Keep secrets
 - Be unfaithful
 - Overflow of the heart: Luke 6.43-45
- The Great Commission
 - Parting Orders: Matthew 28.18-20
 - Be salty: Colossians 4.6
 - Be ready: 1 Peter 3.15-16
 - Urgency: Ecclesiastes 9.12
 - The Gospel
 - God loves you: John 3.16
 - God offers abundant life: John 10.10
 - The great gulf: Romans 3.23
 - Our just reward: Romans 6.23
 - Christ paid our debt: Romans 5.8
 - We come through Jesus: John 14.6
 - We must decide and act: John 1.12
 - It is faith that saves: Ephesians 2.8,9

+ What's our part in God's plan?

+ Being before doing

+ Mary and Martha: *Luke 10.38-42*

- 38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations
- that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,
- 42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

+ The Prodigal Son: *Luke 15.11-32*

- 11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country
- and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to
- his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no-one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare,
- and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'
- 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I
- have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
- 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near
- the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and
- sound.' 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never
- gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31

"My son,' the father said, 'you are

- always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

+ Cultivating a relationship

- Get busy and preoccupied
- Don't consider their point of view
- No getaways or private time together
- Don't talk
- Keep secrets
- Be unfaithful

+ Overflow of the heart: *Luke 6.43-45*

- 43 "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 Each tree is recognised by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn-bushes, or grapes from briers.
- 45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

+ **The Great Commission**

+ Parting Orders: *Matthew 28.18-20*

- 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

+ Be salty: *Colossians 4.6*

- Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

+ Be ready: *1 Peter 3.15-16*

- 15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
- But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

+ Urgency: *Ecclesiastes 9.12*

- 12 Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.

+ The Gospel

+ God loves you: *John 3.16*

- 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

+ God offers abundant life: *John 10.10*

- 10 ...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

+ The great gulf: *Romans 3.23*

- 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

+ Our just reward: *Romans 6.23*

- 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

+ Christ paid our debt: *Romans 5.8*

- 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

+ We come through Jesus: *John 14.6*

- 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

+ We must decide and act: *John 1.12*

- 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--

+ It is faith that saves: *Ephesians 2.8,9*

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