

PENTECOSTALS OF JORDAN

Beginning Your New Life Vol. 1

CLASS 201 Booklet

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INTRODUCTION

BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE

When you receive Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Saviour, you begin your new life, just as the Bible says, ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*** (2 Corinthians 5:17) And this book, *Beginning Your New Life*, is designed to help you to begin your new life in Christ.

There are five important things you need to do as you begin your new life in Christ.

GET A BIBLE

The **Bible** is the most important book in your life because it is the Word of God. Purchase a copy and begin to be acquainted with it. The New International Version (NIV) Bible is very readable and is used by many Christians. If you need any help in this, your sponsor will assist you. *Beginning Your New Life* will help you to know the Bible better.

JOIN A CELL GROUP

One of the most important things you can do as a new believer is to join a cell group. It is the **Basic Christian Community**. In a cell you will meet other believers who can help you understand what it means to be a Christian. The Cell is the place where you can grow.

READ THIS BOOK

Beginning Your New Life Discipleship Course has 30 lessons to be completed over 30 weeks. Each lesson has two main parts: a unit for you to read and an application section. You may want to read each lesson in a day or two. It is preferable that you read and study it over a two-day period so that you can take

the time to grasp the truths being taught. Use the following guidelines for your reading:

1. Ask God to speak to you.

2. Memorize the *Scripture Memory Verse* of the week.

The Bible says, “***I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You***” (Psalm 119:11). Memorizing Scriptures is one way to hide God’s Word in your heart, the great advantage being that the verses you memorize are available when you need them—even when you are not near a Bible. After a few days, you may forget the verses you have learned, so you will need to review them daily to keep them in your memory bank. You may want to write the memory verse on a card and carry it with you so you can read it through the day in order to memorize it.

Perhaps you need to know how to find a Bible reference. For example, in John 3:16, “John” refers to the book, the number “3” refers to the chapter, and “16” refers to the verse. In front of your Bible, the table of contents lists which page each book starts on. Once you have turned to the book, you can find the chapters and verses you are looking for printed at the top of the page or within the text itself.

3. Read through the lesson slowly, think prayerfully about the truths being taught, and then relate them honestly to your life.

4. Work on the suggested applications in the *Living Your New Life This Week* section.

LISTEN TO GOD

Listening to God is a vital part of the Christian life. In **Lesson 2** you will learn more about how to hear from God. Begin now to spend time with God **on a daily basis** to listen to Him. At

the end of each week, record the highlights of what you have heard from God in the Listen to God This Week section.

Use the *Listening Room Time Guide* provided in this book to guide you in listening to God through reading the Gospel of Mark. The guide will take you through Mark over a period of two months.

MEET YOUR SPONSOR

As you begin your new life, you need someone to guide you along in your spiritual growth. The leader of your cell group will introduce you to one of the cell members who will become your sponsor. He or she will meet with you weekly to discuss what you have learned during the week and to pray with you.

LESSON 1

YOUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

Listening Room Time Guide:

Day- Scripture for Reading

Key Lesson

- 1 -Mark 1:1-8 Prepare your heart to meet the Lord.
- 2 -Mark 1:9-13 Face the devil with the Holy Spirit.
- 3 -Mark 1:14-20 Follow Jesus and fish for men.
- 4 -Mark 1:21-34 Jesus is Lord over Satan and sickness.
- 5 -Mark 1:35-39 Jesus had His own Listening Room, too.
- 6 -Mark 1:40-45 Jesus is willing to heal the sick.
- 7 -Mark 2:1-12 Community faith is powerful.

Memorize:

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:11, 12)

When you become a Christian, you enter into two new relationships: **a new relationship with God** and **a new relationship with God’s family**. Your relationship with God and with the family of God, the church, goes hand in hand. You cannot meaningfully have one without the other. You need to have both relationships in order to experience all that God has in store for you.

“This is the life we have seen and heard. We are reporting about it to you also so that you, too, can have a relationship with us. Our relationship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3, God’s Word)

In this lesson, you will learn about your new relationship with God.

THE BEGINNING OF YOUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

How did your new relationship with God begin? **It began when through faith you received Jesus into your life.** 1 John 5:11, 12 – the Scripture memory verse of this week, shows us two kinds of people.

The first are those who have Jesus in their lives and, as a result, have eternal life. *The others are those who do not have Jesus in their lives and, as a result, do not have eternal life.*

1. Christians have Jesus in their lives because they **believe** in Him and have **received** Him into their lives. So, when you were born again, He came into your life and began to live in you through His Spirit as what John 3:5 says: “ *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of _____ and of the _____, he cannot enter into the _____.*”
2. The Bible tells us, “*And if anyone does not have the _____, he does not belong to Christ*” (Romans 8:9). When people become Christians, they belong to Christ and His Spirit lives in them.

THE MEANING OF YOUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

• It is a Relationship of Knowing God

1. When you believed and received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you received eternal life. But what exactly is this eternal life?

“Now this is eternal life: _____.” (John 17:3)

Although eternal life does mean that you will go to heaven and be with God forever when you die, you do not have to wait until you die for eternal life to begin.

Eternal life begins the moment you were “**born again**” and began to trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. It is a reality you can experience now. Eternal life is knowing God in His fullness.

Eternal life is not just knowing the facts about God; it is knowing God by having a personal relationship with Him.

Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship—a personal relationship with the only true and living God. So, you have begun your journey of a life-long adventure of knowing God!

• **It is a Father and Child Relationship**

2. The Bible tells us that, “*Yet to all who _____ Him, to those who _____ in His name, He gave the right to become _____.*” (John 1:12)

When you believed and received the Spirit of Jesus Christ into your life, you became a child of God. This means that God is your Father, and your relationship with God is a father and child relationship.

3. As a child of God, God has given you His Spirit to lead you—*“Those who are _____ by the Spirit of God they are the _____.”* (Romans 8:14).

Remember, when you received Jesus, He came into your life and began to live in you through His Spirit. You will grow in your experience of being led by the Spirit of God when you learn to listen to God.

Recall two ways that your parents have shown their love for you and their interest in your life.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

4. Do you know that God, your heavenly Father loves you and cares for you far more than your parents do? Indeed, He loves you and cares for you enough to give you His Son Jesus Christ to die for you—“***But God _____ His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, _____*** _____.” (Romans 5:8). Think about that!

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

1. Memorize *1 John 5:11, 12* and review daily.
2. Start reading the Gospel of Mark on a daily basis and you will begin to know about Jesus and what He taught and did. Find which chapters and verses you should read each day in the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
3. Share with one of your family members and one of your friends about your new relationship with God. Just tell them that you have become a Christian and what that mean to you. You do not have to preach to them; just share with them.

LESSON 2

YOUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD'S FAMILY

Listening Room Time Guide:

Day Scripture for Reading

Key Lesson

- 8 -Mark 2:13-22 God's ways are different from men's ways.
- 9 -Mark 2:23-3:6 Jesus is compassionate and flexible.
- 10 -Mark 3:7-19 Jesus calls us to be with Him.
- 11 -Mark 3:20-30 Jesus also experience misunderstanding and rejection.
- 12 -Mark 3:31-35 Obeying Jesus makes you closer to Him.
- 13 -Mark 4:1-20 How should you respond to God's Word?
- 14 -Mark 4:21-34 Truths are understood in Listening Room.

Memorize:

“What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All these must be done for the strengthening of the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:26)

The family of God that you have now become part of is the church. The church is not a building.

The church is more than just the Sunday worship service. The church is the cell group. A **cell group** is a small group of Christians who are committed to building up one another, and to reaching out to those who do not know Jesus Christ. They meet together weekly as well as have personal contact with each other during the week.

EDIFICATION IN THE CELL GROUP

God never intends for you to be a Christian on your own. Besides, it is hard to be a Christian alone, by yourself.

It is God's purpose for you to grow with other fellow-Christians together as one body.

1. ***“From Him the _____, joined and held together by every supporting _____, grows and builds itself up in _____, as each part does its work”***
(Ephesians 4:16).

It means that God has made you one of the supporting ligaments that contribute to the growth of the body. It means that you can grow only when you grow in God's family, the cell group, through mutual edification. To edify one another means to build up or to strengthen one another.

YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR CELL GROUP

In order to grow in the cell group you need to be committed to your cell group. Make it a high priority in your life. If you are a family person, be committed to the cell group as a family. The Word of God warns us against the lack of commitment to meeting together with His people.

What does the Bible tells us?

1. ***“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward _____ and _____.”***
(Hebrews 10:24)
2. ***“Let us not give up meeting _____, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us _____ one another, and all the more as you see the Day _____.”***
(Hebrews 10:25)

Be committed by being present at the cell meetings. Your presence is valuable to the rest of the body. Be committed by participating in the cell activities. Your participation will help to build up the body.

There will always be other things to distract you from being committed to your cell group. You need to be determined not to allow anything to hinder your commitment.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR CELL GROUP

God had made you a valuable member to your cell group. He expects you to be an active member in the cell group contributing to the growth of other cell members. He does not intend for you to just receive His blessings through others, but also that you will be a channel of His blessings to others.

The Holy Spirit gives you spiritual gifts that you may employ them to minister to your cell group. The gifts of the Holy Spirit may include a word from God to exhort or encourage the cell group, a word from God about the life condition (it may be physical, emotional or spiritual) of someone or, a prompting from the Holy Spirit to pray for healing.

