

5 GREAT QUESTIONS

A series of basic doctrinal lessons

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PLEASE NOTE!"

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Introduction

Through this series of lessons, we want to communicate some basic Bible doctrines to children, who know little or nothing of the Word of God. The lessons deal with truths which all children need to learn: God's revelation, justification, assurance of salvation, God's purpose for our lives and the second coming of Christ. You can use the series in Sunday School, Good News Club®, 5-Day Clubs®, camp, Holiday Bible Club and even in family devotions.

It is best to follow closely the enclosed commentary, rather than to elaborate on each picture. There is so much which could be said about each aspect; but remember that the attention-span of children is short. Do not be tempted to "preach a sermon" with every page. Each lesson is meant to last approximately 8 minutes.

We have tried to present these great truths of the Word of God as faithfully and as clearly as possible. However, only God, the Holy Spirit, can enable the Christian parent or teacher to understand and teach these truths; only He can enlighten the heart and mind of the children and bring salvation and growth in grace.

"You shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free"
(John 8:32).

Jennifer Haaijer,
Sam Doherty,
Roy Harrison
and Tim Shirey

Lesson 1

How do we know about God?

Scripture for teachers

Matthew 14:22-33

Romans 1:18-2:16

Hebrews 1:1-2

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6 and 1-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6 and 1-7

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 1-1 How do we know about God?
- Flashcard 1-2 His wonderful world tells us about Him
- Flashcard 1-3 Our hearts tell us that God really exists
- Flashcard 1-4 The Bible is the Word of God
- Flashcard 1-5 God speaks to us through His Word
- Flashcard 1-6 The Lord Jesus Christ has shown God to us
- Flashcard 1-7 God speaks - we should listen, believe, obey

*Lesson***Flashcard 1-1 - How do we know about God?**

PowerPoint 1-1

Some people ask the question, “Does God really exist? Is there really a God?”

Others ask, “If there really is a God, how do we know about Him?”

Perhaps you yourself have had one of these questions in your mind. So let’s think today about this big question - **How do we know about God?**

Flashcard 1-2 - His wonderful world tells us about Him

PowerPoint 1-2

First of all, we can know about God from the things He has made. His wonderful world tells us about Him. For example, looking at the stars can tell us something about God (see Psalm 19:1). Did the stars just get in the sky by themselves? No, Someone put them there. When you see a house, you do not think it just grew there by itself, you know someone built it. When you see the stars, you can know they did not just happen to be there. Someone put them there. God made them and He is great and wonderful.

Did you ever look at a butterfly and wonder who could make those beautiful wings? Do you ever look around at the many wonderful things on the earth - the birds, the trees, the flowers, the insects? Who made all these? Who takes care of them all? It is God. Just looking at all these things which God has made should tell us He is all-powerful, all-knowing, good and perfect.

A little girl received a parcel in the post one day from a lady she had never met. She said to her Mummy: “That lady must be very nice, because look at her lovely present!” When we see all that God has given to us in our world, we should realise how wonderful He is.

Flashcard 1-3 - Our hearts tell us that God really exists*No visual.*

How do we know about God? Our hearts also tell us that God really exists. (It is the voice of conscience - see Ecclesiastes 3:11 and Romans 2:15). There is something in all of us which tells us not only that there is a God, but also there is right and wrong. We know in our hearts we should do what is right - but we cannot, without God. We also know when we are doing wrong, and that we deserve to be punished for it - but we cannot stop doing wrong.

Show visual.

PowerPoint 1-3

Often when people are in great difficulties and danger, they ask God to help them, even if they have not believed in Him before. Once a young man was very near to drowning in the sea. He cried out, “Oh God, help me, and if I am saved from drowning, I will give my life to You.” God did save him from drowning and he believed in the Lord.

You see, we have, as it were, a little voice in our hearts which tells us there is a God.

Flashcard 1-4 - The Bible is the Word of God

How do we know about God? The Bible is the Word of God (see 2 Timothy 3:16). God has given us a special book, which is different from all the other books in the world. The Bible is special because God told the writers what to write. He helped them to write everything He wanted to say to us and it is all in the books of the Bible.

Through the Bible we can know who God is and what He has done - we can even learn about God's thoughts and desires. In the Bible God shows us all that He wants us to know about Himself. This is why, in our meetings, we want to teach you what the Bible says.

PowerPoint 1-4

Flashcard 1-5 - God speaks to us through His Word

God took care of the Bible. Throughout the years, many have tried to destroy the Bible, but God has always taken care of His precious Book. Though it was written many, many years ago, we can read it today. God took care of the Bible because He wanted to talk through it to you and to me today.

When you read the Bible or listen to someone reading it, God is talking to you. He also wants to help you to understand what He is saying. Ask God to help you to understand His Word!

In these lessons we are teaching some important truths found in the Bible. We hope you will learn about God and that you will come to know Him as your Lord and your God.

PowerPoint 1-5

Flashcard 1-6 - The Lord Jesus Christ has shown God to us

How do we know about God?

Through the wonderful world He has made; in our hearts; through God's Word, the Bible. Above all, we know about God through the Lord Jesus.

God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world, to show us what He is like. Through God the Son, we can know about God (see John 1:18).

