

the WORLD

PLEASE NOTE!

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the WORLD

Manual originally prepared by Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland

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Creation Resources Trust, Mead Farm, Downhead, West Camel, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 7RQ, UK – www.c-r-t.co.uk.

Another useful resource is: *Answers in Genesis*, PO Box 5262, Leicester, LE2 3XU, UK – www.answersingenesis.org.

Introduction



Helping teens understand life's purpose

The manual *The World* was produced by Child

Evangelism

Fellowship of Europe

for the Junior Youth Challenge ministry. It is part of a 5-year cycle and provides enough material for 12-24 sessions.

The lessons were written for the 11-15 year olds but can be adapted for an older age group. It can meet the needs of both saved and unsaved teens. Some lessons give a clear presentation of the Gospel, others help young Christians in their walk with God, but several are a combination of both.

Aiming at heads, hearts & hands

Clear objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson,

focusing on three

aspects:

 *knowledge*  *emotions*  *actions.*

It is vitally important to not only teach doctrine but also to apply it faithfully. Teens need to be encouraged to put the lessons into practice in their everyday life.

An additional objective is given  to indicate how the unsaved should respond to the teaching.

Using a variety of methods

Notes for the teachers are inserted in italics

in the lesson

text. They provide

a variety of methods that can facilitate the teens' involvement: case studies, role plays, sketches, interviews, workgroups, etc.

Some methods require a lot of time. It is recommended to divide the lessons into two parts in order to make full use of the methods.

LESSON BREAK

This break indicates where to split the lesson. If the teacher needs to cover the lesson in one go, he will have to select the ideas that will be the most useful to his group and leave the rest aside.

Preparing visuals & handouts

Visuals and handouts are supplied for all

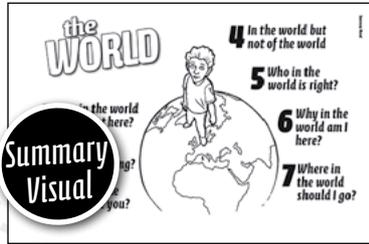
lessons. They are numbered and

gathered at the end of the manual. The lesson text indicates when to use them.

Please note that they are protected by copyright and can be used only by the owner of the manual.

If visuals are to be used in a small group, they can be enlarged on paper or card. In a larger group, it is better to photocopy them on acetate and use an overhead projector.

Some visuals should not be revealed all at once. The teacher can position covers and remove them progressively as he teaches the lesson. This helps keep the teens' attention.



The “summary visual” should be used to recap previous lessons and

explain the progression. Again it is better to reveal it one section at a time.

The handouts should be photocopied and given out to the teens. They include some creative ideas: wordsearches, crosswords, charts, questions, etc. Teens can fill them in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lessons and memorise the main points.

How in the world did we get here? (1)

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to see the problems with the theory of evolution and to accept that the biblical account of creation is true.
-  to be strengthened in their faith in God as Creator.
-  to increase in confidence in the Word of God.
-  to experience saving faith in an all-powerful God.

Introduction: Sketch in science class

Ask two of the teens in advance to prepare a little sketch. One will play the part of James, the other the part of the teacher.

Scene 1: James is at home reading his Bible before going to school. He reads Genesis 1:1-5, 26-27 out loud and prays, “Lord, I thank You for Your wonderful creation. Thank You that You made all the wonderful things I see around me and thank You that You are my Creator too.”

Scene 2: (In school – for additional props, bring a school bag and place some school books and pens on a table.) James listens as the science teacher says, “About 15,000 million years ago there was a massive explosion. This was the point at which all matter in the universe began; space and time began then too. Over time the universe that we know, and human and animal life, emerged. This theory is generally accepted by scientists as being the best theory they have to explain the origins of the universe ...”

James thinks out loud, “My teacher says that the ‘big bang’ is the best explanation of how we

got here ... But the Bible says that God created us ... It’s all very confusing ...” He gives a large sigh and then asks, “How in the world did we get here?”

How did life begin? Did it all happen by chance? Did God make everything in six days? Have we really descended from apes? These are good questions that need to be answered. The answers should be factual and scientific.

One popular answer is that a simple life form started with some sort of explosion or “big bang”. It is then suggested that the single life form evolved or changed into more complicated life forms, eventually evolving into mankind as we are today.

