JSS2 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES LESSON NOTES

FIRST TERM

Week	Topic	Content
1	The Annunciation	Isa. 9:6-7; Matt 1:22-23; Luke 1:30-33
2	The Birth of Jesus	Matt 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7
3	The Visit of the Wise Men	Matt 2:1-12
4	The Visit of the Shepherds	Luke 2:8-20
5	**Midterm Examination**	—
6	The Value of Virginity and Faithfulness after Marriage	Christian moral lessons
7	**Midterm Break**	—
8	Meaning & Significance of The Virgin Birth of Jesus	Doctrinal and faith implications
9	Jesus and His Family	Jesus' siblings (Matt 13:53-56; Mk 6:1-3); Obedience to parents (Lk 2:51-52)
10	Jesus' Understanding of Family & Baptism of Jesus	Matt 12:46-50; Mk 3:31-35; John the Baptist as forerunner (Mk 1:1-8; Lk 3:1-20); Baptism of Jesus (Matt 3:13-17)
11	**Revision**	—
12	**Examination**	—
13	**Closing**	—

WEEK 1: THE ANNUNCIATION

Meaning of the Annunciation

The Annunciation is the announcement made by the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and bear a son through the Holy Spirit, and this child would be Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah. The event is significant in Christian theology because it marks the beginning of God's plan of salvation for humanity.

The Annunciation highlights God's divine initiative, His faithfulness to prophecy, and Mary's exemplary obedience. It is celebrated by Christians worldwide as a key moment in the narrative of Christ's incarnation, which demonstrates the mystery of God becoming man.



Biblical References and Detailed Explanation

1. **Isaiah 9:6-7**
    - The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of a child who would be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.
    - This prophecy emphasizes the child's divine attributes and the establishment of an eternal kingdom characterized by justice, righteousness, and peace.
    - Significance: The Annunciation fulfills this prophecy, showing that God's promises are certain and that Jesus is the expected Messiah who brings spiritual salvation.
2. **Matthew 1:22-23**
    - Matthew recounts that Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy that a virgin would give birth to a son called Emmanuel, meaning "God with us."
    - This demonstrates the miraculous nature of Jesus' birth and God's intervention in human history.
    - Significance: The passage affirms the divine origin of Jesus and underscores God's faithfulness to His promises in the Old Testament.
3. **Luke 1:30-33**
    - The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, greeting her and assuring her that she had found favour with God.
    - Gabriel told Mary she would conceive a son, who would be great and called the Son of the Most High, and He would reign over the house of Jacob forever.
    - Mary responded in humility and obedience, saying, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."
    - Significance: Mary's response exemplifies true faith, trust in God, and submission to His will, setting an example for all believers.

Lessons from the Annunciation

- **Faith in God's Plan:** Mary trusted God's word despite the unusual nature of the message, teaching believers to rely on God's guidance.
- **Obedience to God:** True discipleship involves submission to God's will, even when it may be challenging or confusing.
- **Hope in God's Promises:** The fulfilment of prophecy reminds Christians that God's promises are reliable.
- **God's Grace:** God chooses humble, faithful individuals to accomplish His divine purposes.
- **Importance of Humility:** Mary's humble acceptance of God's plan serves as a model of humility for Christians.

Importance of the Annunciation

- Marks the beginning of God's salvation plan through the incarnation of Jesus Christ.
- Demonstrates the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah.
- Highlights Mary's exemplary qualities of faith, humility, and obedience.
- Reinforces the Christian belief in the miraculous nature of Jesus' conception.
- Encourages Christians to trust in God's plan and live faithfully.
- Strengthens the understanding of God's love, care, and active involvement in human history.

Theological Significance

- **Incarnation of Christ:** The Annunciation marks the moment when God became man through Jesus Christ.

- **Divine Intervention:** Shows that God directly intervenes in human history to bring about salvation.
- **Model of Discipleship:** Mary's example demonstrates the ideal response of a believer—faith, humility, and obedience.
- **Faith in the Unseen:** Christians are encouraged to trust in God's promises even when circumstances are unclear.

EVALUATION

1. Define the Annunciation and explain its significance in Christianity.
2. State the prophecy about the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6-7 and how it is fulfilled.
3. Explain how Matthew 1:22-23 confirms the fulfilment of prophecy.
4. Describe Mary's response to the Angel Gabriel in Luke 1:30-33 and its importance.
5. List five lessons Christians can learn from the Annunciation.
6. Explain the theological significance of the Annunciation.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write a detailed essay on the Annunciation, including its meaning, biblical references, and importance to Christians.
2. Identify and explain five qualities exhibited by Mary that can serve as examples for Christians today.
3. Illustrate and describe the Annunciation scene, showing the Angel Gabriel and Mary, including the symbolism of God's message.

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WEEK 2: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

BACKGROUND TO THE BIRTH OF JESUS

- The birth of Jesus Christ is central to Christianity because it marks the beginning of the physical manifestation of God's plan to redeem mankind from sin.
- It was not an accidental event, but a **divinely planned and prophesied occurrence** long before it happened.
- **Prophetic background**:
    - Prophet **Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14)**: *"A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*
    - Prophet **Micah (Micah 5:2)**: foretold that the ruler of Israel would come from Bethlehem.
- Jesus' birth demonstrates **God's love for mankind** (John 3:16).
- It also shows that God is faithful in keeping His promises.

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BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF THE BIRTH (MATTHEW 1:18–25)

- Mary was a young virgin betrothed (engaged) to Joseph, a carpenter from the lineage of David.
- Before they came together, Mary was discovered to be pregnant through the power of the **Holy Spirit**.
- Joseph, being a righteous and compassionate man, did not want to disgrace her publicly. He considered breaking the engagement quietly.
- An **angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a dream and explained:
    - The child was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
    - The child would be a son.

- He was to be called **Jesus**, because He would *"save His people from their sins."*

- The angel reminded Joseph that this event was the fulfillment of prophecy: *"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel"* (meaning *God with us*).

- Joseph obeyed the angel, married Mary, and accepted responsibility as earthly father of the child. However, he did not have marital relations with Mary until after Jesus was born.

BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF THE BIRTH (LUKE 2:1–7)

- During this period, **Caesar Augustus**, the Roman Emperor, ordered a census (population count) across the Roman Empire.
- According to Jewish custom, people had to return to their ancestral homes for registration.
- Joseph traveled with Mary from **Nazareth (Galilee)** to **Bethlehem (Judea)**, because he was a descendant of David, and Bethlehem was David's city.
- While in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her child.
- Mary gave birth to her **firstborn son**, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes (linen strips), and laid Him in a **manger** (an animal feeding trough).
- This happened because there was **no room in the inn**, showing the humble conditions of His birth.

LESSONS FROM THE BIRTH OF JESUS

- **Humility**: Jesus, the King of Kings, was born in a lowly manger, not in a palace.
- **Obedience**: Joseph obeyed God's instructions through the angel without argument.
- **Faithfulness of God**: The event proved that God fulfills His promises and prophecies.
- **Love and Salvation**: The birth of Jesus was God's greatest gift of love to mankind (John 3:16).

- **Hope and Joy**: The birth of Jesus brought joy and peace to the world (Luke 2:10–11).
- **Importance of Names**:
    - *Jesus* means "Savior" – He came to deliver mankind from sin.
    - *Emmanuel* means "God with us" – a reminder that God is present with His people.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

- It marked the fulfillment of prophecies about the Messiah.
- It began the process of salvation and redemption of mankind.
- It showed God's plan to reconcile humans back to Himself through His Son.
- It gave Christians the basis for the celebration of **Christmas** worldwide.
- It introduced the concept of **God incarnate** (God taking human form in Jesus).
- It teaches Christians virtues such as humility, obedience, faith, and love.

EVALUATION

1. Narrate the events leading to the birth of Jesus according to **Matthew's Gospel**.
2. Explain why Joseph wanted to secretly divorce Mary and how God intervened.
3. State the significance of the census in Luke's account of Jesus' birth.
4. Give the meaning of the names *Jesus* and *Emmanuel* and their significance to Christians.
5. Mention three lessons Christians can learn from the humble birth of Jesus.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Compare the accounts of the birth of Jesus in **Matthew 1:18–25** and **Luke 2:1–7**, highlighting at least **three similarities** and **three differences**.

2. Write short notes on:
   a. The prophecy of Isaiah concerning Jesus' birth.
   b. The role of Joseph in the birth of Jesus.
   c. Why Jesus was born in a manger.
3. Discuss five (5) reasons why the birth of Jesus is still relevant to Christians today.

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WEEK 3: THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

Matthew 2:1–12

INTRODUCTION

After the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem, an extraordinary event took place that showed His divine identity and mission to the world. Wise men, often called "Magi," travelled from the East to visit the newborn child. Their journey, guided by a star, revealed that Jesus was not only the King of the Jews but also the Saviour of all nations.



THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT (MATTHEW 2:1–12)

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of King Herod.

- Wise men from the East saw a special star which signified the birth of a great king. They journeyed to Jerusalem, asking, *"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."*
- King Herod was troubled by this news and secretly sought to know from the chief priests and scribes where the Christ would be born. They confirmed from the prophecy of Micah that He would be born in Bethlehem.
- Herod then called the wise men privately and asked them to search carefully for the child and report back so he could "worship Him" too, though in reality he planned to kill Him.
- The wise men followed the star again until it stopped over the place where Jesus was. They were filled with joy, entered the house, saw the child with His mother Mary, bowed down in worship, and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- Being warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their country by another route.

MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE

1. **Universality of Christ's Mission:** The wise men, who were non-Jews, recognized Jesus as King, showing that He came for the whole world, not only Israel.
2. **Guidance of God:** The star symbolized divine direction for those who seek God sincerely.
3. **True Worship:** The wise men worshipped Jesus with reverence, offering their best gifts. Worship must be sincere, sacrificial, and from the heart.
4. **The Evil of Herod:** Herod represents jealousy, fear, and opposition to God's plan. His deceptive attitude shows how people may resist God out of selfish ambition.
5. **Obedience to God:** The wise men obeyed God's warning, showing that God protects His children from danger when they listen to Him.

LESSONS FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY

- We must be seekers of truth and follow God's guidance in our lives.
- Worship should be sincere and involve offering our best (time, talents, possessions) to God.
- Christians must be careful of people who pretend to be good but have evil intentions.
- God reveals Himself to those who diligently seek Him.
- Jesus Christ is the universal Saviour for all people, regardless of nationality or background.

SYMBOLISM OF THE GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN

Gift	**Meaning**
Gold	Sign of kingship and honour – Jesus is King.
Frankincense	Used in worship – Jesus is our High Priest.
Myrrh	Spice for embalming – Points to Jesus' suffering and death.

EVALUATION

1. From where did the wise men come and what guided them?
2. Why was Herod disturbed when he heard about the birth of Jesus?
3. Mention the gifts of the wise men and their meanings.
4. What lessons can Christians learn from the obedience of the wise men?
5. Explain why the visit of the wise men is important for the universal mission of Christ.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write in your own words the story of the visit of the wise men as recorded in Matthew 2:1–12.
2. Explain the significance of each gift presented by the wise men and how they relate to the mission of Jesus.
3. Discuss how Christians today can offer their own “gifts” to Jesus in terms of service, worship, and lifestyle.

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WEEK 4: THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8–20

Background to the Story

- After the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, God chose to announce the good news first to **shepherds**, who were humble, ordinary workers in the field.
- This shows that the message of Christ's birth was for **all people**, not just the rich or powerful.





The Visit of the Shepherds (Luke 2:8–20)

1. **The Angel's Announcement (Luke 2:8–12)**
    - Shepherds were watching over their flocks at night.
    - An **angel appeared** to them, and the **glory of the Lord shone around them**.
    - The angel told them: *"Do not be afraid; I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today, in the city of David, a Saviour has been born, Christ the Lord."*
    - The angel gave them a **sign**: they would find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.
2. **Heavenly Choir (Luke 2:13–14)**
    - Suddenly, a multitude of angels joined, praising God:
      "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."
3. **The Shepherds' Response (Luke 2:15–16)**
    - After the angels left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.
    - They found **Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in a manger**, just as the angel said.
4. **Proclaiming the Good News (Luke 2:17–18)**
    - The shepherds told others about what they had seen and heard.
    - People were amazed at their testimony.
5. **Mary's Reflection (Luke 2:19)**
    - Mary kept all these things in her heart and meditated on them.
6. **The Shepherds' Praise (Luke 2:20)**
    - They returned to their flocks **glorifying and praising God** for all they had witnessed.

Lessons from the Visit of the Shepherds

1. God reveals Himself to the **humble and faithful** (the shepherds were simple workers).

2. The birth of Jesus brings **joy, peace, and salvation** to all mankind.
3. Obedience and quick response to God's message is important (shepherds went immediately).
4. Believers should **share the good news** of Jesus Christ with others (evangelism).
5. Worship and thanksgiving should always follow God's blessings.
6. God's message of salvation is **for everyone** (rich, poor, young, old).