The Son of God became man and was born as a little baby. He grew up and told the people about God. Many of the words He spoke while here on earth are written in the Bible. The wonderful things Jesus said teach us a lot about God. Not only did the Lord Jesus tell the people about God by His words, He showed them what God is like by His actions.

PowerPoint 1-6

- ◆ He showed that God is good, because He did good wherever He went.

- ◆ He showed that God is all-powerful, for He healed the sick and even raised dead people back to life.
- ◆ He showed that God is love, as He gave food to the hungry.

The Lord Jesus did many wonderful miracles. One night, the disciples, the special friends of Jesus, set out to go across a lake in a boat. A strong wind was blowing and the waves grew rough. The disciples were really worried. When the disciples were still in the middle of the lake, suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water.

Peter got down out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. However, when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30). Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. When the Lord Jesus had climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshipped Him and said, "Truly You are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). Jesus had shown them that He is God and that God is all-powerful. He had power over the wind and the waves. He was even able to walk on the water.

Flashcard 1-7 - God speaks - we should listen, believe, obey

PowerPoint 1-7

We have been talking about how we can know about God.

- ◆ His wonderful world tells us about Him.
- ◆ Our hearts tell us that God really exists.
- ◆ God speaks to us through His Word.
- ◆ The Lord Jesus Christ has shown God to us.

What should we do, when we learn about God?

We should **listen**. It is God who is speaking to us - the One who made us, who is altogether wise, who is pure and perfect. It is very sad and also very bad when we do not want to listen to what God has to say to us.

We should **believe** what God says. We should believe in God.

Some people say, "Prove that there is a God." I would simply answer, "Prove that there is no God." You cannot prove that God exists by saying, "Here is God in this container, or in this house." It is like someone taking a watch apart to find the watch-maker - he isn't there. You cannot prove God exists because He is so great. He rules over all. God wants you to believe in Him and to believe what He has said in the Bible.

We should **obey**. We should do what God says. In the Bible we read these words, "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:7-8). Do not say "no" to God. Do what He tells you in the Bible.

Lesson 2

How can I be right with God?

Scripture for teachers

Romans 3:24-5:21

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6 and 2-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6 and 2-7

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 2-1 How can I be right with God?
- Flashcard 2-2 God is pure and perfect
- Flashcard 2-3 God should punish me
- Flashcard 2-4 Jesus Christ took our punishment
- Flashcard 2-5 Through Christ I am forgiven
- Flashcard 2-6 Christ's goodness is credited to me
- Flashcard 2-7 Enjoy God's peace, pardon and plan for your life

*Lesson***Flashcard 2-1 - How can I be right with God?**

“Who took my money?” shouted Mary.

“I didn’t touch it,” said Jim. But he had gone to the shop that day and bought a new bell for his bicycle.

Mary insisted, “I had saved up 19 euros and now there are only 15 euros left. It was all there last night.”

Jim went out of the house as fast as he could and got on his bicycle, rather than face his sister. As he rode down the street, he looked at the bell. He remembered again how he stole four euros from his sister’s purse, to have enough money to buy it. He felt bad - not just because he had taken his sister’s money, but because he knew God had seen him take the money; and God tells us in the Bible that we are not to steal. He was a thief! He had stolen from his sister and he had disobeyed God. “What do I do now?” Jim thought. “How can I put it right with my sister and how can I put it right with God?”

Have you ever done anything like that? Have you stolen something that did not belong to you? Have you ever told a lie? Have you disobeyed God? What did Jim need to do? And what do you need to do? Let’s think about that for a few minutes - **How can I be right with God?**

Flashcard 2-2 - God is pure and perfect

Remember first of all that God is pure and perfect. He never does anything wrong. He never sins. He always does what is right. He is completely pure. And God is always fair. When good is done, He rewards it and it is always the right reward. When evil is done, He punishes it and it is always the right punishment. That doesn’t mean that you get your reward or punishment right away. God sees everything that happens in all of our lives. You cannot hide from God.

God has told us in His Word, the Bible, what we are to do and what we are not to do. He tells us how we are to love Him by putting Him first in our lives, by taking time to praise and worship Him, by using His name in prayer and in telling others about His love, and not as a swear word. God tells us how to love others by helping them rather than hurting them, by telling them the truth rather than lies, by appreciating them rather than being full of hatred and jealousy and greed.

Think of how the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived when He was here on earth. He went about doing good. He healed the sick and helped those who were in trouble. His words were always true and right. He always pleased the Heavenly Father in everything He did. He lived a perfect life. He never sinned even once. Only God could be like that - pure and perfect.

PowerPoint 2-1

PowerPoint 2-2

Flashcard 2-3 - God should punish me

No visual.

How different you and I are! We have done many wrong things. We don't always tell the truth. Our thoughts are sometimes impure. Have you had hatred in your heart for someone? Have you been jealous of another boy or girl who has something you don't have? Are you "number one" in your life, wanting to have as much as you can for yourself? That is sin; that is disobeying God.

What should God do? He should punish us. Imagine standing before God as your judge, and He remembers every time you have disobeyed one of His commands. He sees every time you have done or said or thought something wrong. God would have to say, "You are guilty!"

Show visual.

You can compare God's commands to a golden chain that links us to Him. Each link in the chain is one of His commands. Here is one that says, "Obey your parents" (Ephesians 6:1) and another that says, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3).