The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit according to 1 Corinthians 12:8-10:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 6) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 7) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 8) _____ |
| 4) _____ | 9) _____ |
| 5) _____ | |

You can contribute to your cell group by helping the cell members in some practical things. You can contribute to your cell group by sponsoring a new believer just like you are being sponsored now.

If you continue to commit yourself to grow in the Lord, it will not take too long before you are able to sponsor someone. There will always be opportunities for you to edify your cell group.

EVANGELISM THROUGH THE CELL GROUP

1. God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of what? _____ (1 Timothy 2:4).

Thus, God wants the Cell group to grow not just in its life through edification, but also in its size through evangelism. Evangelism is sharing the good news of God's salvation to unbelievers.

2. What did God command us to do in Mark 16:15?
“*And he said unto them, _____.*”

Together with your cell group you can be God's channel of blessings to your unbelieving family members, relatives and friends. Reach out to them with God's love as a cell group. Ask your cell group to pray for the salvation and any needs of those in your circle of contact. Invite them to your cell group. Invite your cell group to visit your family that they, and your unbelieving family members may get to know each other. Visit your friends or relatives with some of your cell members.

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

1. Memorize *1 Corinthians 14:26* and review daily.
2. Review daily all the verses that you have memorized.
3. Continue to read the Gospel of Mark daily, using the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
4. Find out from your cell leader and one cell member what the cell group means to them.
5. Ask God to show you one way that you could minister to someone in your cell group this week.
6. Invite some of your cell members to visit your family and introduce them to your family members.

LESSON 3

LISTENING TO GOD

Listening Room Time Guide:

Day-Scripture for Reading

Key Lesson

- 15-Mark 4:35-41 Jesus is Lord of the storms of your life.
- 16-Mark 5:1-20 No bondage is too strong for Jesus to break
- 17-Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 Jesus is never too late.
- 18-Mark 5:25-34 When life has gone from bad to worse, there is still hope in God!
- 19-Mark 6:1-6 Unbelief hinders God's work in our lives.
- 20-Mark 6:7-13 We minister with a PhD (preaching, healing, deliverance) degree.
- 21-Mark 6:14-29 Living for God can be very costly.

Memorize:

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” (Luke 11:28)

You have begun your journey of knowing God and growing in your relationship with Him. For any relationship to grow, there must be two basic elements: **time** and **communication**. In the same way, you need to spend time to communicate with God in order to build your relationship with Him. We call such a personal time spent alone with God in *the Listening Room Time*.

A meaningful communication must be a two-way experience of talking and listening. For this week, we will consider *listening to God*. You need to learn to listen to God because He wants to speak to you personally as a father to his child.

GOD SPEAKS TO YOU THROUGH THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's voice speaking to us in a book. The Bible consists of 66 books, 39 of which form the Old Testament, and 27, the New Testament. God used different people at different times over some 1500 years (about 1400 B.C. to 90 A.D.) to write the Bible.

1. The Bible was written by men under the direction of the Holy Spirit:

*“For _____ never had its origin in the _____
_____, but men spoke from God as they were
carried along by the _____.” (2 Peter 1:21)*

In this way, the Bible is the Word of God. In the Bible God has revealed Himself and spoken about our relationship with Him.

2. Let's say you are reading Mark 8:2, 3 about Jesus saying,
*“I have _____ for these people; they have already been
with Me _____ and have nothing to eat. If I send
them home _____, they will collapse on the way, because
some of them have come a long distance.”*

Three Guidelines to Hearing God Through the Bible:

- 1) *What does God say about Himself?*

Through these verses God may reveal to you how compassionate and considerate He is.

- 2) *What does God say about Christian living?*

From the same verses you may hear God teaching you to be compassionate and considerate towards needy people around you.

- 3) *What does God want me to do?*

And again from the same verses, you may hear God telling you to be compassionate towards the widow next door by sharing food with her and her children.

A Prayer for Listening to God

“Lord, open the eyes of my heart that I may see You because I want to know You, And open the ears of my heart that I may hear You because I want to obey You.”

GOD SPEAKS TO YOU IN YOUR HEART

Perhaps you are wondering, *How can I know when God speaks to me?* Most of the time God does not speak in an audible voice. When God speaks to you, He usually speaks inside your heart because He is living there as the Holy Spirit.

1. *“We know that we _____ in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His _____”* (1 John 4:13).

God often says things that you would not have thought of yourself. When He speaks, He always suggests good things. He never tells you to do anything bad. He never says anything to you that contradict the Bible.

God’s voice within your heart will flow spontaneously in a light and gentle manner as words, a thought, an idea, a feeling, an impression, or a vision. He may speak to you about Himself, about you or about others. You may hear Him telling you, “I love you” and you sense His love flooding your heart. Or, He may say to you, “Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in Me,” and you sense His peace. Or, He may say to you, “Talk to John about Me.” Or, He may bring to your mind a Scripture that speaks to a particular situation you are in.

While God speaks to you primarily through His written Word, the Bible, He also speaks to you through circumstances, people, and even dreams.

Listen in Silence

A good practice of seeking to hear God is to listen in silence. Close your eyes and be silent before God, and concentrate inwardly to hear Him speaking to you in your heart.

Confirm God's Voice

It is advisable for a beginner in hearing God's voice like yourself, to confirm with someone more mature and experienced what you feel you have heard from God. You may also confirm with your sponsor or cell leader.

Don't be Discouraged

You may not seem to be hearing God initially. Do not be discouraged. Just keep giving yourself to listening to Him. And as you learn to listen to God's voice more and more, you will grow to know how to recognize His voice more easily and more quickly.

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

1. Memorize *Luke 11:28*.
2. Review daily all the verses that you have memorized.
3. Continue to read the Gospel of Mark daily, using the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
4. Set aside a definite time and place each day to spend your time with God.
5. Listen to God this week:

What has God revealed to me about Himself? _____

What has God taught me about Christian living? _____

What does God want me to do? _____

LESSON 4

PRAYING TO GOD

Listening Room Time Guide:

Day-Scripture for Reading

Key Lesson

- 22 -Mark 6:30-44 Jesus is not limited by human resources.
- 23 -Mark 6:45-56 We may need extra lessons to learn to live by faith.
- 24 -Mark 7:1-13 Live by God's command not human teachings.
- 25 -Mark 7:14-23 True defilement is from within the heart.
- 26 -Mark 7:24-30 At times you must persevere in your prayers.
- 27 -Mark 7:31-37 God can act in unusual ways!
- 28 -Mark 8:1-10 Jesus is compassionate and considerate.

Memorize:

“Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” (John 16:24)

We have considered how in building your relationship with God you need to listen to God speak to you. That is only one side of the two-way communication process. There is another side of it. You need to talk to God, too, and He delights to listen to you. Talking to God is what the Bible calls prayer.

HOW TO APPROACH GOD IN PRAYER

I don't know what to pray or how to pray—this may be your concern. Remember, God is your Father and you are His child. Just talk to Him as you would to your best friend. If you have good news or a problem, just tell Him as it is. You can talk to Him any time of the day. You can tell Him about anything.

You can learn to pray by using the **PART** format.

P – Praise God at all times

1. The Bible tells us to worship God at all times:

“I will _____ the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my _____” (Psalm 34:1).

Worship God for who He is. Worship God for what He has done. Worship God by speaking praises to Him. Worship God by singing praises to Him. Make it your habit to begin your day by worshipping God.

A – Admit to God your sins

2. The Bible tells us that when we hide our sins in our hearts,

God will not hear us: ***“If I _____ sin in my heart, the Lord would not have _____”*** (Psalm 66:18).

3. Tell God sincerely from your heart that you are sorry for sinning against Him, and He will be more than willing to forgive you: ***“If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just and will _____ us our sins and purify us from all _____”*** (1 John 1:9).

This will ensure that the communication line between you and God is always open.

R – Request God for your needs

4. What did Jesus tell us in Matthew 6:8? _____
_____.

But that does not mean that you do not have to pray. It means that you can pray to your Father about your needs with confidence. Your needs may be strength for crisis, guidance at crossroads, wisdom for problems, help in troubles, healing for sickness, peace for worries ... whatever.

5. In 1 Peter 5:7, God invites you to ***“... _____ all your anxiety on Him because He _____ for you.”***

Give to God your problems and struggles in life. Tell Him honestly and freely, exactly how you are feeling. But, your most important need is your spiritual growth. Pray for you spiritual growth everyday.

Pray for the needs of others, too—your family members, your cell group members, your pastors, and your friends. The most important need of those who do not know Jesus Christ is that they come to know Him.

T – Thank God for all things

6. The Bible tells us to give thanks to God for everything:
“Always giving _____ to God the Father for _____, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(Ephesians 5:20)

Thank God when good things or bad things happen to you. Thank God during bad times as well as good times.

PRAYER LANGUAGE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Often we do not know how to pray to God. Romans 8:26 mentions that it is the Spirit of God who helps us in our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for, as we ought. Who is it then which makes intercession for us with groaning that cannot be uttered? _____
2. But God gives us the gift of a special prayer language to help us in this deficiency. The Holy Spirit gives us words to speak to God that are different from our own. The Bible calls it speaking or praying in tongues. *“I will pray with the _____, and I will pray with then _____ also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also”* (1 Corinthians 13:15).
3. *“For they heard them _____ in tongues and _____ God”* (Acts 10:46).

We may not understand what we are praying, but God who gives us the language understands it. Ask God to help you to learn to pray in the spirit. Or you may ask your sponsor or cell leader to help you understand more about it.