Moral and Spiritual Applications

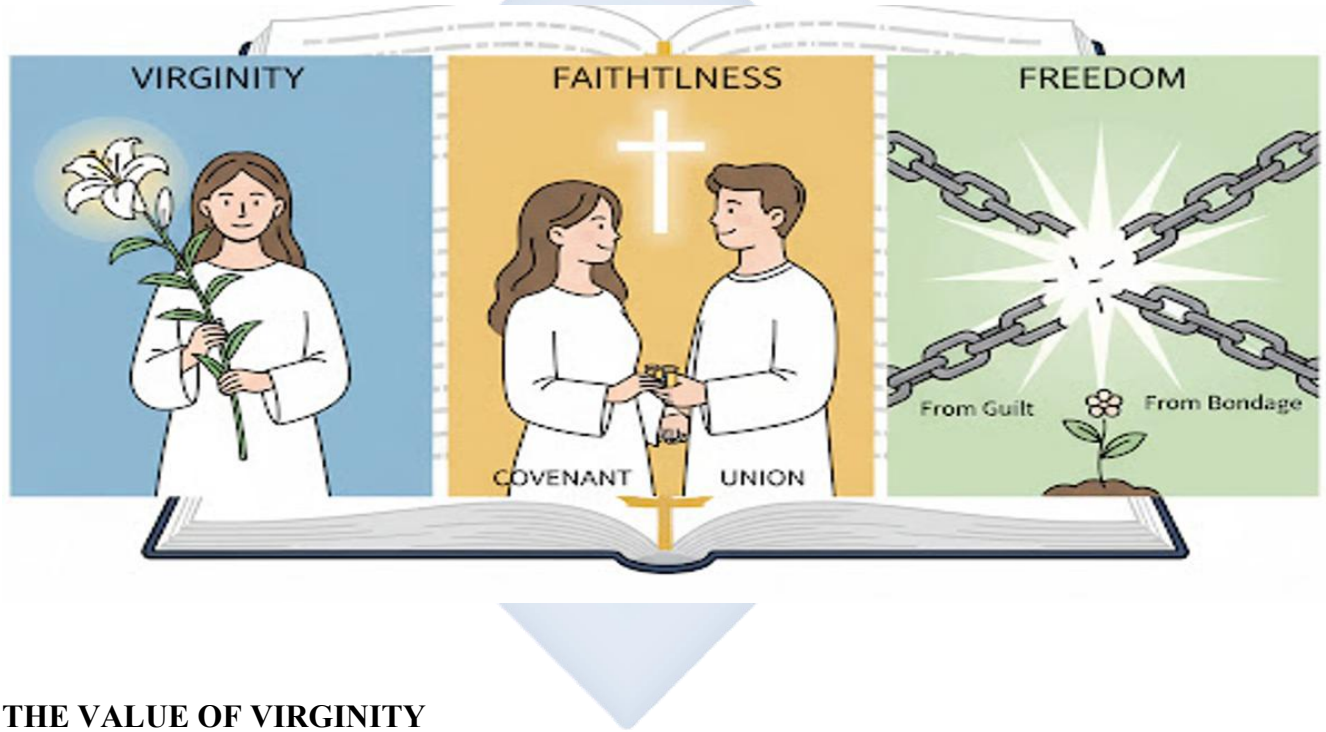
- Christians should be ready to **listen to God's message** and act on it without delay.
- Like the shepherds, we should **spread the gospel** to others.
- Humility is valued by God more than riches or status.
- Christmas (the birth of Jesus) should be a time of **joy, peace, and sharing the message of love**.

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WEEK 6: THE VALUE OF VIRGINITY AND FAITHFULNESS AFTER MARRIAGE

INTRODUCTION

In Christian teaching, **virginity** and **faithfulness in marriage** are highly valued virtues that reflect purity, obedience, and respect for God's commandments. The Bible emphasizes keeping the body holy, honouring God with our sexuality, and being faithful to one's spouse after marriage. Virginity means keeping oneself sexually pure before marriage, while faithfulness after marriage means avoiding adultery or unfaithfulness to one's partner. Both are foundations for a godly family and a healthy society.



THE VALUE OF VIRGINITY

Virginity means abstaining from sexual intercourse before marriage. The Bible teaches that sexual intimacy is reserved only for married couples (Hebrews 13:4). Virginity is therefore a symbol of **purity, discipline, and obedience** to God.

Values of Virginity:

1. **Spiritual Purity** – It shows obedience to God's will and respect for His commandments (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

2. **Self-control** – Virginity teaches young people to exercise self-discipline over their desires.
3. **Preservation of dignity** – It helps individuals maintain respect, honour, and integrity.
4. **Healthy marriage foundation** – It prevents pre-marital complications, mistrust, or regret in future marriages.
5. **Prevention of diseases and unwanted pregnancies** – Virginity protects against sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and early, unplanned pregnancies.
6. **Obedience to God's design** – It follows God's original plan for man and woman to keep sexual intimacy within marriage.

FAITHFULNESS AFTER MARRIAGE

Faithfulness in marriage is the practice of being **loyal, truthful, and sexually committed** to one's spouse. It means avoiding adultery, lying, and betrayal. God commands married people to remain faithful (Exodus 20:14 – "Thou shall not commit adultery").

Values of Faithfulness:

1. **Strengthens love and trust** – Faithfulness builds confidence and mutual respect between husband and wife.
2. **Ensures family stability** – A faithful marriage provides a peaceful and secure home for children.
3. **Honours God's commandment** – Faithfulness is obedience to God's word and shows reverence for marriage.
4. **Promotes good health** – Faithfulness helps prevent sexually transmitted infections that could harm couples.
5. **Promotes social peace** – Faithfulness reduces conflicts, jealousy, and broken homes.
6. **Good example to children** – Faithful couples serve as role models to their children and society.

CHRISTIAN MORAL LESSONS

1. God values purity and condemns sexual immorality before marriage.
2. Virginity is a gift of honour to God and a sign of self-control.
3. Faithfulness after marriage shows love, honesty, and respect between partners.
4. Breaking God's command on sexual purity leads to shame, guilt, diseases, and broken relationships.
5. A Christian is called to live a holy life in both singlehood and marriage.
6. Society benefits when families are built on virginity before marriage and faithfulness after marriage.

EVALUATION

1. Define virginity and faithfulness in marriage.
2. State four values of virginity.
3. Explain three benefits of faithfulness after marriage.
4. What are the consequences of unfaithfulness in marriage?
5. Why is virginity highly valued in Christian teaching?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Discuss five Christian moral lessons from the value of virginity.
2. Explain five ways faithfulness after marriage helps to strengthen family life.
3. With relevant Bible passages, show why Christians should remain sexually pure before marriage and faithful after marriage.

WEEK 8: MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS

Doctrinal and faith implications

The **Virgin Birth of Jesus** is a fundamental belief in Christian theology, teaching that **Jesus Christ was conceived in the womb of His mother, Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit, without the involvement of a human father**. This miraculous event is recorded in the Holy Scriptures, particularly in **Matthew 1:18–25** and **Luke 1:26–38**, and it underscores the divine nature of Jesus and His unique mission on earth. The virgin birth is not only a sign of God's power but also a cornerstone for understanding key Christian doctrines such as the Incarnation, salvation, and prophecy fulfillment.



MEANING OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

- The virgin birth signifies that **Mary, a young virgin, conceived Jesus supernaturally by the Holy Spirit**, without sexual intercourse with a human father.
- It highlights that Jesus' conception was **entirely divine**, demonstrating God's direct involvement in human history.
- This doctrine affirms that Jesus is **both fully divine and fully human** — divine by virtue of His miraculous conception and human because He was born of Mary and shared in the human experience.
- The virgin birth also serves as a **fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy**, specifically Isaiah 7:14: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," meaning "God with us."

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Doctrinal Significance

- **Affirms Jesus as the Son of God**: The virgin birth confirms that Jesus is not a product of human procreation but of divine intervention, establishing His unique identity as God's Son.
- **Supports the Incarnation**: The event demonstrates God taking human form, emphasizing that Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:14).
- **Validates Jesus' divine authority**: Because His birth is supernatural, His teachings, miracles, and authority are divinely sanctioned.
- **Fulfills prophecy**: By being born of a virgin, Jesus fulfills messianic prophecies, validating the truth of God's Word and the reliability of Scripture.
- **Distinguishes Jesus from all other humans**: The virgin birth emphasizes His uniqueness, setting Him apart as the Savior of humanity.

Faith Implications

- **Strengthens belief in God's power**: The miraculous nature of the birth reminds believers that God can accomplish the impossible.
- **Inspires obedience and submission to God**: Mary's acceptance of God's plan serves as a model of faith, showing the importance of trusting God's will.
- **Encourages hope in divine intervention**: Believers are reassured that God actively participates in human affairs to bring about His plan of salvation.
- **Deepens understanding of salvation**: The virgin birth is a key step in God's plan to redeem humanity from sin, emphasizing the spiritual significance of Jesus' life and mission.

Moral and Spiritual Lessons

- **God's sovereignty and supremacy**: The virgin birth illustrates that God is omnipotent and His plans transcend human limitations.
- **Purity and holiness**: Mary's virginity symbolizes purity, obedience, and faithfulness to God's command.
- **Humility and submission**: Mary's acceptance demonstrates humility and willingness to serve God, setting a moral example for believers.
- **The centrality of hope and redemption**: Jesus' birth through a virgin shows that God intervenes in human history to offer salvation and restore humanity's broken relationship with Him.

Practical Relevance to Christians

- Encourages **personal faith and trust** in God during difficult or impossible situations.
- Serves as a **spiritual reminder of God's plan** and His commitment to humanity's redemption.
- Motivates believers to **emulate Mary's obedience and willingness to serve God** in daily life.

- Strengthens **theological understanding**, helping Christians explain the uniqueness of Jesus' birth and its implications for salvation.

EVALUATION

1. Define the Virgin Birth of Jesus and explain its supernatural aspect.
2. Cite two biblical passages that record the virgin birth and explain their significance.
3. Discuss five doctrinal implications of the virgin birth.
4. Explain how the virgin birth strengthens a Christian's faith in God.
5. Identify four moral lessons Christians can learn from Mary's response and the birth of Jesus.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write a detailed essay explaining the doctrinal importance of the virgin birth in Christian theology.
2. Describe how Mary's obedience and faith serve as a model for Christian living.
3. Explain three ways the virgin birth demonstrates God's intervention in human history and His plan of salvation.

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WEEK 9: JESUS AND HIS FAMILY

- Jesus' siblings (Matt. 13:53–56; Mk. 6:1–3)
- Obedience to parents (Lk. 2:51–52)

INTRODUCTION

The family is the first social unit that God created, and it plays an important role in the upbringing of every child. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was not born into a palace or into wealth, but into a humble family of Joseph and Mary in Nazareth. This shows that God values the family system and that children can learn important lessons through their family experiences.

Jesus' family background gives us a clear picture of how He grew up like other children: He had parents who cared for Him, siblings He lived with, and responsibilities He had to obey. The Bible records His life within the family to teach us that even though He was divine, He humbled Himself to follow family order and discipline.

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JESUS' SIBLINGS (Matt. 13:53–56; Mk. 6:1–3)

- After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary had other children. This is confirmed in **Matthew 13:55–56** and **Mark 6:3** where the people of Nazareth identified Jesus as "the carpenter's son" and mentioned His brothers and sisters by name.
- The names of His brothers recorded in Scripture include:
    - **James** – later became a leader in the Jerusalem church.
    - **Joses (Joseph)**.
    - **Simon**.
    - **Judas (Jude)** – believed to be the author of the Epistle of Jude.

- His **sisters** were not mentioned by name, but the plural "sisters" shows that He had at least two.
- Jesus grew up in this family environment where He interacted with His siblings, shared household chores, and lived a normal life like every other child.
- This shows that Jesus was not isolated from the experiences of ordinary human families.

Significance of His Family Life:

- Jesus' family background reveals His humility — the King of Kings lived among ordinary people.
- It emphasizes the importance of the family as the foundation for moral, spiritual, and social training.
- His family life shows that Christians must value their own families and live in harmony with siblings and parents.

OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS (Luke 2:51–52)

- When Jesus was 12 years old, He went with His parents to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. On their way back, He remained in the temple, listening to teachers and asking them questions. His parents searched for Him anxiously for three days.
- When they found Him, Mary questioned Him, but Jesus calmly explained that He must be about His Father's (God's) business.
- Despite this divine mission, He returned with His parents to Nazareth and **was subject to them** (Luke 2:51). This means that He respected and obeyed them in all things.
- As a result of His obedience, the Bible says He grew in four important areas (Luke 2:52):
    - **Wisdom** – intellectual growth.
    - **Stature** – physical growth.
    - **Favour with God** – spiritual growth.

- **Favour with man** – social growth.

Lessons from His Obedience:

- Jesus, though the Son of God, did not consider Himself above parental authority.
- Obedience to parents is part of God's will and brings blessings.
- Disobedience to parents can bring shame, suffering, and even curses.

LESSONS FROM JESUS' FAMILY LIFE

1. **Humility:** Jesus humbled Himself to live in an ordinary family. Children should learn not to be proud but humble in their families.
2. **Value of Family:** His life shows that family is important in God's plan for human development.
3. **Obedience:** Children must obey parents in order to grow properly and receive blessings from God.
4. **Respect for Authority:** Jesus respected Joseph and Mary even though He was greater than them. This teaches respect for elders and leaders.
5. **Balanced Growth:** The record in Luke 2:52 shows that obedience brings growth in wisdom, health, favour with God, and good relationship with others.

EVALUATION

1. Who were the parents of Jesus on earth?
2. List the names of at least four brothers of Jesus.
3. How do we know that Jesus had sisters?
4. According to Luke 2:51–52, how did Jesus show obedience to His parents?
5. Mention four areas in which Jesus grew because of His obedience.

6. State three lessons that Christians can learn from the family life of Jesus.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write short notes on the brothers of Jesus, mentioning what you know about each of them.
2. Explain in detail three ways in which children today can show obedience to their parents.
3. Discuss three important lessons Christians should learn from Jesus' obedience to His earthly parents.

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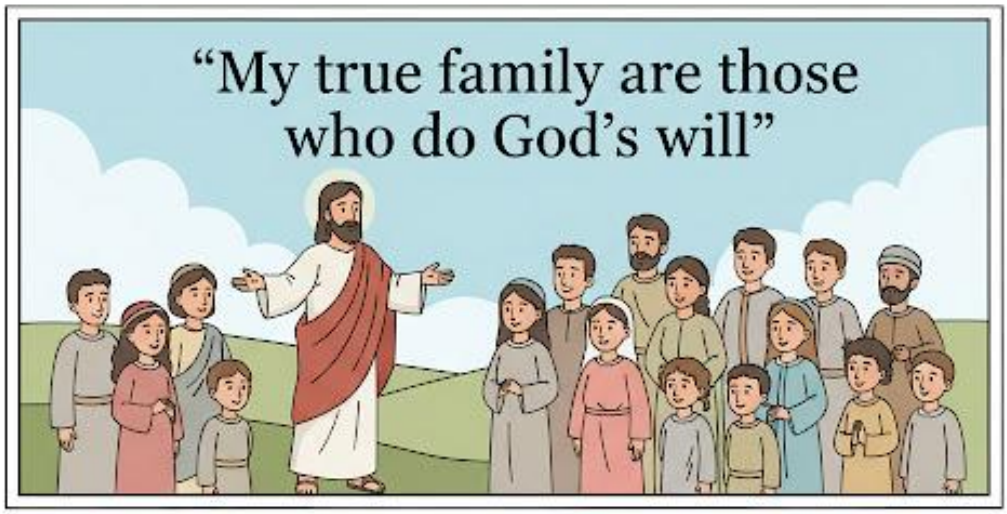
WEEK 10: JESUS' UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY & BAPTISM OF JESUS

Matthew 12:46–50; Mark 3:31–35; John the Baptist as Forerunner (Mark 1:1–8; Luke 3:1–20); Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13–17)

INTRODUCTION

The life and teachings of Jesus provide deep lessons on how Christians should understand relationships, family ties, and spiritual responsibilities. Jesus taught that spiritual relationships built on obedience to God are more important than blood relationships. John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus, emphasized repentance and righteous living. The baptism of Jesus revealed His divine identity and marked the beginning of His public ministry.