If just once you have disobeyed your mummy or daddy, the chain is broken. If just once you have put TV or sport or your selfish desires before God, the chain is broken. Even if you decide you are going to be good from now on, the chain has already been broken and anyhow you won't succeed. The Bible says, "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). We are all guilty and there is nothing we can do to make ourselves good in the sight of God.

God is so pure and perfect that He cannot allow sin in His presence. As we are now, we deserve to be separated from God forever. We cannot be together with God because of our sin. We deserve to be punished.

Flashcard 2-4 - Jesus Christ took our punishment

But God, who made us, also loves us very, very much. He made a way for us to be able to come to Him. He could not simply overlook our sin, because He is always right and fair. The only answer to the problem of our sin was for God to send His Son into the world. The Son of God became man. He was born as a tiny baby. He grew up always perfectly obeying His Heavenly Father. He kept all of God's commands and never failed in even one small thing. God the Father said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 17:5). He should not have died, because He had no sin. And yet He died to take the punishment for our sin - yours and mine.

Let me explain it to you through the story of what happened in a school one day long ago. It had been decided that if a pupil stole something belonging to someone, he would receive a beating with a cane. All the pupils agreed that it was a fair rule. That day the smallest

PowerPoint 2-3

PowerPoint 2-4

boy in the class was caught stealing another boy's lunch. The rule had to be applied and he was brought up to the front to be punished. The boy knew he was guilty and the teacher was about to bring the cane down on his hand, when the tallest and strongest boy in the class stood up and said, "Sir, I will take the punishment for him." And that is what he did. This other boy, even though he was not guilty, took the punishment for the smaller boy, so that he could go free.

That is a picture of what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us, when He died on the cross. He had never sinned, but He took our place. The Bible says that "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities [our sins]" (Isaiah 53:5). As the Lord Jesus died on the cross, God put all the punishment for our sins on Him. He cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34). We deserve to be separated from God for ever. The Lord Jesus took that punishment instead of us. Oh, how great the suffering must have been, as He paid for all our sin! At the end He cried out, "It is finished!" (John 19:30.) He had paid in full for all our sin. He was buried. But, three days later God raised Him from the dead. By that, God showed that Jesus is the only Saviour and that what He had done for us was enough to take away our sin. The Lord Jesus went back to Heaven to be with the Father.

Flashcard 2-5 - Through Christ I am forgiven

PowerPoint 2-5

The good news is that through Christ you can be forgiven. Do you want Him to forgive you and make your life different? Turn away from wrong things and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. He paid for your sin on the cross. If you really mean it, you can tell Him right now, "Dear Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. I ask You to take away my sin and to take control of my life." The Bible says, "Everyone who believes is justified from all things" (Acts 13:39). It means that if you are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. They have all been put on the Lord Jesus, as He died on the cross.

What a wonderful thing that is - to know that you will never be punished for your sins! They are gone. Imagine that all the things you had done wrong were written down under your name. Now because of the Lord Jesus Christ they are completely wiped out. God doesn't see them anymore. For Him they are forgotten and removed from us. If you are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are clean in His sight.

Flashcard 2-6 - Christ's goodness is credited to me

PowerPoint 2-6

When you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, not only are your sins forgiven, but also the goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ is credited to you. In the place of the wrong things which He has wiped out,

God writes under your name all the good things the Lord Jesus has done. It is as if you have done them. It is like getting a new suit of clothes. Before trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, your life looked to God like dirty clothes. Your clothes were in rags and dirty. He has taken away those filthy rags and has given you instead a clean white robe, which is called “the robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10). It doesn’t mean that you have a new robe (coat) made out of cloth. Rather, it means that if you are trusting in the Lord Jesus, God sees you covered by the goodness of His Son. It is His gift. There is nothing you can do to deserve it. God does it all and nothing can be taken away from it or added to it.

You remember how we talked about standing before God as your Judge. He is absolutely fair and right. Before you asked the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Saviour, He could only have said, “You are guilty. You deserve to be separated for ever from Me.” But the Lord Jesus paid for all your sin when He died on the cross. So when you trust in Him, God now says, “You are not guilty. You are right in My sight. You are trusting in My Son and I see you covered by His perfect goodness. Like that, you can live with My blessing here on earth. Like that, you can come to be with Me for ever in Heaven.”

Don’t you want the Lord to do that for you? If you are still not sure about your sins being forgiven and what you need to do, please come and sit on one of these chairs in the front row after the meeting. I will show you a verse in the Bible and explain more about what to do. I can help you, if you come and sit here afterwards.

Flashcard 2-7 - Enjoy God’s peace, pardon and plan for your life

There is a book in the Bible which explains what I am teaching you today. It is called the “Letter to the Romans.” God told the Apostle Paul to write it, so that it is in our Bibles. After explaining the wonderful truth of how our sins can be forgiven, Paul writes in three different verses the word “therefore.” He is telling us how we should live if we understand this truth. Let me read to you the three verses, which come at the beginning of three of the chapters:

- ◆ First of all, Romans 5:1: “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Because our sins have been forgiven and Christ’s goodness has been credited to us, we are at peace with God. What a wonderful thing that is! Before that, our sin made us enemies of God. We didn’t want the Lord to rule over us, we didn’t want Him in our lives. We were against God. Now that war with God is gone and we are His friends - at peace with Him and with His peace in our hearts. We are together with God, because the Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again to take away our sins. Enjoy this wonderful friendship with God! Enjoy His peace!