HOW GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYERS

While God listens to all your prayers, He may not grant all your requests. God is not a magician or Santa Claus, who gives us any wishes we want. Just like any good parents, your Father gives you things that are good for you. And He alone knows what is best for you.

There are at least four ways that God answers your prayers:

- 1) “Yes, I’ll give you as you’ve asked.”
- 2) “No, this is not good for you.”
- 3) “Wait, I’ll answer you at the right time.”
- 4) “I’ve a better idea than yours.”

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

1. Memorize *John 16:24*.
2. Review daily all the verses that you have memorized.
3. Continue to read the Gospel of Mark daily, using the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
4. Listen to God this week: Listen to God this week:

What has God revealed to me about Himself? _____

What has God taught me about Christian living? _____

What does God want me to do? _____

5. Begin to use the PART format to pray to God.
6. Ask God to help you to learn to pray in the spirit. Or you may want to ask your sponsor or cell leader to pray for you.

LESSON 5

DEALING WITH YOUR SINS

Listening Room Time Guide:

Day- Scripture for Reading

Key Lesson

- 29 -Mark 8:11-21 “Do you still not understand?”
- 30 -Mark 8:22-26 God works one step at a time.
- 1 -Mark 8:27-38 Set your mind on God’s interests, not man’s.
- 2 -Mark 9:1-13 Don’t tell God what to do; just listen to Him.
- 3 -Mark 9:14-29 Everything is possible for him who believes.
- 4 -Mark 9:30-37 God’s way is that the last shall be the first.
- 5 -Mark 9:38-50 Serve people; don’t trip them.

Memorize:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

(1 John 1:9)

Sin is a giant problem in our lives. Sin brings guilt and sense of defeat in us. But God has sent His Son Jesus Christ to deal with our sins on the cross. And this means that we can be set free from the guilt and defeat caused by sin.

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

What is sin? There are two terms in the Bible that explains the idea of sin. They are “sin” and “sins”. “**Sin**” is a “*root*” word, and “**sins**” is a “*fruit*” word. An apple tree bears apples (the *fruit*) because of its nature (the *root*) of being an apple tree. We do not find an apple tree producing pears.

This is also true with the problem of sin in our lives. We commit **sins** (the *fruit*) because we have in us a **sin nature** (the

root). It is the **sin** problem that causes the **sins** problem. Paul talks about “sins” and “sin” in his letter to the Romans. What are they?

1. *“Blessed are they whose _____ are forgiven, whose sins are covered”* (Romans 4:7).
2. *“Therefore do not let sin reign in your _____ so that you obey its evil desires”* (Romans 6:12).

The problem of sin in man is not primarily related to the *fruit* of his life; the problem is at the root of his life. He has a sin problem. To deal with the sins problem, you must first deal with the sin problem.

Sin is a condition in which we declare ourselves as the kings and masters of our own lives. It is a condition in which the “Self” takes the central place in our lives instead of God. To deal with this root and sin problem, you must dethrone yourself and let God be the king and master of your life.

3. What will be the result after dealing with this root and sin problem according to Romans 6:17, 18?

*“ But thanks be to God that, _____

_____.”*

REMOVING THE PROBLEM

While Christ had dealt with the penalty of sin on the cross, we will be fully delivered from the problem of sin only when Christ returns. But, we can live a life of righteousness and experience victory over sin on a daily basis as we faithfully walk in obedience to God.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Christians do continue to fall into sin. You may ask, “*What should I do when I fall into sin?*”

• Confess your sins to God

1. When we sin, the Bible instructs us to confess our sins to God. What will happen if we confess our sins to God according to 1 John 1:9?

“*If we confess our sins,* _____
_____.”

2. To confess means to view sin as God views it—to agree with Him. It is to recognize that when we sin we sin against God. What did King David say in Psalms 51:4?

“ _____
_____.”

To confess is to call a sin a sin, and not a mistake, a weakness, or an indiscretion. It is to take personal responsibility for your own sin without giving any excuse or putting the blame on others. “*Against You, You alone, have I sinned.*”

• Turn away from your sins

3. We need to decide not to sin against God again. Ask God to help you to overcome the temptation of falling into sin again – “*Because He Himself _____ when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are _____*” (Hebrews 2:18).

But you may ask, “*Will God forgive me if I sin against Him again?*” Yes, He will still forgive as long as our attitude is not, “*It’s O.K. to sin again since He has promised to forgive.*”

• Accept God’s forgiveness and cleansing

4. God has promised, “*He is _____ and just and will forgive us our sins and _____ us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:9).

No sin is so great that God cannot or will not forgive. He will forgive when we sincerely confess our sins to Him. You can rest assured that He will forgive you because He has promised to do so.

• **Thank God for His forgiveness**

Each time you ask God for His forgiveness, thank Him for it. As you do so, it will help you to be assured of God’s forgiveness and not to take His forgiveness for granted.

FREEDOM FROM STRONGHOLDS

Sometimes we find that we are always going back to the sins and habits, which we have allowed to live within us for many years, and there seems to be no victory over them. This may be the result of any of the following:

Bitterness, anger, unforgiveness toward someone who hurt you—it might be a family member, a relative or a friend. Habits that destroy your health; Idol worship, use of charms, believing in the horoscope; Shame from past deeds, inability to forgive yourself; Pornography, masturbation, other lustful habits, and so forth.

These are called strongholds. Satan holds us as his prisoners through these strongholds. But God wants us to be freed from the strongholds of our lives.

How can we be set free from the strongholds of our lives?

1) Renounce the strongholds through prayer.

“Lord, I thank You that on the cross You broke the power of Satan and sin. I renounce (the stronghold) in Your Name. I want to have no part in (the stronghold) any more. I ask of You to cleanse me by Your blood and break the power of (the

stronghold) in my life by Your victory on the cross and set me free from it. I surrender my will to You and I want You to be in control over my life. Strengthen me with the power of the Holy Spirit so that I'm able to live a life of obedience to You, resist Satan's attacks and overcome temptations. Lord, I thank You. In Your Name I pray. Amen."

2) Resolve to walk with God.

Victorious Christian living is a life long process and must be experienced on a day-by-day basis. Victory will come as you seek to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and learn to walk with God **constantly** – listening to Him, praying to Him and obeying Him. When you fall into temptation and sin, you can always turn to the Lord to restore you and guide you in the paths of righteousness again. (Psalm 23:3)

3) Reject the lies of Satan.

Satan will frequently whisper lies in your mind to deceive you. He is 'a liar, and the father of lies' (John 8:44). Here are some of the lies Satan tells us:

"You're not good enough for God to love you."

"God does not really care for you."

"You can handle life all by yourself."

"You're too busy to talk with God."

"It doesn't matter. No one will know."

"Everyone is doing it. You'll be the only one who's saying 'No'."

You must reject Satan's lies by standing in God's truth as revealed in the Bible. ***"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*** (Ephesians 6:10, 11)

4) Receive ministry from the body.

If you have strongholds in your life and need help with them, talk with your cell leader. He or she is ready to minister to

you, or to link you with a cell member who has undergone ministry training and can help you.

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

- 1. Memorize *1 John 1:9*.
- 2. Review daily all the verses that you have memorized.
- 3. Continue to read the Gospel of Mark daily, using the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
- 4. Listen to God this week:

What has God revealed to me about Himself? _____

What has God taught me about Christian living? _____

What does God want me to do? _____

- 5. Prayerfully examine your life before God and see what the strongholds in your life are, and deal with them. You may want to ask your cell leader to help you.
- 6. Learn to confess your sins to God and receive His forgiveness and cleansing whenever you sin or whenever the Holy Spirit shows them to you.

LESSON 6

FOLLOWING JESUS YOUR LORD

Listening Room Time Guide:

Day -Scripture for Reading

Key Lesson

- 6 -Mark 10:1-12 Divorce is not God's will.
- 7 -Mark 10:13-16 Respond to God with childlike faith.
- 8 -Mark 10:17-31 Don't let wealth hinder you from having God's best for your life.
- 9 -Mark 10:32-45 A lifestyle of serving other is a key to Christian discipleship.
- 10 -Mark 10:46-52 Don't let anything discourage you from trusting God.
- 11 -Mark 11:1-11 Worship Jesus the King.
- 12 -Mark 11:12-14, 20-26 Pray with an expectation God will answer.

Memorize:

“And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:15)

Do you realize that many things in your life are not in your control? For example, you did not choose your birthday, your parents, your race, your dialect, and your looks... Really, we have very little control over our lives. And with the little control that we do have, we tend to mess up our lives more than we build it up. What hope do we have then? Well, being a Christian has everything to do with God having control over your life—for your good.

When you became a Christian, you gave your life to Jesus Christ; you asked Him to become not only your **Saviour** but also your **Lord**.

“... If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raise Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

TWO REASONS FOR JESUS’ LORDSHIP

• Who Jesus Is

1. Jesus has the right to be the Lord of your life by virtue of who He is. ***He is the Lord of all things***, from the smallest atom to the largest galaxy! ***“For by Him all things were _____: things in heaven and on earth, _____ and _____, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; _____ were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold _____... so that in everything He might have the _____”*** (Colossians 1:16-18).

2. Whether we like it or not, accept it or not, or want it or not, the fact remains that Jesus is Lord anyway!

“Therefore God _____ Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every _____ should bow, in _____ and on _____ and under the earth, and every _____ confess that Jesus Christ is _____, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).