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JESUS' UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY (Matt. 12:46–50; Mark 3:31–35)

In these passages, while Jesus was teaching, His mother and brothers came looking for Him. Instead of going out immediately to meet them, Jesus used the occasion to teach a profound lesson about the spiritual family.

Key Lessons:

1. **Spiritual family over biological family** – Jesus declared that those who do the will of His Father are His true brothers, sisters, and mother.

2. **Obedience to God as the basis of family** – Membership in God's family depends not on blood ties but on obedience to God's commandments.
3. **Universal brotherhood in Christ** – Every believer, regardless of tribe, race, or background, belongs to the family of God.
4. **Redefinition of loyalty** – Jesus emphasized loyalty to God's kingdom above personal or cultural ties.

Christian Moral Lessons:

- Christians must prioritize their relationship with God above all earthly relationships.
- Obedience to God makes one part of His eternal family.
- The church community is a spiritual family bound by love and faith.

JOHN THE BAPTIST AS THE FORERUNNER OF JESUS (Mark 1:1–8; Luke 3:1–20)

John the Baptist was the one sent ahead to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. He preached repentance and baptized people in the River Jordan.

Key Roles of John the Baptist:

1. **Messenger of repentance** – He called people to turn away from their sins and live righteously.
2. **Forerunner of Christ** – He prepared the hearts of the people to receive Jesus, fulfilling prophecy (Isaiah 40:3).
3. **Preacher of humility** – John declared that he was not the Messiah but only a servant, unworthy to untie the sandals of Christ.
4. **Baptizer with water** – He baptized with water but foretold that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Christian Moral Lessons:

- Christians should prepare their hearts for God through repentance.

- We must be humble and recognize that our role is to point others to Christ.
- Preachers and leaders should lead with sincerity and not claim God's glory.

BAPTISM OF JESUS (Matthew 3:13–17)

Jesus came to John at the Jordan River to be baptized. John initially objected, saying that Jesus should baptize him, but Jesus insisted "to fulfill all righteousness."

Events during the Baptism:

1. **The Heavens opened** – Signifying divine approval.
2. **The Holy Spirit descended like a dove** – Representing peace, purity, and empowerment for ministry.
3. **A voice from heaven spoke** – "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This confirmed Jesus' identity as the Son of God.

Significance of the Baptism:

- It marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.
- It was an example of humility and obedience to God's will.
- It revealed the **Trinity**: God the Father (voice), God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit (dove).
- It emphasized the importance of baptism in Christian life.

Christian Moral Lessons:

- Christians should follow Jesus' example of humility and obedience.
- Baptism is a sign of new life and identification with God.
- God's approval comes to those who submit to His will.
- The Trinity works together in the salvation of humanity.

EVALUATION

1. Explain Jesus' understanding of family as recorded in Matthew 12:46–50.
2. Who was John the Baptist and what was his role as the forerunner of Jesus?
3. Describe the events that took place at the baptism of Jesus.
4. State three moral lessons Christians can learn from Jesus' baptism.
5. What is the significance of the voice from heaven during the baptism of Jesus?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Discuss five ways Christians today can demonstrate obedience as members of God's spiritual family.
2. Write out four roles of John the Baptist in preparing the way for Jesus, with Bible references.
3. Identify and explain three major events that happened at the baptism of Jesus and their significance to Christian faith.

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JSS2 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES LESSON NOTES

SECOND TERM

Week	Topic	Content
1	Call of the First Disciples	Matt 4:18-22; Mk 1:14-20; Lk 5:1-11
2	Call of the Twelve Disciples	Mk 3:13-19
3	Demands of Discipleship	Matt 8:18-22; Lk 9:57-62; Lk 14:25-34
4	The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:1-12
5	**Midterm Examination**	—
6	Christians as Salt & Light	Matt 5:13-16
7	**Midterm Break**	—
8	Jesus' Teaching on Revenge	Matt 5:38-42
9	Jesus' Teaching on Prayer, Fasting & Forgiveness	Matt 6:5-18; Matt 6:14-15
10	Jesus' Teaching on Love of Money & Anxiety	Matt 6:19-34; Matt 6:25-34
11	**Revision**	—
12	**Examination**	—
13	**Closing**	—

WEEK 1: CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Meaning of Discipleship

A disciple is a follower, learner, or pupil who accepts the teachings of a master and obeys his instructions. In Christianity, disciples are those who follow Jesus Christ, accept His teachings, and commit themselves to spreading His message. The call of the first disciples marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and the establishment of His earthly mission.



The Call of the First Disciples in the Gospels

1. **Matthew 4:18-22**

- Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee when He saw Simon Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea because they were fishermen.
- Jesus said to them, *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*
- Immediately, they left their nets and followed Him.
- Going further, He saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee, in a boat with their father. Jesus called them, and they immediately left their boat and their father to follow Him.

Key Points from Matthew:

- The call was direct and authoritative.
- The response of the disciples was immediate.
- Discipleship required leaving behind work, possessions, and even family ties.

2. **Mark 1:14-20**
   - After John the Baptist was arrested, Jesus began His ministry in Galilee, preaching the good news of God's kingdom, saying, *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel."*
   - While walking along the Sea of Galilee, Jesus called Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John.
   - They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

Key Points from Mark:

- The call of discipleship is linked to repentance and belief in the gospel.
- The urgency of the mission required immediate response.

3. **Luke 5:1-11**
   - Jesus was teaching by Lake Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing on Him.
   - He entered Simon Peter's boat, taught the people, and afterward instructed Peter to cast his net into the deep water.

- Though Peter had laboured all night without success, he obeyed Jesus' command and caught a large number of fish.
- Amazed by the miracle, Peter fell at Jesus' feet, acknowledging his sinfulness.
- Jesus reassured him, saying, *"Fear not; from now on you will catch men."*
- Peter, along with James and John, left everything and followed Jesus.

Key Points from Luke:

- The call was accompanied by a miracle (the great catch of fish).
- Discipleship requires humility and recognition of one's unworthiness.
- Following Jesus demands total commitment and leaving everything behind.

Lessons from the Call of the First Disciples

- **Obedience to Jesus:** The disciples immediately obeyed without questioning.
- **Sacrifice:** They abandoned their fishing business and family ties to follow Christ.
- **Faith in Jesus' Word:** Peter obeyed Jesus even when it seemed unreasonable to fish again.
- **Total Commitment:** True discipleship requires putting Jesus above material possessions, profession, and even family.
- **Humility:** Peter acknowledged his sinfulness before Jesus, showing the need for repentance.
- **Partnership in God's Mission:** The disciples were chosen to work with Jesus in spreading the gospel.

Importance of the Call of the First Disciples

- It shows the beginning of Jesus' mission on earth.

- It emphasizes that Jesus calls ordinary people and transforms them for His purpose.
- It demonstrates the qualities expected of a disciple: obedience, sacrifice, faith, and humility.
- It highlights the urgency of God's mission, which requires immediate response.
- It teaches that following Jesus is more important than earthly occupations.
- It reminds Christians that God can use anyone, regardless of background, for His work.

EVALUATION

1. Who is a disciple?
2. Summarize the call of the first disciples as recorded in Matthew 4:18-22.
3. How is Mark's account of the call of the disciples connected with repentance and belief in the gospel?
4. Describe the miraculous catch of fish in Luke 5:1-11 and its significance.
5. List four lessons Christians can learn from the call of the first disciples.
6. Explain why immediate obedience is important in discipleship.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write in detail how Jesus called His first disciples according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
2. Identify and explain five qualities of true discipleship shown by Peter, Andrew, James, and John.
3. As a Christian student today, explain three ways you can respond positively to God's call in your life.

WEEK 2: CALL OF THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

- A **disciple** is a follower or learner who submits to the teaching, guidance and leadership of a master or teacher.
- In Christianity, the term *disciples* refers to those who followed Jesus, learned from Him, and spread His teachings.
- Among His many followers, Jesus specially selected **twelve men** to be with Him more closely. These became known as **the Twelve Disciples or Apostles**.
- Their call shows the importance of leadership and service in God's work.

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BIBLICAL ACCOUNT (MARK 3:13–19)

- Jesus went up on a **mountain** to pray and then called to Himself those He wanted.
- From among His many followers, He chose **twelve men** to be His close companions.
- He appointed them to:
    1. **Be with Him** – to learn directly from His words and actions.
    2. **Preach the Gospel** – to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God.
    3. **Have authority to heal and cast out demons** – to perform miracles as proof of God's power.

- The names of the **twelve disciples** are:

    1. **Simon Peter** (to whom He gave the name Peter)
    2. **James**, son of Zebedee
    3. **John**, brother of James (Jesus gave James and John the name *Boanerges*, meaning "sons of thunder")
    4. **Andrew**
    5. **Philip**
    6. **Bartholomew**
    7. **Matthew** (the tax collector)
    8. **Thomas**
    9. **James**, son of Alphaeus
    10. **Thaddaeus** (also called Judas, son of James, or Lebbaeus)
    11. **Simon the Zealot**
    12. **Judas Iscariot** (the one who later betrayed Jesus).

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

- They came from **ordinary backgrounds**: fishermen, tax collectors, and common men.
- They were not chosen because of wealth, education, or social status.
- They were **obedient**: they left their work, families, and possessions to follow Jesus.
- They were **teachable**: they spent time listening to and learning from Jesus.
- They were **courageous**: they faced persecution, hardships, and death for the sake of the gospel.

- They were **human**: they had weaknesses (fear, doubt, betrayal), yet Jesus still used them mightily.

LESSONS FROM THE CALL OF THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

- **God uses ordinary people**: Jesus chose simple men to show that God can use anyone who is willing.
- **Obedience to God's call** is important. The disciples responded immediately when called.
- **Service and sacrifice**: following Jesus requires sacrifice of time, comfort, and sometimes livelihood.
- **Discipleship is about learning and doing**: the disciples not only listened to Jesus but also practiced what He taught.
- **Spiritual authority comes from God**: Jesus empowered them to heal and cast out demons.
- **Teamwork**: Jesus called them as a group, showing the importance of working together in ministry.
- **Commitment**: discipleship is a lifelong calling, not a temporary duty.

RELEVANCE TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

- Every Christian is called to be a disciple of Jesus, to learn from Him and spread His message.
- Christians are expected to live in **obedience, humility, and service** like the twelve.
- The authority to preach, heal, and overcome evil is still given to believers through the Holy Spirit.
- Christians today must be ready to make sacrifices (comfort, wealth, time) for the sake of God's kingdom.

- Team spirit and unity remain essential for the growth of the Church.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. Define the term *disciple* in the Christian context.
2. State three reasons why Jesus chose the twelve disciples.
3. List the names of the twelve disciples as recorded in Mark 3:13–19.
4. Mention three characteristics of the disciples.
5. Identify three lessons Christians can learn from the call of the twelve disciples.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Explain why Jesus gave authority to His disciples to heal and cast out demons.
2. Write a short note on the background of at least five of the disciples.
3. In what three ways can Christians today fulfill their role as disciples of Jesus?

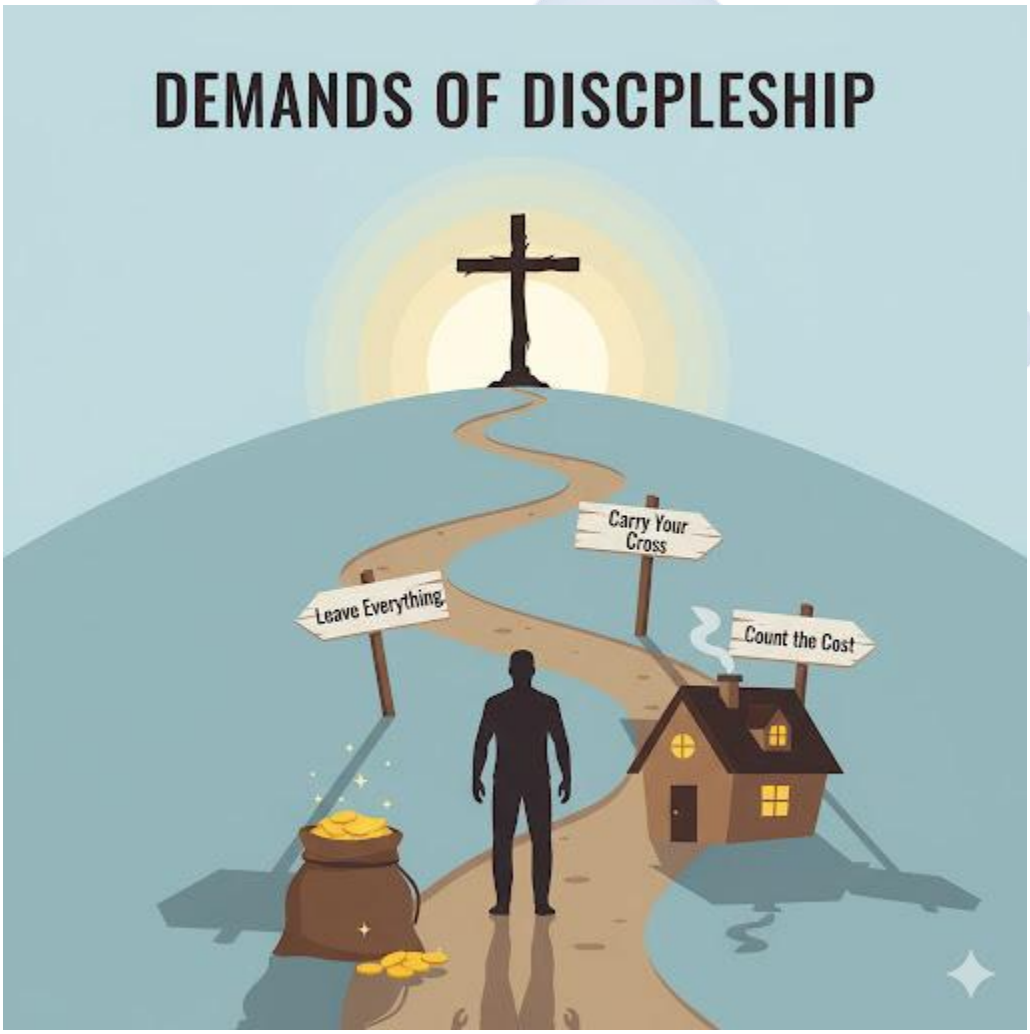
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WEEK 3: DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 8:18–22; Luke 9:57–62; Luke 14:25–34

INTRODUCTION

Discipleship means following Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, learning from Him, obeying His teachings, and living according to His example. It is not an easy journey because it involves sacrifices, discipline, and a total commitment of one's life. Jesus made it clear to those who wanted to follow Him that discipleship has costs and serious demands.