PowerPoint 2-7

- ◆ And enjoy His pardon! In Romans 8:1 we read, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” God will not judge us for our sin, because the Lord Jesus took all that judgement on the cross. We are safe in Jesus from being punished by God for all the times we have disobeyed His commands. No-one can say to us, “You’ll have to pay for that.” We can say, “The Lord Jesus has already paid for that on the cross and I will not have to pay for it again.” We don’t need to be afraid and worry if God will accept us or not. His pardon is full and free. Enjoy God’s pardon!
- ◆ And enjoy God’s plan for your life! Paul says in Romans 12:1, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” What does God want you to do now because of everything He has done for you? He wants you to let Him have your life, your lips, your time, your talents - all you have and are. It’s reasonable to do that because God gave His only Son on the cross for us.

Do you remember how Jim stole money from his sister? After Jim asked the Lord to take away his sin, he began saving money in order to pay back his sister as soon as possible. You can say to the Lord, “Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for forgiving my sin and making me right in Your sight. I want to give myself completely to You, for You to do whatever You like with my life.” The Lord accepts your gift of yourself. He will take you and work out His perfect plan in your life. Let the Lord have His way in your life every day - His plan is perfect. Enjoy His peace, His pardon and His plan, when you have been made right with God.

Do you remember Jim’s question, “How can I put it right with God?” You know the answer: turn from your sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Through Christ you can be forgiven and His goodness is credited to you. Will you ask the Lord Jesus to do that for you? Remember, “By Him everyone who believes is justified from all things” (Acts 13:39).

Lesson 3

Are you sure?

Scripture for teachers

1 John 3:9,14

1 John 5:13

John 10:27-29

Romans 8:15-16

Hebrews 12:1

Philippians 2:13

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6 and 3-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6 and 3-7

Lesson outline

Flashcard 3-1	Are you sure?
Flashcard 3-2	Understand what it means to be saved
Flashcard 3-3	Look at your life
Flashcard 3-4	Believe God's Word
Flashcard 3-5	Listen to the Holy Spirit
Flashcard 3-6	Keep going
Flashcard 3-7	Grow

*Lesson***Flashcard 3-1 - Are you sure?****PowerPoint 3-1**

Alexei tossed and turned in bed. He was upset. He had told a lie to get out of trouble in school. The teacher had discovered it.

“And you tell me you are a Christian!” she had barked scornfully.

Alexei felt ashamed. He thought of the night at camp when he had asked the Lord Jesus to forgive his sins and take over his life. But now he did not even feel like a Christian. “Do I need to be saved again?” he asked himself in the darkness.

Have you ever had a struggle like Alexei? In the Bible God has given us lots of help for our struggles and answers to our questions.

Flashcard 3-2 - Understand what it means to be saved

One of the most important things is to **understand** what it means to be saved.

Salvation is explained very clearly in the Bible. When Alexei trusted the Lord Jesus as Saviour at camp, the Lord took away all his sin. Why could the Lord Jesus do this?

Allow the children to answer.

PowerPoint 3-2

Yes, because He died for sin, He took the punishment Alexei deserved. But anyone who is going to be accepted by God must be perfect in His sight. That too happened the moment Alexei was saved. From that moment onwards God looked on Alexei as perfect. We know Alexei was not perfect for he told a lie, yet God continued to look on him as if he were! Where did that perfection come from? It came from the Lord Jesus. God looked on Alexei as if he had lived the perfect life of the Lord Jesus. It is the same for every person who is saved. So when you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, He takes away your punishment. Does He ever give it back to you? No!

He gives you His “perfectness/righteousness” to make you right with God. Does He ever take away that “righteousness”? No!

When you sin - and Christians do sin - they do not “stain” Christ’s perfectness. Alexei’s lie did not spoil Christ’s righteousness in which God still saw Alexei. God continued to accept Alexei as right in His sight because of the Lord Jesus’ death and righteousness. Alexei did not need to be saved again!

In the above section we have endeavoured to explain simply the great doctrine of justification by faith. The following are helpful Scripture references: Romans 8:33; Romans 5:1,19; Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:21-31; Hebrews 10:14.

Flashcard 3-3 - Look at your life

No visual.

Look at your life. Perhaps you are thinking, “Then it does not matter if Christians sin. They can do whatever they want and still be saved.” The Bible makes it very clear that this is not so. Every person who is made right with God is also changed by God. God makes each saved person new on the inside (2 Corinthians 5:17). That “new you” cannot be kept hidden for very long. It is like sowing seeds. If you sow an apple seed an apple tree will grow, sow a wheat seed and wheat will grow. So when God “sows His seed,” by putting His life in a person, it will show. There will be a change, little by little. If there is no change at all in a person, that person cannot be saved.

Show visual.

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as Saviour, take a look at your life. When you see changes, even little changes, in how you think and behave this helps you to know you are saved.