• What Jesus Has Done For You

Jesus died on the cross for you. You should be the one who stands in judgment before God for your own sins. But in love Jesus took your place, putting your sins upon Himself and receiving God’s judgment for you. Instead of judgment, you have received eternal life. For this reason, *you should no longer live for yourself but for Jesus* who died for you and was raised again.

3. The Bible also tells us, “***You are not your own; you were bought at a _____***” (1 Corinthians 6:20).

YOUR RESPONSE TO JESUS’ LORDSHIP

Live for Jesus – that should be your response to the lordship of Jesus. To live for Jesus means to live your life according to His plan. His plan for your life consists of *His looking after your well-being and you living according to His will*. What is God’s plan for your life like? It will take you a lifetime to discover His plan in specific terms as you allow Him to lead you a **step at a time**. But there is one thing you can be sure of: “***I know the plans I have for you, plans for welfare and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future***” (Jeremiah 29:11).

The Lord cares for you more than you can ever care for yourself. He is committed to giving you the best in life. And He alone is capable of doing that. There are some more important areas of your life that you need to yield to the Lordship of Jesus. They include your marriage, your family, your career, your plans, your goals, your time, your love life, your mind, your money, and your possessions.

LORDSHIP PRAYER

Spend some quiet moments to respond in prayer to the Lordship of Jesus.

“Lord Jesus, I praise You because You are Lord. You are Lord over everything. There is absolutely nothing in heaven or on earth that is not under Your Lordship. Thank you for always wanting to give me the best. In fact, You’ve already given me the best. You’ve given me Yourself: You died on the cross for me. For this reason, I belong to You, and I owe all of my life to You. I commit my life to You, now, that You may be my Lord. Fill me with the knowledge of Your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so that I may walk in a manner worthy of you, and

give me Your grace and strength to follow You faithfully. Thank You, Lord. Amen.”

TWO BASIC WAYS TO RESPOND TO JESUS’ LORDSHIP

• Baptism

1. Jesus has commanded the church to: “... *make* _____ *of all nations,* _____ *them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*” (Matthew 28:19).

You have become a “disciple” of Jesus by committing yourself to follow Him and making Him your Lord. Your first step in obeying Jesus is to do what He has commanded in this Scripture— **be baptized**.

2. It represents your death and burial with Christ (when he died for your sins), and your being raised with Him in His resurrection to a new life. Baptism is the place where the blood is applied and your sins are remitted. Acts 2:38 says, “*Then Peter said unto them,* _____, *and be* _____ *every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the* _____ *of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*”

• Giving

When Jesus is the Lord of your life, He is the Lord of everything in your life, including your money. God does not need your giving because He owns everything, but you need to give to God.

There are three reasons for giving to God:

First of all, giving to God is a way to acknowledge that He owns everything in your life.

Secondly, giving to God is a way to indicate that your heart is committed to God. ***“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”*** (Matthew 6:21).

Thirdly, giving to God is a way to thank God for providing all your needs. The Bible commands you to give at least 10% of your income. The Bible calls this tithing.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. Test Me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it” (Malachi 3:10).

Do you see God’s promise for giving to Him? You can never out give God!

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

1. Memorize *2 Corinthians 5:15*.
2. Review all the verses that you have memorized.
3. Continue to read the Gospel of Mark daily, using the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
4. Listen to God this week:

What has God revealed to me about Himself? _____

What has God taught me about Christian living? _____

What does God want me to do? _____

5. Find out from your cell leader about the church’s procedure for baptism.
6. Begin to give to the Lord 10% of your income.

7. At this point of your Christian growth as you have come to know some of the fundamental truths about the Christian life, make a covenant with God that you will, by His grace, live your life as He wills it to be.

My Personal Covenant With God

Knowing that Christ has bought me with the price of the cross, I declare Him as Lord over all my life – my body, my possessions, and my future. I will learn to pray and will seek to hear God speaking to me on a regular basis to know what He wants to say in each situation. I will commit myself to a cell group and will consider it my basic Christian community, so I can grow together with them through mutual ministry and reach out to the unsaved together with the Gospel of Christ. I will make it a priority to relate to my family members and minister to them in God’s way. In this spirit, I invite God to take control of my life that, by His grace, He may glorify Himself in me.

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

LESSON 7

THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

Listening Room Time Guide:

Day -Scripture for Reading

Key Lesson

- 13 Mark 11:15-19 We are to worship God, not use Him
- 14 Mark 11:27-33 The authority of the Lord Jesus is unquestionable.
- 15 Mark 12:1-12 Don't reject the true foundation of life.
- 16 Mark 12:13-17 Duty to God includes rightful duty to man.
- 17 Mark 12:18-27 Misunderstanding God's Word will lead to misapplying God's Word.
- 18 Mark 12:28-34 Christian discipleship is summed up as loving God and loving man.
- 19 Mark 12:35-40 Real Christianity lies in the attitude, not the appearance.

Memorize:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

WHY JESUS CAME

1. The first book of the Bible, Genesis, starts, ***“In the beginning God created the _____ and the _____”***
(Genesis 1:1).

God created everything that exists. The last thing God created on earth was man and woman, and He placed them in the beautiful Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were created to live forever. They were sinless and innocent but had the choice to obey or disobey God. In the garden, Adam and Eve enjoyed daily

communication with God. The earth was full of peace, and there was peace between God and the people He created.

Adam and Eve were free to enjoy all the fruit of the garden and had only one restriction placed on them: they were forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them that if they ate its fruit they would die, meaning they would be spiritually separated from God and would eventually die physically as well (Genesis 2:16-17).

Through the enticement of Satan, an angel who rebelled against God and became the chief instigator of evil on earth, Eve was drawn to the forbidden fruit. Both Adam and Eve ate the fruit, thereby rejecting God's authority. As a result of their disobedience or sin, they were expelled from the garden and separated from God.

2. ***“So he drove out the _____; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden _____, and a flaming _____ which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”*** (Genesis 3:24)

But sin did not affect Adam and Eve only. Through them sin and death came into the world and cursed the entire human race.

3. Romans 5:12 and 5:19 says:

a) ***“Wherefore, as by _____ sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have _____.”***

b) ***“For as by one man’s _____ many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made _____.”***

Every human being has sinned (Romans 3:23) and deserves the penalty of sin, which is death.

4. *“For the wages of sin is _____; but the gift of God is _____ through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23)

As Creator, God could have destroyed Adam and Eve and started over with a new world. But because God is love, He provided a means whereby people could be delivered from sin and death. In the Old Testament times, God gave the Law of Moses to Israel, His chosen people. In order to foreshadow His ultimate plan of salvation for humanity, He required the Israelites to follow an elaborate system of offerings and sacrifices to deal with their sins.

The most sacred day on Israel’s calendar was the **Day of Atonement**, the tenth day of the seventh month. On this day, the high priest killed an animal on the bronze altar of sacrifice and took blood from that sacrifice into the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle, the place of worship. In this small dark chamber was Israel’s most cherished possession, the Ark of the Covenant, which symbolized their relationship to God and the presence of God in their midst. The Day of Atonement was the only time of the year that the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place. He sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat (the lid) of the ark, and this action symbolized that Israel’s sins were rolled ahead for another year.

Israel eagerly looked forward to this day. If their sacrifice was acceptable, they were sheltered from the curse of sin for another year.

The blood of bulls and goats only provided a temporary reprieve, however. Animals could not substitute for humans. God’s law demanded death for sin, and only a sinless man could be the permanent and conclusive substitute for sinful humanity.

For this reason God chose to come to earth as a man—a man who could reconcile a righteous God and sinful humanity. He who was Almighty and the eternal Spirit became man and entered the realm of human life.

5. This mediator, or go-between, was the one God Himself in flesh, not another God, for God is absolutely and indivisibly one. Deuteronomy 6:4 tells us: ***“Hear, O _____: The LORD our God is _____ Lord.”***

By coming in flesh, God fulfilled his predetermined plan, reaching out in love to save fallen humanity from sin.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF JESUS’ BIRTH

1. Jesus was not born into the home of a high priest or a king. God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to the house of Mary, a young virgin woman. Mary was engaged to a carpenter named Joseph. Gabriel’s message to Mary was startling: ***“And, behold, thou shalt _____ in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name _____”*** (Luke 1:31).

This child would not be tainted with the sinful nature of Adam, for He did not have an earthly father. His mother was a virgin; He was conceived miraculously by the Holy Spirit. When Joseph found out that Mary was expecting a child, he pondered the problem of what he should do. At that time, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and gave him a full explanation. Joseph was convinced, so he decided to take Mary as his wife. But they were not united until she gave birth to her firstborn son. (See Matthew 1:18-25)

2. ***“And knew her not till she had brought forth her _____: and he called his name _____.”*** (Matthew 1:25)

Thus the Spirit of God, and not Joseph, was Jesus’ Father! About this time, the Roman emperor, Augustus, issued an edict for everyone to be taxed. Herod, ruler over Palestine, decided that each person under his jurisdiction should register in his native

home, so Joseph and Mary were required to go to Bethlehem about seventy miles away (Luke 2:1-5).

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

After reaching Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary found that there was no room in the inn. Finally, they were found lodging in a stable, and Jesus was born there. Mary wrapped her firstborn Son in soft strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger, or feed box (Luke 2:7).