BIBLICAL REFERENCES AND TEACHINGS

1. Matthew 8:18–22

- A teacher of the law told Jesus, *"Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."*
- Jesus replied, *"Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*
    - Meaning: Following Jesus requires sacrifice, including giving up comfort and security.
- Another disciple said he wanted to first bury his father before following Jesus.
- Jesus replied, *"Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."*
    - Meaning: The call to follow Jesus is urgent and should be placed above all other duties.

2. Luke 9:57–62

- Three different people expressed their willingness to follow Jesus, but each had excuses:
    1. Jesus warned one about the cost of having no permanent place or worldly comfort.
    2. Another wanted to bury his father first, but Jesus demanded immediate commitment.
    3. Another wanted to say goodbye to his family, but Jesus said, *"No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*
- Lesson: A disciple must follow Jesus without divided loyalty, hesitation, or regret.

3. Luke 14:25–34

- Jesus taught that anyone who wants to follow Him must:

- Hate father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, and even their own life (meaning: love Christ above all else, not literally hate).
- Carry their own cross and follow Him, showing readiness to suffer.
- Count the cost, just like a man who plans to build a tower must calculate expenses before starting, or a king going to war must assess his strength.

- Lesson: True discipleship requires total surrender, sacrifice, and perseverance.

DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. **Total Commitment:** Jesus must be given first place above family, possessions, and personal ambitions.
2. **Sacrifice:** A disciple must be ready to give up comfort, wealth, and personal desires for Christ.
3. **Obedience:** A disciple must obey Jesus' commands without excuses or delay.
4. **Self-Denial:** Willingness to carry the cross, endure suffering, and reject selfish interests.
5. **Counting the Cost:** Before following Christ, one must be ready to face difficulties, opposition, and challenges.
6. **Undivided Loyalty:** A disciple must not look back or be distracted by worldly pleasures.

LESSONS FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY

- Following Jesus is not easy, but it is rewarding.
- Christians must be prepared to sacrifice time, wealth, pleasure, and even relationships for Christ.
- Excuses hinder spiritual growth and commitment; true discipleship requires urgency.
- We must always count the cost, knowing that discipleship involves challenges but also eternal life.

- Total loyalty and devotion to Christ lead to victory and eternal reward.

EVALUATION

1. Define discipleship and explain its meaning.
2. Mention the excuses given by the men in Luke 9:57–62.
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, *"Foxes have holes, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head"*?
4. Explain the statement, *"Let the dead bury their dead."*
5. State three demands of discipleship according to Luke 14:25–34.

ASSIGNMENT

1. In your own words, explain the meaning of discipleship and why it is costly.
2. Discuss five demands of discipleship with relevant Bible passages.
3. Outline three practical ways Christian youths today can show true discipleship in their daily lives.

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WEEK 4: THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5:1–12

Background to the Beatitudes

- The Beatitudes are part of **Jesus' Sermon on the Mount**.
- They are a set of **eight blessings** that describe the attitudes and characteristics of those who belong to the Kingdom of God.
- The word *Beatitude* comes from the Latin *beatus*, meaning **blessed or happy**.
- Through the Beatitudes, Jesus taught His followers how to live a righteous life that pleases God and ensures eternal reward.



The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12)

1. **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
    - *Meaning:* Those who recognize their spiritual need and depend on God will inherit God's kingdom.
2. **Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**
    - *Meaning:* Those who grieve over sin, suffering, or hardship will be comforted by God.
3. **Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**
    - *Meaning:* The humble, gentle, and patient will receive God's blessings and peace.
4. **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.**
    - *Meaning:* Those who desire holiness and justice will be satisfied by God.
5. **Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**
    - *Meaning:* Those who forgive and show kindness will also receive mercy from God.
6. **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**
    - *Meaning:* Those who are sincere, truthful, and holy will have fellowship with God.
7. **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.**
    - *Meaning:* Those who promote peace, reconciliation, and unity are true children of God.
8. **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
    - *Meaning:* Christians who suffer for doing what is right will be rewarded by God.

9. **Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.**
    - *Meaning:* Christians should not be discouraged by persecution but should remain joyful, knowing their reward awaits in heaven.

Lessons from the Beatitudes

1. True happiness is not found in riches or power but in living a life pleasing to God.
2. Christians should show **humility, mercy, purity, and love** in their daily lives.
3. Suffering and persecution for Christ's sake should be endured with faith.
4. God rewards righteousness, forgiveness, and peacemaking.
5. Believers must hunger for spiritual growth and holiness.
6. The Beatitudes form the **character of a true Christian disciple**.

Moral and Spiritual Applications

- Christians should be **humble and gentle** in dealing with others.
- We must show **mercy and forgiveness**, just as God forgives us.
- We should **seek peace** in families, schools, communities, and the nation.
- Enduring trials and persecution for righteousness brings eternal blessings.
- A Christian's life should reflect the **values of the Beatitudes** daily.

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WEEK 6: CHRISTIANS AS SALT AND LIGHT

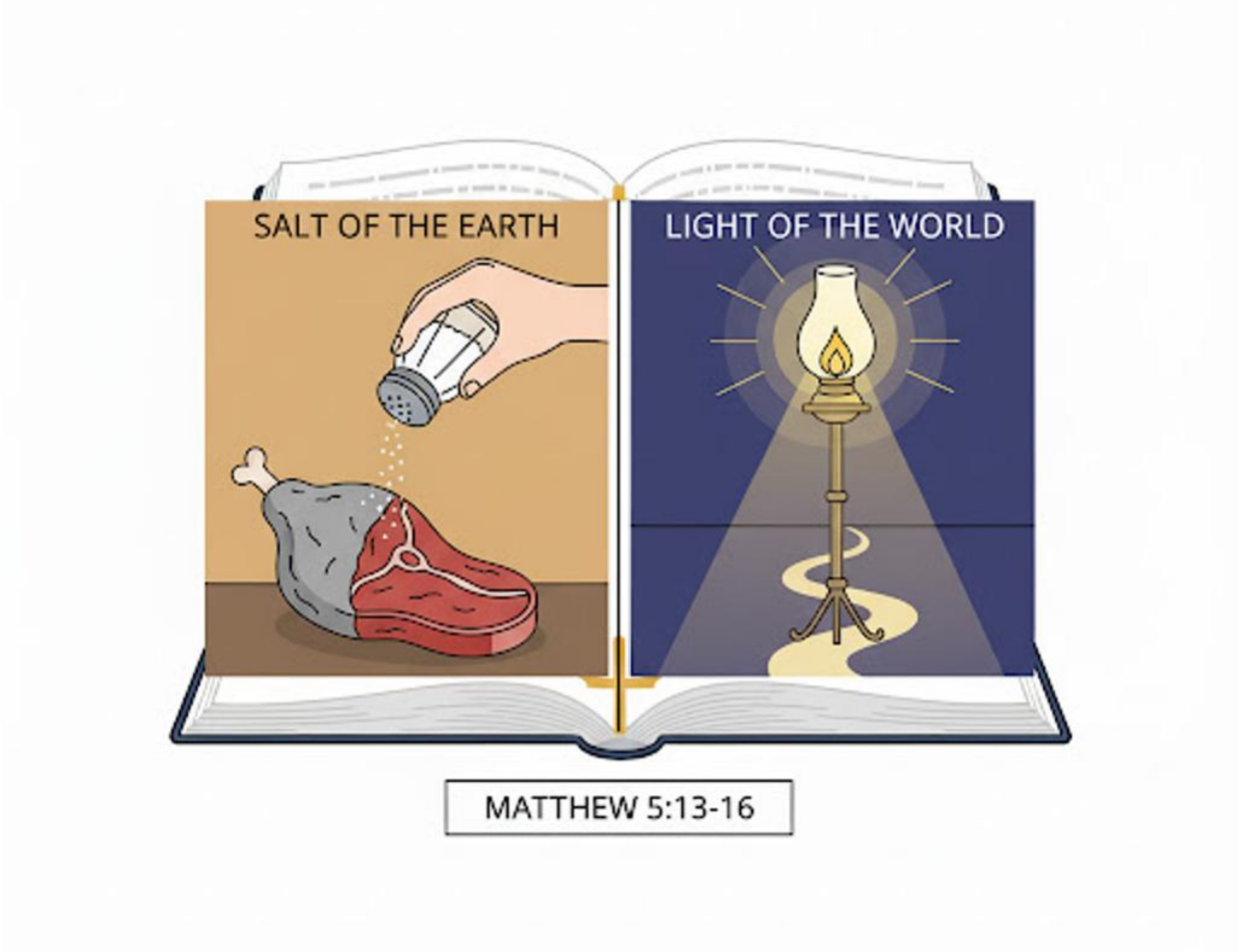
Matthew 5:13–16

INTRODUCTION

In Matthew 5:13–16, part of the famous *Sermon on the Mount*, Jesus Christ used two common but powerful metaphors to describe the identity and responsibility of His followers: **salt** and **light**. These metaphors were carefully chosen because they carried great meaning to the people of His time and continue to be relevant today. Salt was essential in the ancient world for preserving food, adding taste, and purifying. Light was indispensable for visibility, safety, and guidance in a world without electricity.

By calling Christians "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world," Jesus meant that believers should have a **transformative influence** on society. Just as salt and light change the environment around them, Christians should shape the world through righteous living, good works, and moral guidance. Without salt, food spoils; without light, darkness prevails. Similarly, without true Christians, the world becomes spiritually rotten and dark.

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CHRISTIANS AS SALT OF THE EARTH (Matthew 5:13)

Jesus said: *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its taste, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."*

FUNCTIONS OF SALT IN ANCIENT AND MODERN TIMES:

1. **Preservation** – Salt prevents decay. In biblical times, without refrigeration, people used salt to preserve meat and fish. Likewise, Christians are expected to prevent moral decay in society by living holy lives, speaking against corruption, and upholding godly values.
2. **Seasoning/Flavor** – Salt makes food tasty and enjoyable. Christians, by their good conduct and love, should bring joy, peace, and hope into the lives of others, making the world a better place.

3. **Purification** – Salt has cleansing properties. In the Old Testament, salt was sometimes used in sacrifices to symbolize purity (Leviticus 2:13). Christians are called to live pure lives, resisting sin and promoting holiness.

4. **Healing** – Salt water is used even today for healing wounds. In the same way, Christians should bring healing—emotional, physical, and spiritual—through acts of kindness, forgiveness, and compassion.

5. **Value/Importance** – Salt was so valuable in ancient times that it was sometimes used as money. In the same way, Christians are valuable and precious in God's plan to save the world.

LESSON FROM "LOSING SALTINESS":

- Salt that loses its taste is useless. In the same way, Christians who compromise their faith, neglect prayer and God's word, or behave like the world lose their spiritual effectiveness.
- Such "tasteless" Christians fail to influence society and risk rejection by God.

CHRISTIANS AS LIGHT OF THE WORLD (Matthew 5:14–16)

Jesus further declared: *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

FUNCTIONS OF LIGHT:

1. **Illumination/Dispelling Darkness** – Light removes darkness. Christians are called to expose the works of sin and bring the truth of God to those living in ignorance.

2. **Guidance/Direction** – Light shows the way. Christians should guide others to Christ by being role models of integrity, honesty, humility, and love.

3. **Visibility** – A city on a hill is easily seen; light placed on a lampstand gives light to all. Christians should live openly as children of God, not hiding their faith, but showing Christ in their daily lives.

4. **Security and Safety** – Light prevents accidents and dangers. Christians bring moral stability to society by promoting peace, justice, and godly values.
5. **Glorification of God** – Jesus emphasized that our good works should shine, not for self-praise, but so people will glorify God. Our actions should always point back to God as the source of goodness.

PRACTICAL WAYS CHRISTIANS CAN BE SALT AND LIGHT

- Living a life of honesty and refusing to join in corruption (exam malpractice, bribery, lying).
- Helping the needy and showing love to classmates, neighbours, and strangers.
- Speaking out against evil and injustice in society.
- Forgiving others instead of taking revenge.
- Respecting parents, teachers, elders, and constituted authority.
- Sharing the word of God and inviting others to church.
- Being hardworking, disciplined, and diligent in school and community activities.

CHRISTIAN MORAL LESSONS

1. Every Christian has a responsibility to positively influence the world, just as salt and light affect their environment.
2. A Christian life must preserve moral values in society and prevent corruption.
3. Our good deeds should glorify God, not ourselves. Pride cancels true Christian witness.
4. A Christian should not hide his or her faith. Boldness in Christ is a sign of true discipleship.
5. Christians must be consistent in good works both in private and in public life.

6. Failure to live as salt and light leads to spiritual uselessness and judgment.

EVALUATION

1. What did Jesus mean when He said Christians are the “salt of the earth”?
2. Explain three functions of salt that apply to Christian life.
3. In what ways can Christians be the “light of the world”?
4. What lesson can Christians learn from salt that loses its taste?
5. Why should Christians let their good works shine before others?