Let’s think of Alexei again. Before he went to camp where he was saved, he did not care about lies that he told. But afterwards his lying did upset him. This was a change God had made. In the Bible we read that those who are saved do not go on sinning without caring about it (1 John 3:9). Although God sees His children perfect in Christ, their lives are not perfect. They do sin, but their sin makes them sad. They know that their sin spoils their friendship with God and they want to tell God they are sorry. Can you see a change like this in your life? You are upset by the wrong things you do; there are sins that God has helped you to stop doing. Can you say, “Yes, little by little God is changing me”?

Another change you can expect to see is that you will want to go to Sunday School, Church or Good News Club®. You will want to learn from God’s Word, the Bible, and you will feel that you belong together with others who know and love the Lord Jesus (1 John 3:14). Can you see these changes in your life? As you see these “little by little” changes, it helps you to know that you do belong to God.

But if there is no change, if a boy or girl just lives in the same sinful way and does not want to learn God’s Word, that person cannot say he is saved. The Bible says that the change in your life, living for the Lord Jesus, is proof that you are saved (James 2:26).

Flashcard 3-4 - Believe God’s Word

Believe God’s Word. Olga had a problem. When she was a little girl she lived in an orphanage where she was very unhappy. A kind man and woman started to visit and got to know her. One day they took Olga with them to live in their home. Later they went to court and legally adopted her. She became their daughter. When Olga was old enough to understand they showed her the adoption certificate, which

PowerPoint 3-3

PowerPoint 3-4

showed that she really belonged to them. They loved Olga and cared for her. Often they said, “Olga, we are so happy that you are our daughter.”

Sometimes as she lay in bed Olga remembered the orphanage. She began to fear that she might be sent back. Then she would start to cry. One night her daddy came and gave her a big hug and wiped away her tears. “Olga,” he said gently, “I have told you over and over that we love you. You belong to us, this is your home. We have even showed you your adoption certificate. You will never go back to the orphanage. Olga, please believe me and stop worrying.”

That is what God says to you, if you have received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. He wants you to believe what He says to you in the Bible. This will help you to know you are saved.

Read 1 John 5:13 from your Bible.

You may want to underline those words which are God’s promises that those who trust Christ are saved.

Listen to these words, spoken by the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Read John 10:27-29 from your Bible.

He says to those who are saved, “Believe what I say.”

Sometimes the devil will whisper, “You are not a Christian now - look what you did.” You can turn to the Bible for help.

God promises, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). You can believe what God says, even when you do not feel like a Christian, even when the Devil wants you to doubt.

Flashcard 3-5 - Listen to the Holy Spirit

Listen to the Holy Spirit. God has sent Someone very special to tell His children that they are saved. This special Someone is God the Holy Spirit. He lives in every person who is saved. It is He who brings about the changes in your life, helping you to turn from wrong, making you sorry when you sin, making you want to learn God’s Word and helping you to understand it. Sometimes as you listen to a Bible lesson, or as you read the Bible, there is something which you know is just for you, you may get a feeling of joy deep inside, your eyes light up, the teaching is so helpful. God the Holy Spirit living in you does that and He is helping you to know you are saved. Perhaps you have a hard time at home or at school. Your friends turn against you, you get a punishment you did not deserve, someone shouts angrily at you. You turn to God. “Oh Father please help,” you ask Him. How do you know God is your Father and as His child you may turn to Him? (Romans 8:15-16.) God the Holy Spirit tells you to turn to God and call Him your Father. It is wonderful to have God the Holy Spirit in your heart making you sure you are God’s child.

But Christians can sadden the Holy Spirit so much that they no longer hear His voice. That happens when we choose to do wrong and go on doing it. Perhaps you have done that and you need to tell God about that sin and turn from it. As you live to please God, the Holy Spirit helps you and He also tells you that God is your Father.

Flashcard 3-6 - Keep going

Keep going. Suppose you were going to run in a long race. You have an excellent coach who gives you a lot of help, encouragement, training and exercise. The coach knows you can succeed. But that does not mean that the race will be easy for you or that you can be half-hearted as you run. No, you will have to make an effort and run as hard as you can. So it is in the Christian life. If God has saved you, you will be in Heaven with Him. He has given all you need to live for Him. Sometimes you sin - you stumble. But true Christians do not give up. The Lord Jesus said those who keep faith to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13). True Christians keep in the race, knowing that there will never be a part of the race in which their Heavenly Father cannot help them. "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1b). If in your heart, you know you are saved and perhaps this lesson has made that even clearer, thank God. Do it now, quietly in your heart. It is the most wonderful thing to know.

It may be that it is very clear to you now that you are not saved. Do you want to be, with all your heart? You may trust the Saviour now, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

God will make you right with Him forever, He will begin to change you. He will help you to run the race of the Christian life.

Flashcard 3-7 - Grow

When you are right with God, you will want to grow. It doesn't mean to grow taller or to gain weight, but to know Him better and to love Him more. It means to please Him by the way you live; it means to be more like Him.

When the Lord puts His life in us, He gives us the desire to grow in this way and He gives us the strength to do it (Philippians 2:13). The Bible also makes it plain that we have to do our part and use the means which the Lord has given to help us to grow (Philippians 2:12). In this way we can show that we truly belong to the Lord.

Pray! Talk to God every day. He is your Heavenly Father, and He wants you to tell Him everything.

Read and obey the Bible! God has given us this Book to get to know Him better. As you do what the Bible says, the Lord will make you grow in the Christian life.