1. In Luke 2:8-14, the angels announced His birth to the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem: ***“For unto you is born this day in the _____ a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”***
2. When the shepherds found Him, they _____ Him (Luke 2:16-20).
3. Who were the men from the East that brought gifts?
_____ (Matthew 2:1)
4. They told King Herod that they had come to find the _____
_____(Matthew 2:2).
5. These men were led by a miraculous _____
(Matthew 2:9-10).
6. Herod jealously sought for Jesus to kill Him, but God miraculously warned Joseph to flee to _____ (Matthew 2:13-14).
7. After Herod died, Jesus and His family returned to _____,
a town in Galilee, where Jesus grew up (Matthew 2:15-23).

GOD WITH US

Jesus was actually: **“God was manifest in the flesh”** (1 Timothy 3:16). God did not send someone separate and apart from Himself, but He Himself came in the flesh to deliver humanity from the bondage and penalty of sin.

1. **“And she shall bring forth a _____, ... for he shall save his people from their sins. ... Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name _____, which being interpreted is, _____.”** (Matthew 1:21, 23)

God and humanity were separated by sin. God was high, lofty, and perfect. Humanity was earthly and sinful. In Jesus, who was God in nature and sinless as a man, God and humanity are reconciled.

Jesus had a dual nature. Sometimes He spoke and acted as God. Jesus was human—fully human.

As a human, He was born a helpless baby, dependent on His mother and subject to the authority of His home. He hungered and ate; He thirsted and drank; He worked and grew weary; He felt the need of rest and slept. He went to school, as did every Jewish boy. He was a member of a family, having four brothers and at least two sisters. He, along with His family, observed the feast days, sacrifices, and offerings. He understood pain, disappointment, and hunger. He experienced loneliness and rejection.

But Jesus was also God. He was able to control the forces of nature, heal all kinds of diseases, raise the dead, cast out demons, and forgive sins. He was not merely a part of God or a separate person from God. He was all that God is in human form.

2. **“God is a Spirit: and they that _____ him must worship him in _____ and in _____.”**
(John 4:24)

He is everywhere, all-knowing, and all-powerful. This great God, the Creator, became flesh, called that flesh His Son, and lived among humanity.

3. Jesus Christ was God in flesh—in Him dwelt all the fullness of the _____ bodily (Colossians 2:9).

God, who is a Spirit, has chosen to manifest himself to humanity as the Father, in the Son, and as the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit. As the Father, God is our Creator, the maker of all things. In the Son, He is our Savior and Redeemer. As the Holy Spirit, He is the Regenerator and Comforter who dwells in our heart and gives us spiritual life. God does not exist as three separate persons; God is one.

THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

1. The Bible does not tell us a great deal about Jesus' early life. Luke 2:40 records, "*And the child grew, and waxed _____ in spirit, filled with _____: and the grace of God was upon him.*"

A very special incident occurred when Jesus was twelve years old. As was the custom, He went with His parents to Jerusalem for the Passover, a Jewish holy day. When the feast was over, Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth. En route, they discovered that Jesus was not in the caravan of travelers. They returned to Jerusalem and found Him in the Temple, talking with the learned men of the Jewish religious law. These teachers were amazed at Jesus' understanding and wisdom.

2. Mary scolded Jesus for getting separated from the company. Her motherly instincts caused her to be extremely concerned. But Jesus answered, "*How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my _____?*" (Luke 2:49)

Even at the age of twelve, Jesus was clearly aware that He had a unique mission. His “Father’s business” was the most important thing on His mind.

3. Even though Jesus knew that He was the Son of God, He respected His earthly parents.

“And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was _____ unto them: but his _____ kept all these sayings in her heart.” (Luke 2:51)

4. Obedience was a trait that characterized Jesus’ earthly life (Romans 5:19).

“Though he were a Son, yet _____ he obedience by the things which he _____” (Hebrews 5:8).

5. Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient unto _____ (Philippians 2:8).

In order for the ministry of Jesus to be effective, He had to continually keep the flesh under subjection to the Spirit.

6. He did not live a sheltered, cloistered life in which He never faced temptation or adversity. **“For we have not an _____ which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points _____ like as we are, yet _____.”** (Hebrews 4:15)

He was exposed to every temptation that any other young person was exposed to. He felt the burning pangs of peer pressure, yet He remained loyal to His mission and obedient to His Heavenly Father.

CONCLUSION

Jesus had every right to come into the world brandishing a sword of judgment. Humanity had fallen deeper and deeper into sin.

Who could have blamed God if He had completely wiped humanity from the face of the earth? He could have created another race of people to serve Him.

Instead God chose to come with eyes of love and hands of mercy to elevate humanity from their fallen state.

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

1. Memorize *John 3:16*.
2. Review all the verses that you have memorized.
3. Continue to read the Gospel of Mark daily, using the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
4. Listen to God this week:

What has God revealed to me about Himself? _____

What has God taught me about Christian living? _____

What does God want me to do? _____

5. As you learn from the childhood of Jesus, ask God to help you live your life in submission to His will.

LESSON 8

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

Listening Room Time Guide:

Day -Scripture for Reading

Key Lesson

- 20 -Mark 12:41-44 Nothing you give to God is too small to be significant.
- 21 -Mark 13:1-2 Will you give your life to some-thing that God will destroy eventually?
- 22 -Mark 13:3-27 Be prepared for the difficult times before Christ's return.
- 23 -Mark 13:28-37 Be alert, because you do not know the time of Christ's return.
- 24 -Mark 14:1-9 Nothing can be too costly for your waste on Jesus.
- 25 -Mark 14:10-25 Remember what Jesus gave to you on the cross.
- 26 -Mark 14:26-50 Remain faithful to God even when everyone else lets you down.

Memorize:

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36)

THE BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS

1. Isaiah the prophet spoke seven hundred years before Christ's birth of One who would come and prepare the way. John the Baptist was that man.

“The _____ of him that crieth in the _____, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a _____ for our God” (Isaiah 40:3).

2. This desert preacher who wore camel's-hair clothing and ate locusts and wild honey caused a great stir around the hillsides of Judea. Many people felt convicted, repented of their sins,

and were baptized by John in the Jordan River. His message was always the same: ***“I indeed _____ you with _____ unto _____; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with _____”*** (Matthew 3:11).

3. During one of John’s baptismal services, Jesus came from Galilee for John to baptize Him. When John saw Jesus, he shouted, ***“Behold! The _____ who takes away the sin of the _____!”*** (John 1:29, NKJV)
4. Jesus was then baptized of John in the Jordan River. ***“The _____ opened and the Spirit like a _____ descended upon him: and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my _____, in whom I am well pleased”*** (Mark 1:10-11).
5. Jesus was baptized as our example. He was now positioned to begin His earthly ministry. There was, however, one event for Him to yet experience. ***“And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the _____. And he was there in the wilderness _____, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the _____ ministered unto him”*** (Mark 1:12-13).
6. After Jesus had fasted for forty days, the devil came to tempt him (See Matthew 4:1-11). ***“If you are the Son of God, command these _____ to become _____.”***
7. Though Jesus was at His weakest point, He did not doubt His lordship, neither did He have to prove it by breaking His fast and turning stones to bread. Jesus used the Word of God, saying, ***“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by _____”***

*alone, but by every _____ that proceeds from the
_____ of God” (Matthew 4:4, NKJV).*

8. Twice more Satan tempted Jesus. From the Temple, he said,
“Throw yourself down, for _____ will bear you up.”
(Matthew 4:6, NKJV)

9. And from a high mountain, he showed Him the kingdoms of
the world and offered,
***“All these things I will give You, if You will _____
_____ and _____ me”*** (Matthew 4:9, NKJV).

Each time Jesus used the Word to counteract the temptations of the enemy. Finally he said, ***“Get away, Satan.”*** The devil left Him, and the angels came and attended Him. More than ever before, people today are tempted to indulge in worldly activities. Satan, like a roaring lion, goes about seeking whom he may devour. Many people, young and old, are trapped by materialism, immorality, rebellion, drugs, and alcohol, and the list goes on.

10. Jesus showed us that even at our weakest point we can use God’s Word to defeat the enemy’s attack. Hebrews 4:15-16 tells us, ***“For we have not an _____ which cannot be touched with the feeling of our _____; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the _____, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need.”***

JESUS’ MINISTRY BEGINS

1. After His temptation, Jesus left the mountain and went into the synagogues to teach. One day while in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus stood and read from the prophet Isaiah: ***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath***

_____ me to preach the _____ to the poor; he that sent me to heal the _____, to preach deliverance to the _____, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the _____ year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19).

2. He then closed the book and sat down, and the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him. Jesus then explained, “**Today this _____ is fulfilled in your hearing**” (Luke 4:21, NKJV).

“**Is not this Joseph’s son?**” the crowd around Jesus murmured. The unrest began to mount. Within minutes the people were filled with wrath. They rose up and drove Him out of town, intending bodily harm. Jesus escaped, but He felt rejection for the first of many times.

3. Those who stand for Jesus today still feel rejection at times. Even those who do not know the Lord often feel rejection from family, friends, or on the job. **Jesus said, “ _____ unto me, all ye that _____ and are heavy laden, and I will give you _____ ”** (Matthew 11:28).
4. With Jesus there are no outcasts. “**The LORD is _____ unto all them that _____ upon him**” (Psalm 145:18).
5. Though some despised Jesus of Nazareth, multitudes followed because He “**went about doing _____, and _____ all that were _____ of the devil; for God was with him**” (Acts 10:38).