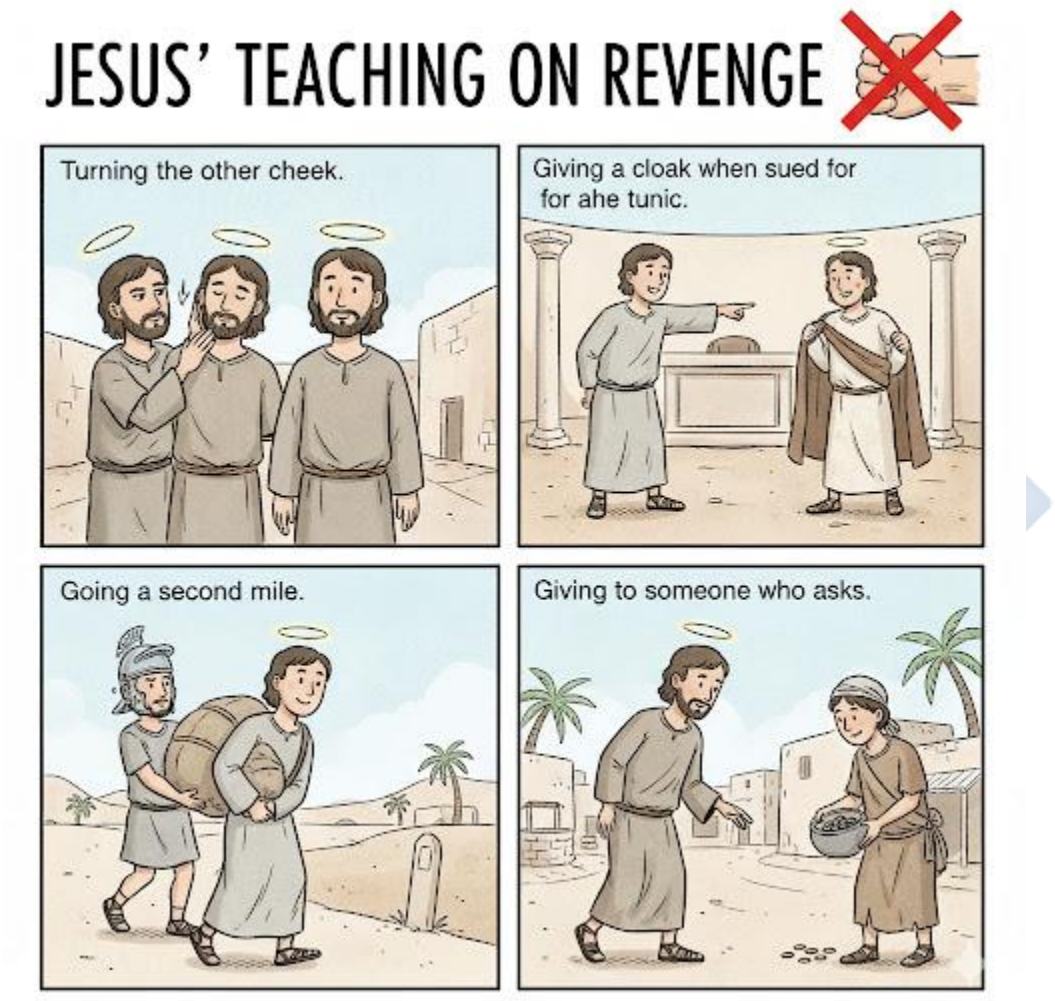
ASSIGNMENT

1. Discuss **five practical ways** students can be the “salt of the earth” in their schools and communities.
2. Write short notes on **three qualities of light** that describe how Christians should live in the world.
3. Memorize and explain **Matthew 5:16** in your own words, showing how it applies to daily Christian living.

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WEEK 8: JESUS' TEACHING ON REVENGE (MATT. 5:38–42)

Jesus Christ, in His **Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:38–42)**, gave a radical teaching on how His followers should respond to evil, injustice, and personal offense. This teaching was contrary to the traditional Jewish law of **"an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth"** (the law of retaliation, known as *lex talionis*). Instead of encouraging revenge or retaliation, Jesus emphasized forgiveness, love, patience, and non-retaliation as marks of true Christian living.



THE JEWISH LAW OF REVENGE (*Lex Talionis*)

- The Jews practiced the law of **retaliation**, as recorded in **Exodus 21:23–25**, **Leviticus 24:19–20**, and **Deuteronomy 19:21**.

- The law stated: *"An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."* This meant that anyone who caused harm should receive an equal punishment.
- Originally, this law was meant to **limit revenge** and prevent excessive punishment. However, over time it was abused, and people began to apply it even in personal matters, using it as an excuse for hatred and retaliation.

JESUS' TEACHING ON REVENGE (MATT. 5:38–42)

Jesus corrected the misunderstanding of the old law by teaching His followers to go beyond revenge and practice **love and forgiveness**:

1. **Do not resist an evil person** (v. 39a)
    - Jesus instructed believers not to retaliate when offended, but to show restraint and self-control.
2. **Turn the other cheek** (v. 39b)
    - Instead of responding with violence when insulted, Jesus urged His followers to demonstrate patience, humility, and forgiveness.
3. **Give more than is demanded** (v. 40)
    - If someone sues you for your coat, give your cloak also. This teaches generosity and willingness to let go of material possessions for the sake of peace.
4. **Go the extra mile** (v. 41)
    - In Roman law, soldiers could compel civilians to carry their loads for one mile. Jesus taught His disciples to willingly go two miles, demonstrating kindness and willingness to serve beyond what is expected.
5. **Give to those in need** (v. 42)
    - Jesus encouraged generosity towards the poor and needy, emphasizing a spirit of compassion and selflessness rather than revenge.

SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' TEACHING

Spiritual Significance

- Teaches believers to live differently from the world by practicing forgiveness and non-retaliation.
- Emphasizes that true righteousness goes beyond the law to embrace love, mercy, and compassion.
- Demonstrates God's standard of holiness, which calls Christians to rise above hatred and vengeance.

Moral and Social Lessons

- Promotes peace and harmony in families, schools, and communities by discouraging revenge.
- Encourages Christians to be patient, tolerant, and forgiving even when wronged.
- Prevents escalation of violence and promotes reconciliation.
- Builds a society based on justice, mercy, and love rather than hatred and retaliation.

Practical Implications for Christians Today

- Christians are called to forgive those who hurt them instead of seeking revenge.
- They should cultivate humility, patience, and self-control when insulted or provoked.
- Believers are encouraged to show kindness and generosity to both friends and enemies.
- The teaching challenges Christians to reflect the character of Christ by responding to evil with good (Romans 12:17–21).

EVALUATION

1. What was the Jewish law of retaliation, and what was its original purpose?
2. Explain three major points in Jesus' teaching on revenge in Matthew 5:38–42.
3. How does "turning the other cheek" demonstrate Christian humility and forgiveness?
4. State four moral lessons Christians can learn from Jesus' teaching on revenge.
5. Why is Jesus' teaching on revenge still relevant in today's society?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write out Matthew 5:38–42 in your notebook and explain its meaning in your own words.
2. Discuss five ways a Christian student can practice Jesus' teaching on revenge in the school environment.
3. Compare the Jewish law of retaliation (*lex talionis*) with Jesus' teaching on forgiveness, highlighting at least three differences.

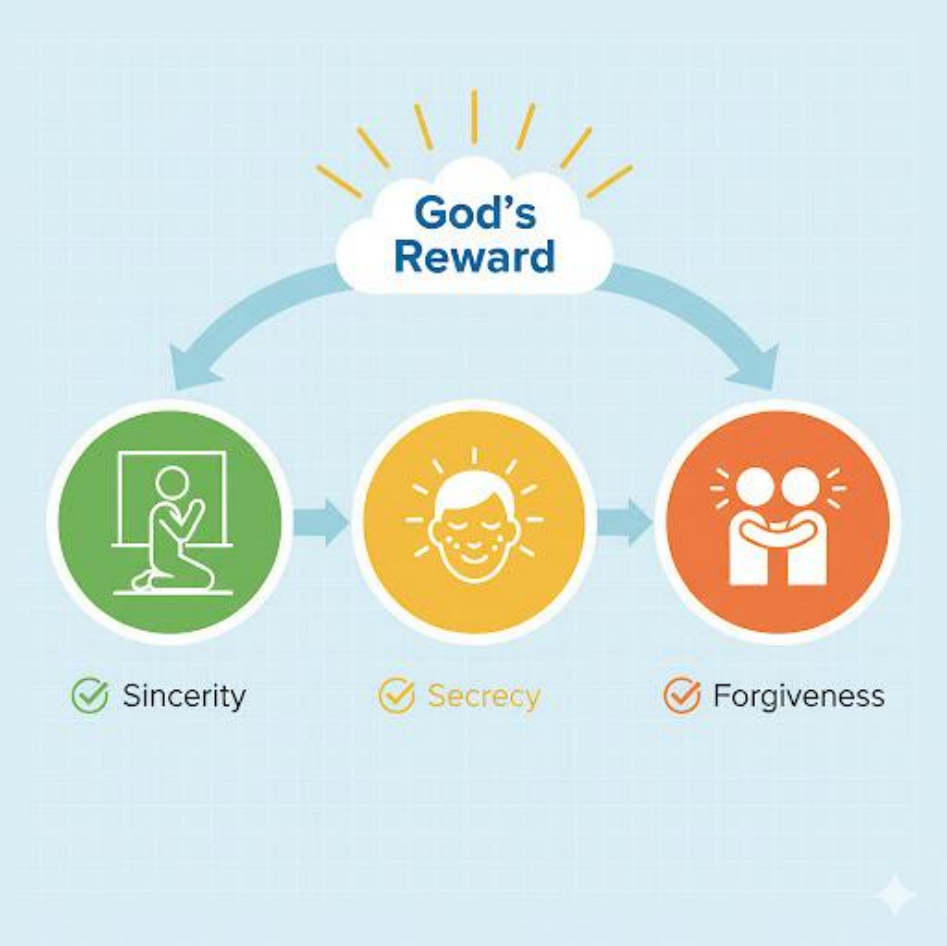
WEEK 9: JESUS' TEACHING ON PRAYER, FASTING AND FORGIVENESS

- Jesus' teaching on prayer (Matt. 6:5–8)
- Jesus' teaching on fasting (Matt. 6:16–18)
- Jesus' teaching on forgiveness (Matt. 6:14–15)

INTRODUCTION

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ taught His disciples about true religion and how to serve God sincerely without hypocrisy. Many people in His time prayed, fasted, and gave alms just to be noticed by others. Jesus warned that such practices are meaningless before God. Instead, He emphasized sincerity of heart, humility, and obedience as the true marks of worship.

Prayer, fasting, and forgiveness are important practices in Christianity, but they must be done with the right attitude. Jesus gave specific instructions on how His followers should carry them out so that their worship will be acceptable before God.



JESUS' TEACHING ON PRAYER (Matt. 6:5–8)

- Jesus condemned the habit of hypocritical prayer. The Pharisees and some Jews prayed openly in synagogues and street corners to show off their religiosity.
- He said that such people already have their reward – human praise – but no reward from God.
- Jesus taught that true prayer should be:
    - **Sincere** – not for show or public display.
    - **Private** – go into your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father in secret.
    - **Brief and meaningful** – not full of vain repetitions or empty words.
    - **Faith-filled** – trusting that God knows our needs even before we ask.

Lesson: Prayer is a communication with God, not a performance for men. God rewards sincere and humble prayers.

JESUS' TEACHING ON FASTING (Matt. 6:16–18)

- Fasting means abstaining from food and other pleasures in order to devote time to prayer and fellowship with God.
- The Pharisees in Jesus' time often disfigured their faces and appeared gloomy so that people would know they were fasting.
- Jesus condemned this attitude as hypocrisy.
- He taught that fasting should be:
    - **Done in humility** – without announcing it or drawing attention to oneself.
    - **Done secretly** – "anoint your head and wash your face" so that no one knows you are fasting.
    - **Done for God** – the Father who sees in secret will reward openly.

Lesson: Fasting is not about impressing others but about seeking God sincerely with humility and devotion.

JESUS' TEACHING ON FORGIVENESS (Matt. 6:14–15)

- Jesus emphasized the importance of forgiveness in the believer's life.
- He said:
    - If you forgive others their offences, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.
    - If you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.
- Forgiveness is therefore a condition for receiving God's mercy.

- This teaching is also seen in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

Lesson: Forgiveness is central to Christian living. It reflects God's mercy and prevents bitterness, hatred, and division.

GENERAL LESSONS FROM JESUS' TEACHINGS

1. Christians should pray sincerely to God, not to impress people.
2. Fasting should be done privately and humbly, not for show.
3. Forgiveness is compulsory for those who want to receive forgiveness from God.
4. True spirituality is not about outward display but about inner sincerity and obedience to God.
5. Hypocrisy in religion brings no reward from God.

EVALUATION

1. Why did Jesus condemn the way the Pharisees prayed?
2. State three qualities of true Christian prayer according to Matthew 6:5–8.
3. What wrong attitude did Jesus condemn in fasting?
4. Explain what Jesus meant by "anoint your head and wash your face" during fasting.
5. According to Matthew 6:14–15, what is the relationship between forgiveness and God's mercy?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Explain five reasons why Christians should forgive one another.
2. Write short notes on the right and wrong ways of praying and fasting.

3. How can practicing forgiveness, prayer, and fasting help to build peace and unity in a Christian community?

WEEK 10: JESUS' TEACHING ON LOVE OF MONEY AND ANXIETY

Matthew 6:19–34; Matthew 6:25–34



INTRODUCTION

In the *Sermon on the Mount*, Jesus addressed two very important issues that affect human life and spiritual growth: **the love of money** and **anxiety about daily needs**. Money, though useful and necessary for human existence, can easily become a source of greed, selfishness, and idolatry if people put their trust in it instead of God. Anxiety, on the other hand, is excessive worry about the future, such as what to eat, drink, or wear. Jesus warned His followers against storing up treasures on earth at the expense of treasures in heaven, and He commanded them not

to worry about daily needs because God, their heavenly Father, knows and provides all that they need.

This teaching is very relevant in today's world where many people chase wealth at all costs, even through corruption, fraud, rituals, or dishonest business. Similarly, anxiety has consumed many, leading to depression, fear, or loss of faith in God. Jesus' words remind Christians to put **God first**, trust in His provision, and use material wealth responsibly.

JESUS' TEACHING ON LOVE OF MONEY (Matthew 6:19–24)

Jesus warned His disciples about placing too much value on earthly wealth.

MAIN TEACHINGS:

1. **Treasures on Earth vs. Treasures in Heaven**
    - Earthly treasures such as gold, silver, clothes, and property can be destroyed by moths, rust, or stolen by thieves. They are temporary and unreliable.
    - Heavenly treasures (acts of righteousness, obedience, love, and service to God) are eternal and cannot be destroyed.
2. **Where Your Treasure Is, There Your Heart Will Be**
    - The thing a person values most controls his or her life.
    - If wealth is the centre of one's heart, such a person becomes a slave to money instead of serving God.
3. **The Eye as the Lamp of the Body**
    - Jesus compared the eye to a lamp. A good, generous, and contented eye fills the body with light (righteous living).
    - A bad, greedy, and envious eye fills the body with darkness (evil and selfishness).
4. **No One Can Serve Two Masters**

- A person cannot serve both God and money (mammon). One must be supreme over the other.
- Choosing money over God leads to idolatry, but choosing God leads to peace and eternal life.