PowerPoint 3-6

PowerPoint 3-7

Witness! Tell others about what the Lord Jesus has done for you. Your family and friends need to know how they too may be God's children. Telling others also makes you a stronger Christian.

Go to church and Sunday School! Going to church will make you stronger in your love for the Saviour. You can learn more about God, and receive help and encouragement from other Christians.

When you are growing in Christ, you can be sure that you are God's child and He is making you more like Himself.

Lesson 4

Why am I here?

Scripture for teachers

Genesis 2:7

Psalm 139:14

Acts 17:25

1 Peter 3:18

Romans 8:29

Acts 1:8

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6 and 4-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6 and 4-7

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 4-1 Why am I here?
- Flashcard 4-2 God made me
- Flashcard 4-3 God has a plan for my life
- Flashcard 4-4 Christ died and rose again to save me
- Flashcard 4-5 To make me more like Jesus
- Flashcard 4-6 To tell others about Christ
- Flashcard 4-7 Trust God, love Him and please Him in everything

*Lesson***Flashcard 4-1 - Why am I here?**

PowerPoint 4-1

Many people go through life without any real aim. It is as if they are just here to enjoy themselves, to find a job, to make money and to have a family. Is that the main purpose in life? **Why am I here, what is life all about?** That is an important question. Where can we find the answer? There is only one Book that gives the right answer to this very important question. It is the Bible, the Word of God. The Bible tells us where we came from, why we are here and where we are going. Let's find out together what it says.

Flashcard 4-2 - God made me

PowerPoint 4-2

Let's go right back to the beginning. God was always there, before there were any people or animals, or anything. Then God made everything - the heavens, the earth and the sea; the sun, moon and stars; the animals, the fish and the birds; the trees, the flowers and the plants. And last of all God made people. The Bible says that in the beginning "the Lord God formed man" (Genesis 2:7). God made the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve.

Some people say that man came into being just by accident. They try to tell us that once there were tiny cells which, over millions of years, grew bigger and changed from one thing to another until finally they became a man. The people who believe that theory of evolution are wrong. To believe what they say is like believing that if I drop a handful of pins, they will one day turn into a watch. It's not possible. Someone had to make us and that Someone is God. He is the Creator. Think for a moment about your hands, your feet, your ears, your eyes, your brain and your body and how it all works. Only God could do that. King David wrote this sentence once; it is in the Bible - "I am ... wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). That is true.

Don't let anyone tell you that you just came into this world by accident. God has given life to all of us. He chose to use parents so that little babies would be born. But it is God who gives life to each little baby. The Bible says, "He gives to all life" (Acts 17:25). Inside your mother, He made you what you are, with the real you inside, that thinks and feels and decides. You can truly say today, "God made me and I am very important to Him."

Flashcard 4-3 - God has a plan for my life

PowerPoint 4-3

Before a person starts something, he usually has a plan. For example, when a sculptor begins to work on a piece of stone, he knows what he wants to make out of it. God is far greater than any sculptor. God has a wonderful plan for your life. The Bible says that man was made in God's likeness. In the beginning Adam and Eve enjoyed being with God. They loved God. They talked to God and God talked to

them. God loved them very much and He wanted this special friendship to continue. However, the first man and the first woman turned away from God. God told them that there was just one tree of which they could not eat the fruit, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He said, “In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17). This tree was not there to hurt them, but to help them. By not taking fruit from the tree and by doing what God had said, they could show how they loved God and wanted to stay in fellowship (friendship) with Him.

However, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit of the tree. They sinned. In a very real sense that day they died inside (though their bodies did not die until some years later). They were separated from God because of their sin. As they were, they could no longer live for God and be together with Him. And every child, except One, born since then has been like that too. The only One who was different was the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. All of us were born with something in our hearts that makes us want to do wrong and disobey God. That’s why we say and do sinful things. We go our own way and not God’s way.

But God hasn’t given up on His plan for us to be able to live in fellowship with Him, for us to be able to love Him and live for Him. God knew from the beginning what was going to happen and He had already planned what He would do. He would send His Son to earth to save us. That is why the Son of God was born as a little baby. The Lord Jesus Christ is truly and fully God. He became man. He is God and He is man, yet one person. Isn’t that amazing! The Lord Jesus grew up. He was once your age. He liked to play and to run. But there was something very different about His life. He never sinned. He always obeyed God, His Heavenly Father. God’s wonderful plan is to save you and to begin making you more and more like the Lord Jesus - so that you can enjoy being with Him. How could God do that? It was going to take something very special to happen.

Flashcard 4-4 - Christ died and rose again to save me

The only way for you and me to be able to be together with God and live for Him was that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, should die for us and rise again from the dead. Let me explain what happened. The Lord Jesus is the only one who lived a perfect life. He went about doing good. He taught the people. He healed the sick. He helped those who were in need. No-one ever lived like Him. He is the only one who should not have died, because He never sinned. Then one day evil men took the Lord Jesus Christ and nailed Him to a cross. He allowed that to happen, because it was God’s will that He should die like that. The pain that He suffered from the wounds in His head, His hands and His feet was nothing compared to what He was suffering in His heart. For there on the cross, He took the

PowerPoint 4-4

punishment for all our sin. He was separated from His Heavenly Father, as God put on Him all our sin. He cried out: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46). That was the price He had to pay to take away our sin. Finally He cried, “It is finished!” (John 19:30.) He had paid in full for all our sin. Later a soldier pierced His side with a spear and the blood came out from His body. How much He loved us, to be willing to die for us. “Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). He was buried, but three days later God raised Him from the dead. By that, He showed that Jesus is truly the Son of God, and that by giving His precious blood He had paid for all our sin. He went back to Heaven. He is a living Saviour.