THE CALLING OF THE DISCIPLES

1. In the next few months, Jesus selected men of various backgrounds and lifestyles to be His disciples. One day while

walking by the sea, Jesus saw two brothers who were fishermen casting their net into the sea. **“Come, follow me, and I will make you _____, _____, _____,”** he commanded. (Mark 1:17-18.)

Immediately, Andrew and Peter left their nets and became disciples of the Lord. The same day, James and John left mending their nets and also became His disciples.

2. Twelve men were finally chosen and then sent out to do the work of the Lord. Jesus gave to them the power to preach. He said, **“As ye go, _____, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. _____ the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, _____: freely ye have received, freely give”** (Matthew 10:7-8).

When people truly follow Jesus, He will always make something out of them far greater than they ever expected. As we come to know Him, He sends us out to do His work. Freely we have received; freely we must give.

THE WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS

1. On one occasion Jesus went up a mountain to teach. As the people gathered around Him, He taught them about the attitudes needed in serving God (Matthew 5:3-10).
 - a. **Blessed are the _____:**
for theirs is the kingdom of _____.
 - b. **Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be _____.**
 - c. **Blessed are the _____: for they shall _____ the earth.**
 - d. **Blessed are they, which do hunger and thirst after _____: for they shall be _____.**
 - e. **Blessed are the _____-: for they shall obtain _____.**

- f. **Blessed are the _____:**
for they shall see _____.
- g. **Blessed are the _____:** **for they shall be called the**
_____.
- h. **Blessed are they, which are _____ for**
righteousness' sake: for theirs is the _____
_____.

Jesus also taught the people many other truths. Multitudes marveled at the wisdom and authority of this unusual man from Galilee.

2. As Jesus and His disciples came down from the mountain, throngs of people gathered around. A leper came and worshipped Jesus, saying, **“Lord, if You are _____, You can make me _____”** (Matthew 8:2, NKJV).
3. Jesus reached out and touched this sick man, saying, **“I am willing; be _____.”** Immediately, the man was cleansed of his dreadful, life-threatening disease.
4. The fame of Jesus went throughout the countryside. People brought to Him the sick and those possessed with demons, and He healed them. Multitudes followed Him from _____, Decapolis, _____, Judea, and the east side of the Jordan River. (See Matthew 4:24-25.)
5. Everywhere Jesus went He was moved with compassion because of the many needs of the people. **“Those who are well have no need a _____, but those who are sick,”** He said. **“I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to _____”** (Matthew 9:12-13, NKJV).
6. In Capernaum, Jesus healed a man’s withered _____ (Mark 3:1-5).

7. At Jerusalem, He made whole a _____ by the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:2-9).
8. He healed a _____ near the Pool of Siloam (John 9:1-7)
9. He cured a man’s _____ son (Luke 9:37-42).
10. At Nain, He raised up a widow’s son who had _____ (Luke 7:12-15).
11. ***“And there are also _____ other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be _____ every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the _____ that should be written”*** (John 21:25).

Jesus came to seek and to save those who were lost. He did not try to bring glory to His flesh, but rather He related to people and to their needs. He often used a parable—a simple, true-to-life story that portrays a truth—to teach a practical lesson. One parable He told concerned a woman who had ten pieces of silver but who lost one (Luke 15:8). She lit a candle and swept her house, seeking diligently until she found it. When the lost coin was found, her friends and neighbors came together for a great celebration.

12. Jesus made the truth of this parable come to life: ***“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the _____ over one sinner that _____.”*** (Luke 15:10)

Another parable describes a pearl of great price sought after by a merchantman. He sold all that he had in order to acquire

this rare, priceless jewel (Matthew 13:45-46). Likewise, Jesus gave everything He could—His life—to redeem us from sin so that we might have eternal life.

THE NEW BIRTH

1. The teachings of Jesus often perplexed the Jewish teachers and religious leaders. One such man, Nicodemus, came to Jesus by night to ask Him some questions. Jesus told him, *“Except a man be _____, he cannot see the kingdom of God”* (John 3:3).

Nicodemus was confused. He wondered how a grown man could enter into his mother’s womb and be born a second time.

2. Jesus explained further: *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of _____ and of the _____, he cannot enter into the _____”* (John 3:5).

As the historical accounts of the Book of Acts show, to be born of water is to be baptized in water. To be born of the Spirit is to be baptized, or filled, with the Holy Spirit.

Though multitudes still followed Jesus, many people opposed the straightforward teaching of this carpenter. The religious leaders especially opposed Him. At every opportunity, they asked controversial questions and tried to trap Him in doctrinal error.

JESUS FORGIVES A SINNER

One day while Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem, some religious leaders brought a woman to Him and threw her at His feet. They stated that she had been caught in adultery. According to the Law of Moses she was to be stoned. In an attempt to trick Jesus, they asked Him what He would do. Jesus paused for just a

moment. He then knelt and with His finger wrote in the dust. Again, this time even more angrily, the leaders questioned Him.

1. The statement shot forward from Jesus: ***“He that is _____ among you, let him first cast a stone at her”*** (John 8:8).
2. One by one the accusers left the Temple. Finally, Jesus asked the woman, ***“Where are your _____?”*** She answered, ***“There aren’t _____.”*** Jesus mercifully said to her, ***“Neither do I _____ you; go and sin no more”*** (John 8:11, NKJV).
3. Like the sinful woman, we come to Jesus as guilty sinners worthy of death. ***“For all have _____, and come short of the glory of God”*** (Romans 3:23).

CONCLUSION

We know that Jesus Christ sees us through eyes of mercy and unconditional love. He said, ***“Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out”*** (John 6:37). We can come to Jesus in any condition; He will heal the broken heart, open the spiritually blinded eyes, and loosen the chains of sin of the captive.

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

- 1. Memorize *John 8:36*.
- 2. Review all the verses that you have memorized.
- 3. Continue to read the Gospel of Mark daily, using the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
- 4. Listen to God this week:

What has God revealed to me about Himself? _____

What has God taught me about Christian living? _____

What does God want me to do? _____

- 5. Ask God to guide you that you could minister to someone in your cell group this week.
- 6. Share the goodness of God to your family and friends.

donkey colt, which he mounted and rode from Bethany to Jerusalem.

2. This action seemed ordinary to many, yet others realized that it was the fulfillment of a prophecy written nearly five hundred years before: ***“Rejoice greatly, O _____

_____! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you: He is just and having
_____, lowly and riding upon a donkey, a colt, the
foal of a _____”*** (Zechariah 9:9, NKJV).

3. A great multitude gathered and began to spread their garments on the road. Others cut down tree branches and began to call out expressions of praise:
“Hosanna to the Son of _____! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Matthew 21:9, NKJV)

4. Some were not happy with this exuberant form of worship and said to Jesus, ***“_____ Your disciples.”*** But Jesus replied, ***“If these should keep _____, the stones would immediately cry out”*** (Luke 19:39-40, NKJV).

5. What an opportunity we have today to lift our hearts and voices in unrestrained worship. Truly, ***“the hour cometh, and now is, when the true _____ shall worship the Father in _____ and _____: for the Father seeketh such to worship him”*** (John 4:23).

6. For the next three days, Jesus spent much of His time in the Temple. His message and His works proclaimed that He was the Messiah, and Jesus rebuked those who refused to believe. Because of this rebuke, many of the religious leaders sought to kill him (Matthew 21:46). ***“He came unto his own, and his own _____ him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the _____ _____”***

_____, *even to them that believe on his name*” (John 1:11-12).

THE LAST SUPPER

The feast day of the Passover came, and Jesus and His disciples met in an upper room to observe it. Earlier that day, Judas had conspired with the Pharisees and other religious leaders to betray Jesus. For a mere thirty pieces of silver, Judas agreed to betray the Lord and deliver Him into their hands.

1. As the Passover meal began, Jesus explained to the disciples that this was the last meal they would eat together before His suffering. He told them, **“One of you will _____ Me.”** (Matthew 26:20-21). One by one they asked, **“Is it I?”**
2. Jesus replied, **“It is one of the _____, who dips with Me in the _____.”**

They had all participated in the meal, but of them only Judas knew that he would indeed betray Jesus. Moments later he left to meet secretly with the religious leaders.

3. Peter told Jesus, **“Even if I have to _____ with You, I will not _____ You,”** and the other disciples made similar statements. But Jesus had said to Peter, **“This night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me _____”** (Matthew 26:34-35, NKJV).
4. During this last evening together Jesus explained to His disciples, **“Where I am going, you cannot _____ Me now”** (John 13:36, NKJV).

With saddened hearts they understood that Jesus was about to leave them. Feelings of loneliness, fear and insecurity began to

sweep over these eleven men. Who would provide for them? Where would they go? What would they do without Jesus?

5. Jesus encouraged them with these words: ***“Let not your heart be _____: ye believe in God, believe also in me... I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another _____, that he may abide with you for ever; even the _____; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you”*** (John 14:1, 16-17).
6. In this way Jesus revealed to His disciples that He was the Comforter who would soon come back in Spirit form to live in them. Then He plainly stated, ***“I will not leave you _____: I will come to you”*** (John 14:18).
7. We also can receive the Comforter, the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, to uplift us during times of insecurity, fear, and loneliness. He is truly ***“a friend that sticketh closer than a _____”*** (Proverbs 18:24).

THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

1. At midnight Jesus and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He told Peter, James, and John to keep watch while He went a little further to pray. After some time, He found them sleeping and asked, ***“Couldn’t you keep watch _____?”*** (Mark 14:37)
2. Then He told them, ***“_____ and _____, lest you enter into temptation. The _____ indeed is willing, but the _____ is weak”*** (Matthew 26:41, NKJV). The disciples fell asleep, however, while Jesus prayed alone.

3. Because Jesus knew of His quickly approaching trauma, His flesh cried out, ***“O, My Father, if it is possible, let this _____ pass from Me.”*** But then He said, ***“Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You _____”*** (Matthew 26:39, NKJV).

With great agony and sweat as great drops of blood, the flesh yielded to the will of the Spirit.

4. Jesus awakened the disciples as a great multitude of people with sticks and swords approached. Judas stepped forward and _____ Jesus on the cheek, greeting Him (Luke 22:47).

This was the signal for the religious leaders and their servants to capture Jesus and bind Him. Jesus voluntarily submitted to them, however. Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled. Judas received his payment, but later in bitter remorse and despair he threw the money down and committed suicide (Matthew 27:5).

THE TRIALS OF JESUS

While Peter followed from afar, Jesus was first taken to Annas, the father-in-law of the high priest and an influential Jewish leader. Then He was led to the high priest’s palace to meet the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious council and court.

Question after question were thrown at Him to try to find some fault in His life. Jesus simply held His peace. Finally, in desperation, the high priest demanded, ***“I adjure You by the living God that You tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!”*** Jesus confirmed that He was by answering, ***“It is as you said”*** (Matthew 26:63-64, NKJV). (Christ is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew Messiah; both words refer to the long-awaited Jewish king and deliverer.)

1. In anger, Caiaphas, the high priest, tore his clothes. The fury of the council escalated, and they issued a verdict of guilty for blasphemy. Jesus was sentenced to die. In fierce anger, many in the courtroom spit on Jesus and hit Him, saying sarcastically, ***“Prophesy to us, _____! Who is the one who struck You?”*** (Matthew 26:68, NKJV).

2. Peter lingered in the shadows of the high priest’s palace. A young lady approached him and said he was one of the disciples of Jesus, but Peter strongly denied it. Twice more Peter was questioned, but he cursed and denied all association with Jesus. Moments later the rooster crowed. Feelings of failure, guilt, and defeat swept over this man as he went out and wept bitterly. How many times Peter denied Jesus?
 _____ (Matthew 26:74-75)

3. It was now early morning, and the council knew that it must have the permission of the Roman governor to carry out the planned execution, so they brought Jesus before Pontius Pilate. With swelling crowds of hostile people gathering, Pilate asked Jesus, ***“Are You the King of the _____?”*** Jesus answered in the affirmative: ***“It is as you say”*** (Matthew 27:11, NKJV).

The custom of the people was for one prisoner to be released each year at the Passover. Pilate asked the people if they wanted him to release Jesus, the King of the Jews. The people screamed out that they wanted him to release Barabbas, a robber, murderer, and revolutionary. Jesus, they cried out, must be crucified!

4. When Pilate saw the anger of the mob, he felt he could do nothing to change their minds. At his command a basin of water was brought, and Pilate washed his hands before the multitude, saying, ***“I am _____ of the blood of this just Person. You see to it”*** (Matthew 27:24, NKJV).

THE SCOURGING

1. Whom did Pilate release? _____ What happened to Jesus? _____ (Mark 15:15).
2. The soldiers put a robe on the back of Jesus, a reed in His hands, and a crown of thorns on His head. One by one they walked by, kneeling in mockery and saying, “ _____, **King of the Jews!**” (Matthew 27:29).

Then the soldiers beat Him with a whip that probably had nine tails embedded with glass and stone. The Jewish custom was to inflict thirty-nine stripes, but Roman law had no such limitation.

3. The prophet Isaiah had foretold this event nearly seven hundred years before: **“Surely he hath borne our _____, and carried our _____: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was _____ for our transgressions, he was _____ for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his _____ we are healed”** (Isaiah 53:4-5).
4. It was by choice that Christ Jesus endured the awful torture. He could have called ten thousand angels to do away with His tormentors completely, yet He chose to give His life for the sins of the world. **“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his _____”** (John 15:13).

THE CRUCIFIXION

With the frenzied mob behind Him, Jesus was forced to carry His cross down the city streets to Golgotha, “the place of a Skull.” (John 19:17) The angry mob’s cries of **“Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”** seemed to spur on the soldiers. They pierced His feet and hands as they nailed Him to the cross. When He cried out

for water, someone thrust a sponge of bitter gall and vinegar into His mouth.

1. On either side of Jesus hung two thieves. One saw his chance for salvation. With his last few breaths, he requested, **“Lord, remember me when You come into Your _____.”** Jesus promised, **“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in _____.”** (Luke 23:42-43)
2. The other thief cast aside eternal life through unbelief, mocking, **“If You are the Christ, _____ Yourself and us”** (Luke 23:39-43, NKJV).

While one man in desperation found eternal life, others thought only of the present and missed their chance for salvation that day. Today as well, many people come very close to salvation but fall short. Unbelief separates them from the Savior who could take away their sins.

The soldiers gathered at the foot of the cross to cast lots for His garments. They wanted the seamless garment of Jesus and gambled to see who would own it. (Matthew 27:35) Like the soldiers, many people today are attracted by material possessions. They throw away their chance for salvation for something temporal, something that will fade away.

The Sanhedrin felt pleased with their accomplishment. Now they would be highly regarded among the people and would have no challenge to their supremacy. It seemed that everyone was happy for this **“religious fanatic”** to be put to death. And the desire to be popular and accepted still destroys. Many, like those religious leaders, will trade salvation for a chance to be highly regarded among friends.

3. The educated scribes and elders mocked, **“He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of _____,**

let Him now come down from the _____, and we will believe Him” (Matthew 27:42, NKJV).

Many educated people today do the same. They cast aside their chance for salvation, only to ridicule and make fun of the cause of Christ. Some people gathered and wept. These were the believers. They did not fully understand what was happening and why, but they still loved Jesus.

4. All of nature could feel the impact of what was taking place. The sky darkened and the earth quaked. ***“Truly this was the Son of _____!”*** a Roman soldier proclaimed (Matthew 27:54).
5. For six hours Jesus was suspended on the cross between heaven and earth, becoming the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Now the gap would be bridged between sinful humanity and a holy God. This mission of Jesus had been announced by the angel at His birth: ***“For he shall save his people from their _____”*** (Matthew 1:21).
6. Now, at last, His mission was fulfilled. With a loud voice, Jesus cried, ***“Father, into Your hands I _____ My spirit,”*** and having said this, he died. (Luke 23:46, NKJV)

CONCLUSION

Two thousand years later, we recognized that the death of Jesus was not a defeat but a tremendous victory. He did not remain in the grave, but He rose again to offer salvation to all that believe and obey His gospel. His death was necessary, for without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sins (Hebrews 9:22).

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

1. Memorize *Hebrews 9:28*.
2. Review all the verses that you have memorized.
3. Continue to read the Gospel of Mark daily, using the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
4. Set aside a definite time and place each day to spend your time with God.
5. Listen to God this week:

What has God revealed to me about Himself? _____

What has God taught me about Christian living? _____

What does God want me to do? _____

LESSON 10

THE RESURRECTION AND THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Listening Room Time Guide:

<i>Day -Scripture for Reading</i>	<i>Key Lesson</i>
○ 4 -Acts 1:9-11	Jesus' Ascension into Heaven.
○ 5 -Acts 1:12-14	The Upper Room.
○ 6 -Acts 1:15-26	Judas Is Replaced by Matthias.
○ 7 -Acts 2:1-13	The Day of Pentecost.
○ 8 -Acts 2:14-36	Peter Addresses the Crowd.
○ 9 -Acts 2:37-47	The Crowd's Response.
○ 10 -Acts 3:1-10	A Lame Man Healed.

Memorize:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

THE BURIAL

Jesus was dead. Joseph of Arimathea, a good man who had not consented to the crucifixion of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. He and Nicodemus took the body from the cross, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and placed it in a new tomb cut in the rock. (See John 19:38-42.)

Then they rolled a great stone to close the door of the sepulcher (Matthew 27:60). Since Jesus had stated that He would rise again after three days, the Jewish religious leaders went to Pilate and asked him to seal the tomb. They were afraid that the disciples might steal Jesus' body and claim that He had risen. Pilate told them to take a guard and make the tomb secure (Matthew 27:66).

For three long and lonely days, the disciples huddled together. Their hopes were crushed. Not only was Jesus dead, but

also they were fearful for their own lives. They met together behind locked doors (John 20:19). They had hoped that Jesus was the One who was going to redeem Israel (Luke 24:21), but now the One who performed miracles was dead.

THE FIRST EYEWITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

Very early on the first day of the week, as soon as the first rays of dawn peeked over the horizon, several women made their way down the rugged path toward the tomb of Jesus. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices that they had prepared to anoint the body of Jesus. As they walked they wondered, “Who would roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb for us?” When they arrived, they were astonished and frightened to see that the large stone had already been removed.

When the women looked into the tomb, instead of seeing the body of Jesus as they expected, they saw two angels in shining garments. The faces of the angels shone like lightning and their garments were as white as snow.

1. Falling to the ground, the women bowed their faces to the earth.
 - a. ***“Do not _____! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was _____. He is not here, for He has _____ as He said.”***
 - b. ***“_____ and _____ the place where the Lord lay,”*** the angel continued.
 - c. ***“Go quickly and tell His _____, and Peter, that He is risen from the dead and that He will go before them into _____.”*** (See Matthew 28:1-7; Luke 24:1-7)

The women ran from the tomb trembling with fear and amazement, their hearts were filled with joy. “Our Lord has risen!” they cried.