LESSONS FROM JESUS' TEACHING ON LOVE OF MONEY

- Wealth is not evil, but greed and misuse of money are dangerous.
- Christians should use money to glorify God, help the needy, and support the work of the gospel.
- Lasting security comes only from God, not from riches.

JESUS' TEACHING ON ANXIETY (Matthew 6:25–34)

After teaching about wealth, Jesus addressed the problem of **worrying over basic needs** like food, drink, and clothing.

MAIN TEACHINGS:

1. **Do Not Worry About Daily Needs**
   - Life is more important than food, and the body is more important than clothes.
   - Worrying cannot add a single day to a person's life.
2. **Examples from Nature**
   - **The Birds of the Air:** They do not sow, reap, or store in barns, yet God feeds them.
   - **The Lilies of the Field:** They do not work or spin, yet they are clothed more beautifully than King Solomon in all his glory.
   - These show that God cares for His creation and will surely care for human beings, who are of greater value.
3. **Anxiety Shows Lack of Faith**

- Worry is a sign of doubt in God's power and provision.
- Jesus called His anxious followers "men of little faith."

4. **Seek First the Kingdom of God**
    - Instead of worrying about food and clothing, Christians should seek God's kingdom and righteousness.
    - When we put God first, He promises to add all other necessities of life.

LESSONS FROM JESUS' TEACHING ON ANXIETY

- Worry is useless; it cannot solve problems. Instead, it increases stress and fear.
- Trusting God gives peace of mind and freedom from unnecessary anxiety.
- Christians should focus on spiritual growth, obedience to God, and service to others, trusting that God will provide for their needs.
- Contentment and gratitude are keys to overcoming anxiety.

RELEVANCE OF JESUS' TEACHING TO MODERN CHRISTIANS

- In today's society where corruption, fraud (yahoo-yahoo), money rituals, and get-rich-quick attitudes are common, Christians must resist the temptation to love money more than God.
- Many young people are anxious about the future (education, job, marriage, success), but Christians should learn to commit their future into God's hands.
- Instead of hoarding wealth or living in constant fear of lack, Christians should practice generosity, contentment, and strong faith.
- Seeking God's kingdom first through prayer, Bible study, evangelism, and righteous living should be the priority of every believer.

MORAL LESSONS

1. Christians should invest in heavenly treasures that are eternal rather than earthly riches that perish.
2. It is impossible to serve God and money at the same time. Christians must make a choice for God.
3. Worry and anxiety are signs of lack of trust in God. Believers should depend fully on God's provision.
4. Just as God provides for birds and flowers, He will surely provide for His children.
5. The best way to overcome the love of money and anxiety is to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

EVALUATION

1. What did Jesus teach about storing up treasures on earth and treasures in heaven?
2. Explain the meaning of "No one can serve two masters" in Matthew 6:24.
3. How did Jesus use the birds of the air and lilies of the field to teach against anxiety?
4. Why does Jesus say that worrying is useless?
5. State three moral lessons Christians can learn from Jesus' teaching on love of money and anxiety.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write five dangers of loving money more than God in today's society.
2. Discuss four ways Christians can overcome anxiety about the future.
3. Explain, in your own words, what it means to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," and how a Christian student can practice this in daily life.

JSS2 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES LESSON NOTES

THIRD TERM

Week	Topic	Content
1	The Triumphal Entry	Matt 21:1-11; Mk 11:1-11; Lk 19:28-44
2	The Last Supper	Matt 26:17-30
3	Betrayal & Arrest of Jesus	Mk 14:43-52; Matt 26:47-56
4	Trial & Peter's Denial	Matt 26:57-75; Situations leading to denial of Christ
5	**Midterm Examination**	—
6	Crucifixion of Jesus	Matt 27:32-44
7	**Midterm Break**	—
8	Death and Burial of Jesus	Matt 27:45-61
9	Resurrection of Jesus	Matt 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-12
10	Appearances, Significance & Role of Women	Post-resurrection appearances; Meaning for Christians today; Women in the resurrection
11	**Revision**	—
12	**Examination**	—
13	**Closing**	—

WEEK 1: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Introduction

The Triumphal Entry refers to the joyful and celebratory entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem shortly before His arrest, trial, and crucifixion. It is significant because it fulfilled Old Testament prophecies and revealed Jesus as the promised Messiah and King. This event is recorded in the three synoptic gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—and is celebrated in Christendom as **Palm Sunday**.



The Triumphal Entry According to the Gospels

1. **Matthew 21:1-11**

- Jesus and His disciples approached Jerusalem, coming to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives.
- He sent two disciples to fetch a donkey and its colt, telling them they would find them tied.
- If questioned, they were to reply, *"The Lord has need of them."*
- This fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9: *"Behold, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey."*
- The disciples brought the donkey and colt, laid their garments on them, and Jesus sat on them.
- The crowd spread their clothes on the road, others cut branches (palms) and laid them down.
- The people shouted, *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"*
- The whole city was stirred, asking, *"Who is this?"* and the crowd answered, *"This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."*

2. **Mark 11:1-11**
   - Jesus instructed two disciples to fetch a colt that had never been ridden, tied at a village ahead.
   - If anyone asked, they were to say, *"The Lord needs it."*
   - The disciples did as commanded, and people allowed them to take the colt.
   - They placed their garments on the colt, and Jesus rode on it.
   - People spread clothes and leafy branches on the road, crying out, *"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"*
   - Jesus entered Jerusalem, went into the temple, observed everything, and then returned to Bethany with His disciples.

3. **Luke 19:28-44**

    - Jesus, nearing Bethphage and Bethany, sent two disciples to fetch a colt tied, which no one had ever ridden.
    - The owners questioned the disciples, but when told, *"The Lord has need of it,"* they let them go.
    - The disciples laid their garments on the colt, and Jesus rode on it.
    - As He rode, the crowd spread their garments on the road and joyfully praised God, shouting, *"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*
    - Some Pharisees asked Jesus to rebuke His disciples, but He replied, *"If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."*
    - As Jesus drew near and saw Jerusalem, He wept over it, predicting its destruction because the people failed to recognize the time of God's visitation.

Significance of the Triumphal Entry

- **Fulfilment of Prophecy:** It fulfilled Zechariah 9:9, showing Jesus as the promised Messiah.
- **Symbol of Peace:** Jesus rode on a donkey, symbolizing peace, not war, unlike earthly kings who rode horses.
- **Public Recognition:** The people openly recognized and hailed Him as the Son of David, the Messiah.
- **Declaration of Authority:** By entering Jerusalem as a king, Jesus declared His divine kingship and authority.
- **Contrast of Responses:** While the crowd praised Him, the Pharisees rejected Him, showing division over His identity.

- **Jesus' Compassion:** His tears over Jerusalem showed His love and concern for the people's rejection of God's plan.

Lessons from the Triumphal Entry

- Jesus is the King of peace, not of violence or oppression.
- True discipleship requires obedience, as shown by the disciples who fetched the donkey without questioning.
- Christians must honour and worship Christ, just as the people praised Him during the entry.
- Jesus' humility teaches us to be humble even when we are great.
- The rejection by the Pharisees shows that not everyone accepts God's plan, but we must remain faithful.
- Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem teaches compassion and concern for others, especially those who are spiritually lost.
- Earthly glory is temporary—the same people who shouted "Hosanna" later cried "Crucify Him." Christians must remain firm in faith, not swayed by public opinion.

EVALUATION

1. Narrate the account of the Triumphal Entry as recorded in Matthew.
2. What was the significance of Jesus riding on a donkey instead of a horse?
3. Explain how the Triumphal Entry fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.
4. What lesson can be learnt from the disciples' obedience in fetching the colt?
5. Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem according to Luke?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Compare the accounts of the Triumphal Entry in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Highlight at least two similarities and two differences.
2. Discuss five lessons Christians can learn from the Triumphal Entry of Jesus.
3. Explain how the Triumphal Entry reveals the kingship and humility of Jesus Christ.

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WEEK 2: THE LAST SUPPER

INTRODUCTION

- The **Last Supper** was the final meal Jesus shared with His disciples before His arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death.
- It took place during the **Feast of the Passover**, an important Jewish festival that commemorates Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt.
- At this supper, Jesus introduced the **Holy Communion (Eucharist/Lord's Supper)**, which remains a central Christian practice today.
- The Last Supper is significant because it marks the **beginning of the New Covenant** between God and humanity through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



BIBLICAL ACCOUNT (MATTHEW 26:17–30)

- On the **first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread**, the disciples asked Jesus where He wanted them to prepare the Passover meal.
- Jesus instructed them to go into the city to a certain man and say, *"The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover with my disciples at your house."*
- The disciples prepared the meal as directed.
- While they were eating, Jesus revealed that **one of them would betray Him**. The disciples were sorrowful and each asked, "Lord, is it I?"
- Jesus said the betrayer was the one who dipped his hand in the dish with Him. He added that although His death was certain, *"woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed."*
- **Judas Iscariot**, the betrayer, asked, "Is it I, Rabbi?" and Jesus answered, "You have said so."
- During the meal, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, *"Take, eat; this is my body."*
- Then He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, *"Drink from it, all of you. For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*
- Jesus declared that He would not drink again from the fruit of the vine until He drank it anew with them in His Father's kingdom.
- After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LAST SUPPER

- It was the **fulfilment of the Old Testament Passover**, with Jesus as the sacrificial lamb.
- Jesus instituted the **Holy Communion (Eucharist/Lord's Supper)** as a way for His followers to remember His death and resurrection.

- The bread represents **His body** broken for humanity, while the wine represents **His blood** shed for the forgiveness of sins.
- It signified the **New Covenant** between God and humankind, replacing the old covenant of animal sacrifices.
- It prepared the disciples for Jesus' coming death, strengthening their faith.
- It revealed the betrayal of Judas and the fulfillment of prophecy.

LESSONS FROM THE LAST SUPPER

- **Obedience to Jesus**: The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions in preparing for the meal.
- **God's plan must be fulfilled**: Even though betrayal was painful, it fulfilled prophecy and God's will.
- **Sacrifice for others**: Jesus gave His life selflessly for the salvation of mankind.
- **The importance of remembrance**: Christians must continually remember the sacrifice of Jesus through the Lord's Supper.
- **Unity among believers**: Sharing one bread and one cup symbolizes oneness in the body of Christ.
- **Warning against betrayal**: Judas' example shows the danger of greed, hypocrisy, and unfaithfulness.
- **Hope of the Kingdom**: Jesus promised to share the meal again with His disciples in God's kingdom, giving believers hope of eternal life.

RELEVANCE TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

- The Last Supper forms the basis of **Holy Communion**, observed in churches worldwide.
- It reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
- It strengthens faith and fellowship among Christians as members of one body.

- It challenges Christians to live in obedience, holiness, and readiness for Christ's return.
- It encourages gratitude and worship to God for His love and redemption.

EVALUATION

1. What is the Last Supper, and when did it take place?
2. Narrate the events of the Last Supper as recorded in Matthew 26:17–30.
3. Mention two symbolic elements Jesus introduced at the Last Supper and explain their meanings.
4. Identify three lessons Christians can learn from the Last Supper.
5. Why is the Last Supper significant for Christians today?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Explain in detail how the Last Supper connects the Old Testament Passover to the New Covenant.
2. Write short notes on the significance of the bread and the wine in the Lord's Supper.
3. State three dangers of betrayal in Christian life, making reference to Judas' role in the Last Supper.

WEEK 3: BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF JESUS

Mark 14:43–52; Matthew 26:47–56

INTRODUCTION

The betrayal and arrest of Jesus Christ marked the beginning of His suffering leading to the crucifixion. After the Last Supper, Jesus went with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane where He prayed earnestly. It was in this quiet place that Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, led a crowd to arrest Him. This incident teaches Christians about loyalty, faith, courage, and the danger of greed and betrayal.



THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS (Matthew 26:47–50; Mark 14:43–46)

- While Jesus was still speaking to His disciples in Gethsemane, Judas Iscariot arrived with a large crowd armed with swords and clubs.
- The crowd was sent by the chief priests, scribes, and elders who wanted to kill Jesus.
- Judas had given them a signal: the one he kissed would be Jesus. He went straight to Jesus, greeted Him, and kissed Him.
- Immediately, the soldiers arrested Jesus.
- Judas' action fulfilled the prophecy that the Messiah would be betrayed by one close to Him (Psalm 41:9).

Lessons from Judas' betrayal:

- Love for money can lead to destruction. Judas betrayed his Master for thirty pieces of silver.
- Betrayal often comes from trusted people.
- Christians must remain watchful so as not to fall into temptation.

THE ARREST OF JESUS (Matthew 26:51–56; Mark 14:47–52)

- At the moment of arrest, one of Jesus' disciples (identified in John's Gospel as Peter) drew a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant.
- Jesus rebuked him, saying, *"Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword."*
- Jesus explained that He could call upon God to send twelve legions of angels to rescue Him, but the Scriptures had to be fulfilled.
- Jesus then addressed the crowd, asking why they came with swords and clubs as though He were a criminal, even though He taught openly in the temple daily.
- After His arrest, all His disciples fled in fear, leaving Him alone.

- A young man (possibly John Mark) who had been following Jesus was seized, but he escaped, leaving his garment behind (Mark 14:51–52).

Lessons from the arrest:

- Violence is not the way of Christ; Christians should seek peace rather than retaliation.
- God's plan for salvation cannot be stopped by human opposition.
- Following Jesus may involve trials and persecution, but believers must stand firm.
- At times of testing, even close friends may abandon us, but God remains faithful.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST

1. It fulfilled Old Testament prophecies concerning the suffering Messiah.
2. It demonstrated Jesus' obedience to God's will, even to the point of death.
3. It revealed the weakness of the disciples who deserted Him, showing human frailty.
4. It prepared the way for the crucifixion and ultimate salvation of mankind.
5. It is a warning against betrayal, disloyalty, and greed.

EVALUATION

1. Narrate how Judas betrayed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.
2. What signal did Judas give to the soldiers to identify Jesus?
3. How did Jesus respond to Peter's violent action during His arrest?
4. What happened to the disciples after Jesus was arrested?
5. State three lessons Christians can learn from the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write out Matthew 26:52–54 and explain its meaning in your own words.
2. Discuss four lessons modern Christians can learn from Judas' betrayal.
3. Explain how the betrayal and arrest of Jesus fulfilled God's plan for salvation.