Flashcard 4-5 - To make me more like Jesus

PowerPoint 4-5

What do you need to do to be together with God? Turn from your sin and trust Christ to save you. Are you willing to stop doing those things which are wrong in your life? You can tell the Lord that you want to live differently. Will you depend completely on the Lord Jesus Christ to take away your sin and to make you what He wants you to be? You can tell the Lord that you are counting on Him alone to save you from sin and to make you a child of God. If you really mean it, you can pray to the Lord Jesus Christ and say, “Dear Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. Thank You for dying on the Cross for me. Lord Jesus, save me now. Let me begin a new life with You.” The Bible says, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life” (John 3:36). If you do that today, will you tell me, so that I can pray for you in your new life? If you want to do it, but still don’t know how, please come and tell me afterwards. I’ll be here at the front.

When you come to the Lord Jesus Christ, it is just the beginning of a new life together with Him. The moment you trust Christ, He comes to live in you by the Holy Spirit. There is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Your body is like a house where He lives. He works in you to make you more like Jesus. As you read the Bible, He helps you to understand and to do what it says. He will help you to obey God, like the Lord Jesus did. When you talk to God in prayer the Holy Spirit helps you to pray. Like the Lord Jesus prayed when He was here on earth, the Holy Spirit guides you to ask for the things which please God and to trust God to answer.

If you are having problems and difficulties the Holy Spirit encourages you to keep on living for God like the Lord Jesus did.

He makes good things to grow in your life - kindness, joy, patience, love, faithfulness and other things which people saw in the life of the Lord Jesus. We could not do all this on our own. The Holy Spirit does it in us and through us. Of course, we often don’t allow Him to do all that He wants. We choose to go our own way or try to do things in our own strength. We fail, we sin. But the Lord Jesus died as

well for those sins in our new life. Tell Him what you have done wrong (1 John 1:9). He forgives you and helps you to live for God. Isn't it wonderful how God gives His Holy Spirit to us when we believe - to make us more like Jesus.

Flashcard 4-6 - To tell others about Christ

When someone comes to Christ, the Holy Spirit helps him or her to do something else as well - to tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus gave a promise to His followers before He went back to Heaven; this promise is also for us today, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me" (Acts 1:8). As well as showing by your life that you love the Lord Jesus, you can take opportunities to tell others what He means to you. You cannot tell everybody in your town, but you can tell some in your family and in your street and in your school about your Saviour. The Lord Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in Heaven" (Matthew 10:32). "Confess" means to tell in front of other people that Jesus is your Saviour.

Perhaps some of them will want to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as you have done. Would you know what to say to someone like that? You could use the tract "Good News For You" or just talk to the person.

- ◆ First of all, explain to them why they need the Saviour. Talk to them about how all of us are sinners, separated from God. You can use the verse, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6).
- ◆ The second step is to tell them about the Saviour. Explain how the Son of God came down from Heaven to save us from our sin. You can use the verse, "Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Tell them how He died and rose again for us.
- ◆ After that, explain to them what to do. "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life" (John 3:36). You can help them with a prayer to tell the Lord that they are depending on Him to save them.

The Holy Spirit helps us to tell others. He also helps the others to see that they need the Saviour and to trust in Him.

Flashcard 4-7 - Trust God, love Him and please Him in everything

You have heard about God's wonderful plan for your life - why you are here. Let's finish our lesson today by thinking about what He wants you to do, so that His plan will be worked out.

PowerPoint 4-6

The tract "Good News For You" is produced by European Child Evangelism Fellowship® and is available from your CEF National Office. If you need an address, contact the European Headquarters (address at the front of this book).

PowerPoint 4-7

- ◆ God wants you first of all to **trust Him**. Put your life in His hands and depend on Him to save you and to make you what He wants you to be.
- ◆ When you trust God, then you begin to **love Him**. He loved us first of all and He has done so much for us. Let's love Him in return with all of our hearts. He is worthy of our love.
- ◆ Finally, **please Him in everything**. The Holy Spirit will help you to put the Lord first in your life, and to obey what is written in the Bible. He will help you to be more like Jesus and to tell others about Him. May He help you to have Him as King in your life.

The teacher can share a brief personal testimony about what it means to follow the Lord.

Lesson 5

What about my future?

Scripture for teachers

Matthew 24:36-44

John 14: 1-3

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6 and 5-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6 and 5-7

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 5-1 What about my future?
- Flashcard 5-2 The Lord Jesus promised to come again
- Flashcard 5-3 Our bodies will be raised or changed
- Flashcard 5-4 Christians will be together, with the Lord in heaven
- Flashcard 5-5 Non-Christians will be separated from the Lord for ever
- Flashcard 5-6 There will be new heavens and a new earth
- Flashcard 5-7 Are you ready?