But when they told the disciples, no one believed them! The disciples had seen Him crucified and His body placed in the tomb, and they knew He had died. Nevertheless, Peter and John rushed to the tomb to investigate (John 20:3-8). Peter stepped inside first and saw the linen clothes. He realized that the body of Jesus was gone, and he wondered what had happened.

2. After Peter and John went back to their homes, Mary Magdalene stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she leaned over and looked into the tomb and again saw two angels. When they asked her why she was crying she said, ***“They have _____ my Lord away, and I don’t know where they have laid Him.”*** (John 11:11-13)

3. After she said this, she turned and saw Jesus, but she did not realize that it was He. ***“Woman, why are you _____?”*** Jesus asked. ***“Whom are you _____?”*** Mary replied, ***“Sir, if you have taken Him _____, tell me where He is and I will get Him.”***

Jesus then called her name: ***“Mary.”*** Instantly she recognized His voice and said to Him, ***“_____.”*** (See John 20:11-15).

4. Thus a woman out of whom Jesus had cast seven devils was the first eyewitness of His resurrection, and she heralded the good news to everyone. What was her name?
_____ (John 20:18).

OTHER WITNESSES

1. Soon afterward Jesus appeared to the other _____ (Matthew 28:9).

He also appeared to two disciples who were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a town about seven miles away. At first they were prevented from recognizing Him. After showing them passages of Scripture that prophesied of His death and resurrection, Jesus opened their eyes and they recognized Him. He then disappeared from their sight, and they rushed to find the other disciples to tell them that Jesus was indeed alive (See Luke 24:13-35).

2. When they arrived back in Jerusalem they found the disciples behind locked doors for fear of the authorities. While they were talking about what had happened, Jesus Himself appeared among them and said, “_____ ***be with you!***” (Luke 24:36)

At first they thought they were seeing a ghost, but Jesus told them to look at His hands and feet. They could plainly see the scars where the nails had been driven. Their hearts must have almost exploded with excitement to see that Jesus was really alive (See Luke 24:36-40).

When Thomas, who was not present the first time Jesus appeared, heard about it, he doubted that Jesus really was risen. He said that unless he saw the marks in His hands and felt them for himself, he would not believe.

3. A week later, the disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were again locked, Jesus entered miraculously and stood among them. Then He said to Thomas, “***Come here. Put your _____ in My side and feel the scars in My hands; stop _____ and _____.***” (John 20:26-27)
4. Thomas could only confess, “***My Lord and my God.***” Jesus said, “***Thomas, you believe because you have seen me;***

blessed are those who have not _____ and yet _____.” (John 20:28-29)

How thrilling it is to know that we can share the same joy and excitement that the disciples experienced by believing with them that Jesus is alive, even though we have not seen Him.

5. Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His _____ (John 20:30).
6. He showed Himself to be alive by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during _____ (Acts 1:3).
7. On one occasion, over _____ believers saw Him at one time? (1 Corinthians 15:6).

If Christ had remained dead, He might have been remembered and loved as a teacher and a wonder worker. But Christ did not remain in the tomb! Only a risen Lord, a risen Christ, could be the Savior of all mankind—laying down His life for the sins of mankind and then making that sacrifice effective by conquering death itself

THE ASCENSION

1. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. Just before He left, He told His disciples, *“You are _____ of my death and resurrection. Wait in Jerusalem until you receive _____ from on high”* (Luke 24:49).
2. He revealed that this power would come by their being baptized with the _____. (Acts 1:4-8)

3. Jesus led them through the streets of Jerusalem, out the Eastern Gate, across the Brook Kidron, past the Garden of Gethsemane, and up the Mount of Olives. When they reached Bethany, He spread out His arms and blessed them. Then slowly He left the ground and rose heavenward. All of His followers looked into the _____ and watched Him as a cloud received Him out of their _____ (Acts 1:7-9).
4. Suddenly two men in white garments appeared and asked them, “*You men of _____, why do you stand here looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was received up from you into _____, will come again in the same manner that you have seen Him go away*” (Acts 1:10-11).

The promise of the physical return of Jesus removed the last trace of sadness from the disciples’ hearts. With great joy they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem to wait for the promised Holy Spirit, and the accompanying power they needed to witness to others until Jesus would come back again.

They returned from Mount Olivet, gathered in an upper room, and began to wait for the promise. The number included the eleven remaining apostles: Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, and James, the son of Alphaeus, Simon Zelotes and Judas the brother of James.

Many women were also present, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and so were the brothers of Jesus. Altogether, about 120 believers were gathered there, and they prayed continually with one accord.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

1. It was time for the feast of Pentecost, a holy day when Jews from everywhere came to Jerusalem to worship at the Temple, just as they did for the feast of the Passover. When the Day of

_____ came, all those who had gathered in the upper room were praying with one thought in mind: to receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1)

2. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a mighty, rushing _____, and it filled the entire room where they were sitting. They saw what looked like tongues of _____ that divided and rested upon each of them. (Acts 2:2-3)
3. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit gave them _____ (Acts 2:4).

In other words, they miraculously spoke in languages they had not learned as the initial sign that they had been filled with the Holy Spirit.

4. They had tarried, and God had fulfilled His promise; the tarrying was over at last! The Comforter of their souls had come. The Spirit of their risen Lord now dwelt in their hearts. ***“Now the Lord is that _____: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is _____.”*** (2 Corinthians 3:17)
5. ***“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the _____; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*** (Colossians 1:27)

People in the streets below heard the noise and the rejoicing. Jews from many lands who had come for the feast of Pentecost gathered around to see and hear for themselves what was happening. They were amazed to hear the disciples of Jesus speaking in different languages.

6. These Jews all spoke common languages—Aramaic—but the Galilean disciples were speaking in the various languages of the countries in which the onlookers had been born. ***“What does all this _____?”*** some asked. Others mocked and made fun. ***“These people are _____,”*** they said. ***“They are full of new _____.”*** (See Acts 2:5-13.)
7. But Peter, who was full of the Holy Ghost, stood up boldly and began to preach (See Acts 2:14-21). ***“These men are not drunk as you think, for it is only _____ o’clock in the morning. But this is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Prophet _____: God said that in the last days He would pour out His Spirit upon all _____.”***

Peter realized that he had seen such a crowd as this before when Jesus was crucified. Many of the same people who had mocked Jesus and cried ***“Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”*** were present on the Day of Pentecost, about seven weeks later.

8. ***“Men of Israel, hear me well!”*** Peter continued. ***“Jesus of _____ was approved by God among you by miracles and wonders and signs. But you have _____ and slain Him! You saw His signs, wonders, and miracles, but you _____ Him. But God has raised Him up! Let all of you know assuredly that this same Jesus, whom you have crucified, is both _____ and _____!”*** (Acts 2:22-36)
9. Many of the people who listened became convicted of their sins as they heard Peter’s message and began to cry out, ***“Men and brethren, _____?”*** (Acts 2:37).
10. Peter, with the support of all the other apostles, instructed them, ***“_____, and be _____ every one***

*of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,
and ye shall receive the gift of the _____”*
(Acts 2:38).

This answer contains three elements, and it applies to us today as well. *First*, we must repent.

Repentance is identification with the death of Jesus. It includes godly sorrow for sins, confession of sins to God, and a decision to forsake sins. It is a turn from sin to God.

Second, we are commanded to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

Baptism is identification with the burial of Jesus (Romans 6:4). The name of Jesus is invoked because it is the only saving name and the name by which we receive remission of sins (Acts 4:12; 10:43). When we are baptized in the name of Jesus, God washes away our sins forever, based on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus (Acts 22:16). The Lord will forget every sin that we have committed and wipe it from our record when we repent and are buried with Him in baptism.

Third, we are to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The **Holy Ghost** is identification with the resurrection of Jesus. Peter promised that everyone could receive the same wonderful experience that the disciples received on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:39). Through the gift of the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit, we receive new spiritual life (John 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13). We also receive power, righteousness, peace, and joy (Acts 1:8; Romans 14:17).

How beautiful it is to realize that for almost two thousands years God has made available this marvelous plan for our salvation and that his plan will work for everyone, regardless of age, race, gender, nationality, or social status. It is for us all!

Salvation carries with it no high price tag for us; it is available to the rich and poor alike. Jesus wants everyone to receive eternal life (John 3:16). Salvation is a free gift of God's grace, and we receive it through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus purchased our salvation; we receive it when we identify with His work for us by believing and obeying His Word.

Thus we see God's simple plan to bring us eternal life. To enter the New Testament church, we must simply repent, be baptized in Jesus' name, and receive the gift of The Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38; 8:12-17; 10:44-48; 19:1-6; 1 Corinthians 6:11).

LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE THIS WEEK

- 1. Memorize *Ephesians 2:8-9*.
- 2. Review all the verses that you have memorized.
- 3. Start reading the Book of Acts on a daily basis and you will begin to know about Jesus disciples and the early church. Find which chapters and verses you should read each day in the *Listening Room Time Guide*.
- 4. Listen to God this week:

What has God revealed to me about Himself? _____

What has God taught me about Christian living? _____

What does God want me to do? _____

- 5. Ask God to help you pray in the spirit and give you boldness in serving Him.