WEEK 4: TRIAL AND PETER'S DENIAL

Matthew 26:57–75; Situations Leading to Denial of Christ

INTRODUCTION

After the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, He was taken before the high priest and the Jewish council known as the Sanhedrin. His disciples, who had earlier promised loyalty, deserted Him in fear. Peter, one of His closest disciples, followed Jesus from a distance to see what would happen. Unfortunately, when questioned, Peter denied Jesus three times. The trial of Jesus and Peter's denial are important events in Christian history because they reveal human weakness, the reality of persecution, and the depth of God's mercy.



THE TRIAL OF JESUS



PETER'S DENIAL

THE TRIAL OF JESUS (Matthew 26:57–68)

1. **Jesus before Caiaphas the High Priest**
    - Jesus was taken to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and elders were already assembled.
    - False witnesses were brought forward to accuse Him, but their testimonies did not agree.
2. **Accusations Against Jesus**
    - Some claimed He said, "I can destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days."
    - The high priest demanded that Jesus declare if He was the Christ, the Son of God.
3. **Jesus' Response**
    - Jesus answered, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."
    - This was regarded as blasphemy by the Jewish leaders.
4. **The Verdict**
    - The high priest tore his robes, declaring Jesus guilty of blasphemy.
    - The council condemned Him as deserving death.
    - They spat on Him, struck Him, and mocked Him.

PETER'S DENIAL (Matthew 26:69–75)

1. **First Denial**
    - As Peter sat outside in the courtyard, a servant girl accused him of being with Jesus.

- Peter denied before everyone, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.”

2. **Second Denial**
    - Another servant girl saw him and said, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”
    - Again, Peter denied, this time with an oath: “I do not know the man.”
3. **Third Denial**
    - After a while, some bystanders confronted Peter, saying, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”
    - Peter began to curse and swear, saying, “I do not know the man!”
    - Immediately, a rooster crowed.
4. **Peter’s Remorse**
    - Peter remembered Jesus’ prediction that he would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed.
    - He went outside and wept bitterly in sorrow and repentance.

SITUATIONS THAT LEAD TO DENIAL OF CHRIST

Even today, many Christians, especially young people, deny Christ in various ways. These situations include:

1. **Fear of persecution or suffering** – When people are afraid of punishment, mockery, or rejection because of their faith.
2. **Desire to please others** – Peer pressure may cause Christians to compromise their values in order to fit in.
3. **Love of material things** – Some deny Christ in pursuit of money, possessions, or worldly pleasures.
4. **Lack of courage and spiritual strength** – When Christians fail to pray or stay close to God, they can easily fall into denial.

5. **Shame of being identified as a Christian** – Embarrassment or fear of ridicule may lead some to hide their Christian identity.
6. **Doubt and weak faith** – Lack of trust in God's promises can make believers deny Him in difficult times.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STORY

1. It shows the weakness of human beings without God's grace.
2. It teaches that fear can lead to sin, but repentance brings forgiveness.
3. Jesus' courage at His trial encourages Christians to stand firm in their faith.
4. The story reveals that even strong believers can fall, but they can be restored by repentance.
5. It warns Christians against overconfidence and calls for constant prayer for strength.

MORAL LESSONS

1. Christians should not deny Jesus, no matter the situation.
2. We must pray for courage and strength to remain faithful in trials.
3. Denial of Christ can come in words or actions – by living contrary to His teachings.
4. Repentance is necessary whenever we fall into sin, just as Peter repented.
5. Standing for Christ may attract mockery or rejection, but God rewards those who remain faithful.

EVALUATION

1. Narrate the trial of Jesus before the high priest as recorded in Matthew 26:57–68.
2. How many times did Peter deny Jesus, and what happened immediately afterward?

3. Mention three situations that may lead a Christian to deny Christ today.
4. What lesson can Christians learn from Peter's denial and subsequent repentance?
5. State two reasons why the Jewish leaders condemned Jesus to death.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write in detail how Peter denied Jesus three times, explaining what this teaches about human weakness.
2. Mention five modern-day examples of how Christians deny Christ in words or actions.
3. Discuss how prayer, courage, and strong faith can help a Christian overcome the temptation to deny Christ.

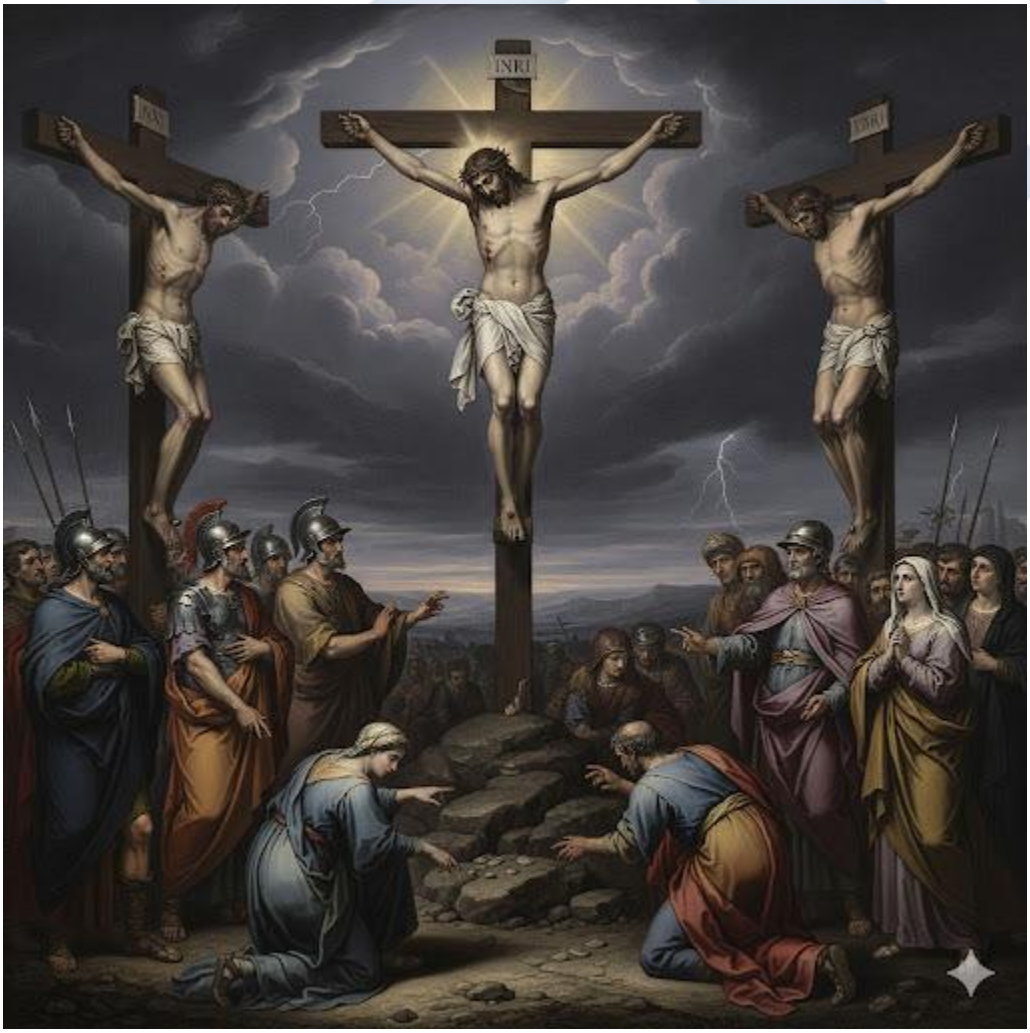
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WEEK 6: THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

Matthew 27:32–44

INTRODUCTION

The crucifixion of Jesus is one of the most significant events in Christian history. It is the point where Jesus, the Son of God, willingly gave His life for the salvation of humanity. Crucifixion was the most painful and shameful method of execution used by the Romans during the time of Jesus. Criminals, rebels, and slaves were usually crucified to serve as a public example and deterrent. For Christians, however, the crucifixion of Jesus represents love, sacrifice, and victory over sin. In *Matthew 27:32–44*, we read how Jesus was mocked, humiliated, and nailed to the cross, yet He endured it all to fulfill God's plan for the redemption of mankind.



THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS (Matthew 27:32–44)

1. **Simon of Cyrene Carries the Cross (v. 32)**
    - On the way to Golgotha, the soldiers forced a man named Simon of Cyrene to carry Jesus' cross because Jesus was weak from the flogging and beating He had earlier received.
2. **The Place of Crucifixion – Golgotha (v. 33)**
    - Jesus was led to a place called Golgotha, meaning *"Place of the Skull."* This was the usual site for Roman executions outside the city walls.
3. **The Drink Offered to Jesus (v. 34)**
    - Jesus was offered wine mixed with gall, a bitter substance meant to dull the pain. But He refused it, choosing to face the suffering with a clear mind.
4. **Division of His Garments (v. 35)**
    - After crucifying Him, the soldiers cast lots for His clothes. This fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (*Psalm 22:18*), showing that everything happening was part of God's plan.
5. **The Inscription on the Cross (v. 37)**
    - Above His head was placed the written charge: *"This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."* The Jewish leaders had rejected Him, but this inscription unknowingly testified to His true identity.
6. **The Two Thieves (v. 38)**
    - Jesus was crucified between two robbers. This also fulfilled prophecy (*Isaiah 53:12*), which said the Messiah would be numbered among transgressors.
7. **Mockery from the People and Leaders (vv. 39–44)**
    - Passersby, the chief priests, scribes, elders, and even the robbers mocked Him.

- They challenged Him to save Himself if He was truly the Son of God.
- They mocked His claim of destroying the temple and rebuilding it in three days.
- They said, "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself."

Despite all the insults and humiliation, Jesus did not retaliate. He endured the pain silently and obediently to complete His mission of saving humanity.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CRUCIFIXION

1. **Fulfillment of Prophecy** – Jesus' crucifixion fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies about the suffering Messiah (e.g., Isaiah 53; Psalm 22).
2. **Sacrifice for Sin** – Jesus died as the Lamb of God, taking upon Himself the punishment for the sins of the whole world.
3. **Expression of God's Love** – Through the cross, God demonstrated His love for humanity (*John 3:16*).
4. **Victory Over Sin and Death** – Though crucifixion was meant to bring shame, God turned it into a symbol of victory. By His death, Jesus defeated sin and made eternal life possible.
5. **Model of Obedience and Endurance** – Jesus endured suffering patiently, showing Christians how to bear trials faithfully.
6. **The Cross as the Symbol of Christianity** – Today, the cross represents the centre of the Christian faith – love, sacrifice, and salvation.

MORAL LESSONS

1. True love involves sacrifice. Jesus laid down His life for humanity.
2. Christians should remain faithful to God even in suffering or persecution.
3. Mockery, insults, and trials should not discourage believers from doing God's will.

4. Like Simon of Cyrene, Christians should be willing to help others carry their burdens.
5. The death of Jesus teaches forgiveness. Even in His suffering, Jesus later prayed for His enemies (*Luke 23:34*).

EVALUATION

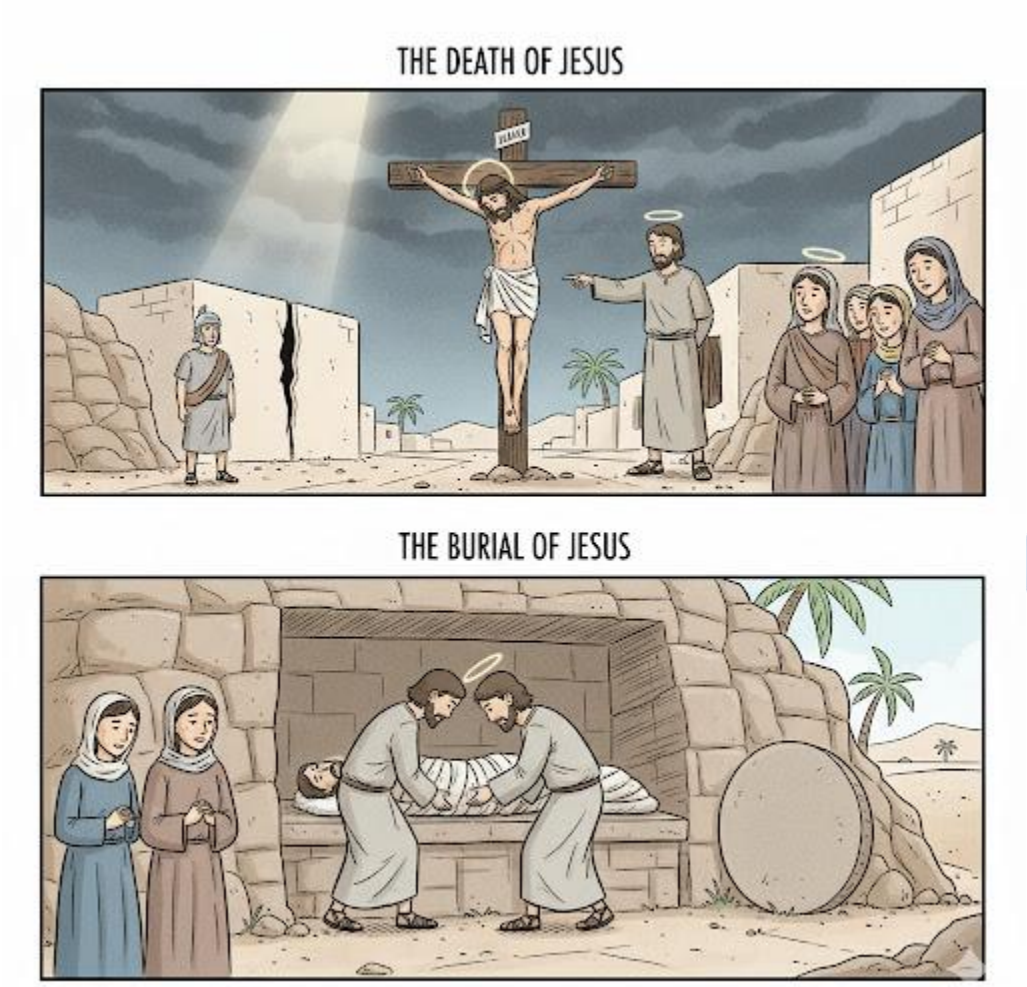
1. Who was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus, and why?
2. What was written on the inscription placed above Jesus' head?
3. How did the soldiers share Jesus' garments?
4. Who mocked Jesus while He was on the cross?
5. State three significances of the crucifixion of Jesus to Christians.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write five Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus.
2. Explain in detail three moral lessons Christians can learn from the crucifixion of Jesus.
3. "The crucifixion of Jesus is a message of love and sacrifice." Discuss.