*Lesson***Flashcard 5-1 - What about my future?****PowerPoint 5-1**

What is the greatest event which ever happened in the history of the world?

Give the children an opportunity to answer.

Was it when Columbus discovered America? Was it when Gutenberg invented printing? Was it when computers were invented? Was it when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for sinners and rose again? That truly was the greatest event of history.

What is the greatest event which is still to happen in the future? It is when the Lord Jesus will come again.

Flashcard 5-2 - The Lord Jesus promised to come again**PowerPoint 5-2**

Before He went back to Heaven, the Lord Jesus told His disciples, "I will come again" (John 14:3). The Lord always keeps His promise. We do not know when He will come. It could be any day. A Christian in Scotland, who loved the Lord, did the same thing every evening before going to bed. He would pull the curtains over the window and he would say, as he looked forward to seeing the Lord Jesus returning, "Perhaps tonight, Lord! Perhaps tonight, Lord." And then in the morning, he would awake and pull back the curtains. As he looked out on a new day he would say, looking up to the sky, "Perhaps today, Lord! Perhaps today, Lord!" He expected the Lord to return at any moment and he was right to be ready.

When the Lord returns, it will not be as a little baby in a manger. He will not allow His enemies to make fun of Him or to spit on Him, as they did at His first coming, before they crucified Him. The Lord Jesus has won the victory over Satan and sin. He is Lord of all. He will come again with great power and glory. The world will know one day that the Lord Jesus is King.

Flashcard 5-3 - Our bodies will be raised or changed**PowerPoint 5-3**

What does the Bible say about what is going to happen when the Lord Jesus comes again? It will affect everyone - all those who have died already (John 5:28-29), as well as those who are alive when He returns. Because the Lord Jesus died and rose again, He has the power to bring back to life all who have died.

Those who put their trust in Christ during their lives here on earth, will have wonderful bodies like the body of the Lord Jesus, after God raised Him from the dead. The Lord will also change the bodies of Christians who are alive, when He returns. We will all go to Heaven together. The Bible says that all this will happen in the blink of an eye; it will happen in a split second.

But what happens to those who have not put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ? Their bodies will also be raised; but, since they did not want to be together with the Lord Jesus while they were living here on earth, they will not be with Him when they leave this world.

Flashcard 5-4 - Christians will be together, with the Lord in Heaven

We do not know everything about what it will be like for us to be in Heaven. The most wonderful thing of all is to be with the Lord Jesus for ever and ever. We will praise Him and serve Him as He alone deserves. With our wonderful, new bodies, we will not be tired or sick. There will be no more sorrow or pain. We will not sin any more either. The Bible says, "We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2). We will be good and right, living like the Lord Jesus, when He was here on earth. We will love Him, as He loves us.

The Bible also tells us that we will be together with the other Christians who have died and have gone to heaven before us. We will be there with Abraham and David, Ruth and Esther (about whom the Bible speaks) and the other people who truly know and love the Lord. We will be with those of our family and friends, who put their trust in Jesus Christ. That truth should encourage us to keep on living for Jesus here on earth. It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus.

PowerPoint 5-4

Flashcard 5-5 - Non-Christians will be separated from the Lord for ever

Those who live their lives without Christ here on earth, will live without Him when they leave this world. Because they did not want Jesus to forgive their sins and chose to go their own way, rather than God's way, they cannot be together with God. God is pure and perfect, so there will be no sin in Heaven. The Bible calls the place where people without God go, "hell". The Lord, who knows all about each one of us, will make the right decision about where each person should be. No-one will ever be able to say that God was not fair. He is always true and right. The Bible says, "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). It means that after death or after the coming of the Lord Jesus, there will be no more opportunity given for people to be saved. Trusting in Jesus Christ is the only way for anyone to be saved and to be ready for His coming again.

PowerPoint 5-5

Flashcard 5-6 - There will be new heavens and a new earth

This world of ours will not continue for ever. For so long it has been spoiled by sin, wars, crime and greed. We see that everywhere. The Bible says that God will make new heavens and a new earth. For that to happen, the old universe will burn up (2 Peter 3:7-13).

PowerPoint 5-6

We can look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where everything will be good and right. John, the disciple of the Lord Jesus, was guided by God to write about this wonderful future: “I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away” (Revelation 21:1). There will be joy for ever in our hearts, because we, as true Christians, will be with the Lord Jesus in Heaven and everything will be perfect.

Flashcard 5-7 - Are you ready?

PowerPoint 5-7

Are you ready to go to Heaven to be with the Lord Jesus, when you die or when He comes again? As the Lord examines your life today, what does He see? Does He see that your sins are still not forgiven and that you still have not put your trust in Jesus Christ? If the Lord was to come today, would you go to be with Him?

The Bible says, “He is also able to save to the uttermost [completely and forever] those who come to God through Him” (Hebrews 7:25). The Lord wants to forgive your sin, so that you will live together with God here on earth and then in Heaven. You must be willing to let the Lord save you from your sin. You need to trust the Lord completely to rescue you from the punishment you deserve. You can tell Him something like this: “Dear Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. I come to You to ask You to save me. Do what You want with my life.” The Bible says that He will save you completely. Your life will be made clean in His sight. He will take control of your life. Like that, you can go to be with Him in Heaven. Your future is safe in His hands.

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).