WEEK 8: DEATH AND BURIAL OF JESUS (MATT. 27:45–61)

The death and burial of Jesus Christ is one of the most important events in the Christian faith. It marks the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation and demonstrates the depth of God's love for humanity. The Gospel of Matthew 27:45–61 gives a detailed account of what happened on the cross and after Jesus' death.



EVENTS SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF JESUS (MATT. 27:45–54)

1. **Darkness over the land (v. 45)**
    - From the sixth hour (12 noon) to the ninth hour (3 pm), darkness covered the whole land.

- This supernatural darkness was a sign of the seriousness of the event, symbolizing judgment, sorrow, and the separation between Jesus and the Father as He bore the sins of the world.

2. **Jesus' cry of abandonment (v. 46)**
    - At about 3 pm, Jesus cried out with a loud voice: *"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"* which means *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*
    - This shows His deep agony as He experienced the weight of humanity's sin and the sense of separation from God.
3. **Mockery from the crowd (vv. 47–49)**
    - Some bystanders misunderstood His cry, thinking He was calling for Elijah.
    - They mocked Him and offered Him vinegar (sour wine) to drink, further humiliating Him.
4. **Jesus' death (v. 50)**
    - Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up His spirit.
    - This shows that His life was not taken from Him by force, but He willingly laid it down in obedience to the Father's will (John 10:17–18).
5. **Signs that followed His death (vv. 51–54)**
    - The veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom, symbolizing open access to God's presence through Christ's sacrifice.
    - There was an earthquake, and rocks were split.
    - Tombs were opened, and many dead saints were raised to life.
    - The centurion and those with him declared: *"Truly, this was the Son of God!"*

BURIAL OF JESUS (MATT. 27:55–61)

1. **The women witnesses (vv. 55–56)**

- Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee watched from a distance.
- Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

2. **Joseph of Arimathea's request (vv. 57–58)**
    - Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man and disciple of Jesus, went to Pilate and requested Jesus' body.
    - Pilate granted his request, showing God's providence in providing a dignified burial for Jesus.
3. **Preparation and burial (vv. 59–60)**
    - Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, carved out of rock.
    - He rolled a large stone at the entrance of the tomb and departed.
4. **The women's presence (v. 61)**
    - Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sat opposite the tomb, watching where Jesus was laid.
    - Their presence ensured that they knew the location of the tomb, which was important for the testimony of His resurrection later.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF JESUS

1. **Spiritual Significance**
    - Jesus' death was the final sacrifice for sin, bringing forgiveness and reconciliation between God and man.
    - The tearing of the temple veil symbolizes direct access to God through Christ without the need for priests or animal sacrifices.
    - His death fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah (Isaiah 53).

2. **Doctrinal Significance**
    - The death of Jesus is central to the Christian faith; without it, there would be no salvation.
    - His burial confirms the reality of His death, proving that His resurrection was real and not imagined.
    - The resurrection that followed would not have been possible without His death and burial.
3. **Moral and Practical Lessons**
    - Christians should be ready to endure suffering and persecution for their faith as Jesus did.
    - The courage and devotion of the women show the importance of loyalty and faithfulness in difficult times.
    - Joseph of Arimathea teaches believers the importance of boldness in identifying with Christ, even in times of opposition.

EVALUATION

1. Describe the supernatural events that took place at the death of Jesus.
2. How did Joseph of Arimathea demonstrate his faith and courage?
3. What is the significance of the tearing of the temple veil at Jesus' death?
4. List three lessons Christians can learn from the women who witnessed Jesus' death and burial.
5. Why is the burial of Jesus important in the Christian faith?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write out Matthew 27:50–54 in your notebook and explain the meaning of two supernatural events that occurred.
2. Discuss five spiritual benefits of the death of Jesus to Christians today.
3. Explain how the death and burial of Jesus prove the love of God for mankind.

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WEEK 9: RESURRECTION OF JESUS

- The resurrection story according to Matthew 28:1–10
- The resurrection story according to Mark 16:1–8
- The resurrection story according to Luke 24:1–12
- The significance of the resurrection



INTRODUCTION

The resurrection of Jesus is the central event in the Christian faith. It is the foundation of Christian hope and the proof that Jesus is the Son of God. Without the resurrection, the death of

Christ would have no meaning, and Christianity would lose its power and hope (1 Corinthians 15:14). The resurrection shows that Jesus conquered sin, death, and Satan.

The story of the resurrection is recorded in all four Gospels, but for this lesson we shall study the accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

THE RESURRECTION STORY (Matthew 28:1–10)

- On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
- Suddenly, there was a great earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it.
- His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.
- The guards at the tomb trembled with fear and became like dead men.
- The angel said to the women, *"Do not be afraid. I know you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen as He said."*
- The angel instructed them to go quickly and tell the disciples.
- On their way, Jesus Himself appeared to them, greeted them, and they held His feet and worshiped Him.
- Jesus told them not to fear, but to inform His disciples to go to Galilee where they would see Him.

THE RESURRECTION STORY (Mark 16:1–8)

- On the first day of the week, very early, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb with spices to anoint Jesus' body.
- On the way, they wondered who would roll away the heavy stone from the entrance.
- When they arrived, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away.

- Entering the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.
- The man said, *"Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him."*
- He told them to go and tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus was going ahead of them to Galilee.
- The women fled from the tomb trembling and astonished, and they said nothing to anyone because they were afraid.

THE RESURRECTION STORY (Luke 24:1–12)

- On the first day of the week, at early dawn, women including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James went to the tomb with spices they had prepared.
- They found the stone rolled away but did not find the body of Jesus.
- Suddenly, two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.
- The women were frightened, but the men said, *"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen."*
- They reminded the women of Jesus' words that He would be crucified and rise again on the third day.
- The women returned and told the apostles all these things.
- The apostles did not believe them, thinking it was an idle tale.
- But Peter ran to the tomb, stooped down, and saw only the linen cloths. He went home amazed at what had happened.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

1. **Victory over death:** Jesus conquered death, proving He is the giver of eternal life.

2. **Fulfillment of prophecy:** His resurrection confirmed what He had foretold about rising on the third day.
3. **Foundation of Christian faith:** Without the resurrection, preaching and faith in Christ would be useless.
4. **Assurance of our own resurrection:** Believers have hope of eternal life and resurrection from the dead.
5. **Proof of Jesus' divinity:** The resurrection demonstrates that Jesus is truly the Son of God.
6. **New life for believers:** It signifies triumph over sin and the beginning of a new relationship with God.
7. **Encouragement for evangelism:** The disciples boldly preached because they had seen the risen Christ.

EVALUATION

1. Narrate the resurrection story according to Matthew 28:1–10.
2. State two differences between Mark's and Luke's accounts of the resurrection.
3. Mention three women who went to the tomb of Jesus.
4. What message did the angel(s) give to the women at the tomb?
5. Highlight four significances of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write out in detail the resurrection account as recorded in Luke 24:1–12.
2. Compare the role of women in the resurrection story according to the three Gospel accounts.
3. Explain five lessons Christians can learn from the resurrection of Jesus.

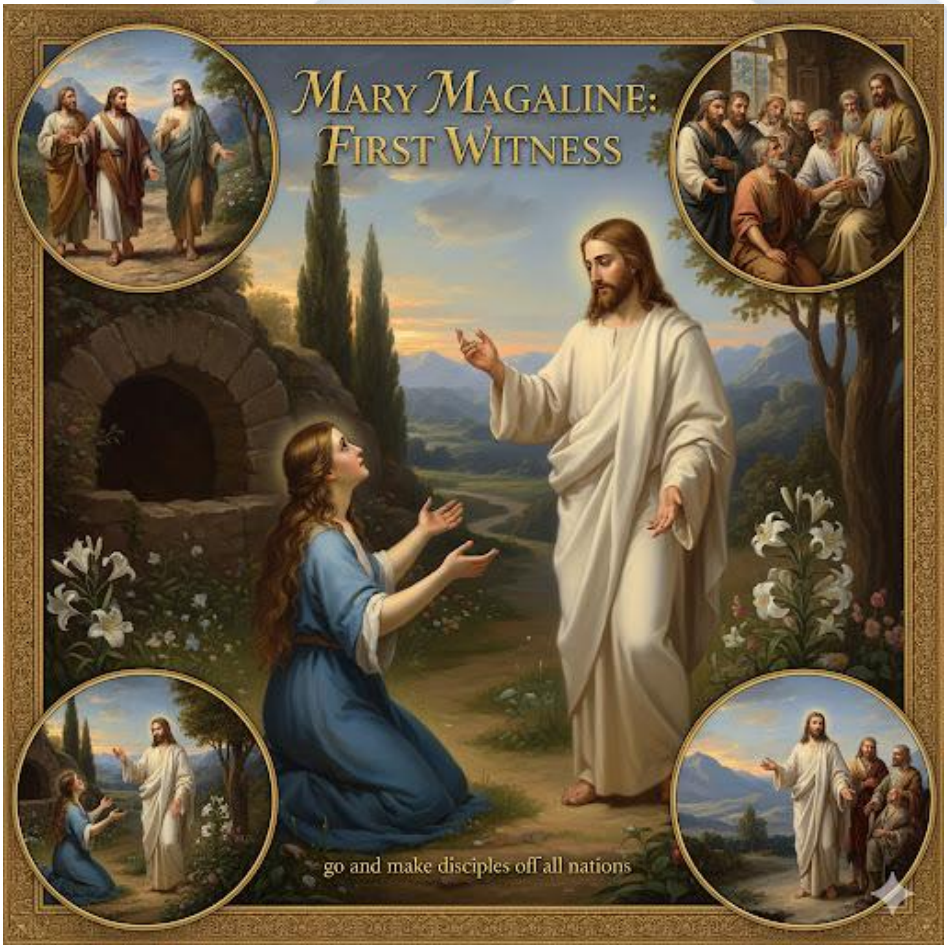
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WEEK 10: APPEARANCES, SIGNIFICANCE AND ROLE OF WOMEN

Post-resurrection appearances of Jesus; Meaning for Christians today; Role of women in the resurrection

INTRODUCTION

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. Without it, the message of salvation would be empty. After rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to His disciples and other followers on different occasions to prove that He was truly alive. These appearances strengthened their faith and gave them courage to spread the gospel. Interestingly, women were the first witnesses of the resurrection, a remarkable fact at a time when women's testimony was not highly regarded in Jewish society. This shows the importance of women in God's plan and in the history of the church.



POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES OF JESUS

The Bible records several appearances of Jesus after His resurrection:

1. **To Mary Magdalene (John 20:11–18; Mark 16:9–11)**
    - Mary Magdalene was the first person to whom Jesus appeared.
    - At first, she mistook Him for a gardener, but when Jesus called her by name, she recognized Him.
    - Jesus told her to go and announce the news to the disciples.
2. **To Other Women (Matthew 28:9–10)**
    - Jesus met the other women who went to the tomb.
    - He greeted them, and they worshipped Him.
    - He asked them to tell the disciples to go to Galilee where they would see Him.
3. **To Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35)**
    - Two disciples were walking to Emmaus, discussing the recent events.
    - Jesus joined them but they did not recognize Him until He broke bread with them.
    - Their hearts "burned within them" as He explained the Scriptures to them.
4. **To the Apostles (Luke 24:36–49; John 20:19–23)**
    - Jesus appeared to the disciples in a locked room.
    - He showed them His hands and side to prove He was alive.
    - He gave them peace and breathed on them, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
5. **To Thomas (John 20:24–29)**
    - Thomas had doubted the resurrection, saying he would not believe unless he touched Jesus' wounds.

- A week later, Jesus appeared again and told Thomas to put his fingers in His wounds.
- Thomas confessed, "My Lord and my God!"

6. **At the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1–14)**
   - Jesus appeared to some disciples while they were fishing.
   - They caught a large number of fish after following His instructions.
   - He ate with them, proving He was not a ghost.
7. **To Over 500 Brethren (1 Corinthians 15:6)**
   - Paul records that Jesus appeared to more than 500 people at once.
8. **To the Apostles at His Ascension (Acts 1:3–11)**
   - Jesus appeared to His disciples over forty days, teaching about the Kingdom.
   - He ascended into heaven before their eyes.

MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY

1. **Proof of Victory over Death and Sin** – The resurrection shows that death has been conquered and believers have hope of eternal life.
2. **Foundation of Christian Faith** – Without the resurrection, preaching and faith would be meaningless (1 Corinthians 15:14).
3. **Assurance of Salvation** – Christians believe that through Christ's resurrection, they are justified and reconciled with God.
4. **Source of Courage and Hope** – Just as the disciples gained boldness, Christians today are encouraged to face trials with confidence.
5. **Promise of Resurrection for Believers** – The resurrection assures Christians that they too will rise at the last day.

6. **Empowerment for Evangelism** – It gives believers the mission to spread the gospel, just as the early disciples did.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE RESURRECTION

1. **First Witnesses of the Resurrection** – Women were the first to discover the empty tomb and encounter the risen Christ.
2. **Messengers of the Good News** – Jesus instructed Mary Magdalene and other women to go and tell the disciples.
3. **Faithfulness and Devotion** – While most male disciples had fled, women stayed close to Jesus during His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection morning.
4. **Breaking Social Barriers** – In Jewish culture, women's testimony was not considered valid, yet God chose them as the first witnesses, showing their value in God's plan.
5. **Encouragement to the Church** – Their example shows that women play vital roles in evangelism, discipleship, and strengthening the faith community.

MORAL LESSONS

1. Christians should believe firmly in the resurrection as the foundation of their faith.
2. Just as the disciples proclaimed the risen Christ, Christians must spread the gospel with boldness.
3. God values men and women equally in His work of salvation.
4. Christians should not doubt God's promises, as Thomas did, but have faith in His word.
5. The resurrection gives believers confidence to live righteous lives with hope of eternal life.

EVALUATION

1. Mention five post-resurrection appearances of Jesus and explain one in detail.
2. What lessons do Christians learn from the resurrection of Jesus?
3. Why is Mary Magdalene important in the resurrection story?
4. Explain the significance of women being the first witnesses of the resurrection.
5. How does the resurrection give hope to Christians today?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write in detail the story of Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and explain its importance.
2. List five lessons modern Christians can learn from the resurrection of Jesus.
3. Discuss how the role of women in the resurrection encourages women in the church today.

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