Method: Big bang

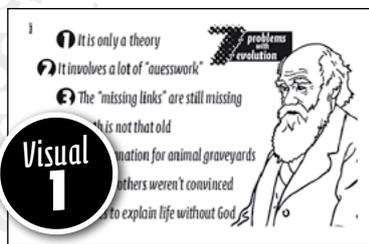
Take a picture from a magazine, cut it up into small pieces, roll them up and place them inside a deflated balloon. Inflate the balloon. Tell the teens you are going to burst the balloon and that you want them to observe what happens to the pieces of paper. Burst it and then ask, “Did the pieces of paper fall to the ground and create the picture? Is what you see on the ground all in order, or is it a mess?” Of course, it is a mess.

Could all the amazing complexity we see in the world around us today really have resulted from an enormous explosion or simply by chance? It seems very unlikely. Yet in most schools today, the “theory of evolution” is taught as fact. Evolution is the process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have gradually developed from simple to more complex

forms over millions of years. The process has three main features:

- ✦ Mutation – changes in the genetic code cause organisms to increase in complexity.
- ✦ Selection – put up against each other, the strongest survives.
- ✦ Time – this process is so slow it requires millions of years.

For many people in the world today, evolution explains how we got here. Yet there are major



problems with this theory. We will take time to consider seven. [Show visual 1.]

Seven problems with evolution

1. It is only a theory

It is important that we realise and accept that evolution is only a theory. A theory is a suggestion or a speculative view – it is not based on proven facts but on assumptions. Unfortunately evolution is presented in many schools and most TV documentaries and wildlife programmes as fact. People have therefore come to accept this theory as fact. This theory was put forward by many people down through the centuries but was made popular by Charles Darwin who lived from 1809-1892. He sailed around the world as a naturalist on H.M.S. Beagle. He returned to the seclusion of his home in Kent England, and wrote his theories on the origin of life. In 1859 he published a highly influential book called *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*.

Darwin's theory that evolution accounts for the origin of all living species has never been

and will never be established as fact. Yet, because of Darwin's writings, many people today do not believe that God created them, but believe that they are instead the product of pure chance.

2. It involves a lot of "guesswork"

Science is all about measuring, observing, evaluating and analysing results from an experiment or real life situation. The problem with evolution is that no-one can give conclusive evidence of what really happened. No human being was there to observe life beginning and the supposed change to different species. A lot of guesswork and assumptions are made. In Darwin's book, *The Origin of Species*, the phrase "might have been" or something similar occurs over eight hundred times!

There is, however, something we can be sure about – God was there! In the Bible He gives us an accurate account of the world and how He created it (Genesis 1:1) – no guesswork, just the one and only almighty God speaking with authority (2 Timothy 3:16).

3. The "missing links" are still missing

Evolutionists think that single-celled life forms developed into simple life-forms, then into fish, reptiles, birds, animals and then man. Darwin promoted a view called the "survival of the fittest", claiming that the strongest and most adaptable animals survived and eventually changed into "higher" life forms. Therefore between species there should be in-between stages. It is important to acknowledge that within a species, animals and birds can adapt to changing surroundings, but this does not lead to new species.

Evolutionists have produced several “missing link” stages between apes and man. However, all of them proved to be hoaxes. They were generally made up from just a few bones and a lot of imagination! Missing links, supposedly between birds and reptiles, have also been inconclusive.

The Bible speaks of fish, birds and animals multiplying “according to its kind” (Genesis 1:21, 24). This means that sharks produced little sharks, goldfinches produced little goldfinches and giraffes produced little giraffes. They did not change into new species, or mate with other species to produce a new species or a missing link.

In summary, the missing links between species, which are essential to proving evolution, are still missing!

LESSON BREAK

4. The Earth is not that old

The evolutionist believes that for simple life-forms to change and develop by chance into man must have taken millions of years. That the Earth is old is taught as fact. When you read about dinosaurs or listen to a wildlife programme, figures of 50 million years or 200 million years are mentioned as fact, not even as a possible age. One encyclopaedia describes dinosaurs as “prehistoric reptiles that lived during the Mesozoic era from 225 million to 645 million years ago.”

Method: Video clip/book

To illustrate the point above, show a brief video clip from a natural history film where the narrator uses terms such as “millions of years”. Alternatively, use a school science book or something you have printed from a science Web site created for junior teens.

Evolutionists support their idea of an old Earth using another theory. It suggests that “the present is the key to the past.” One example given is that of mountains changing slowly, and therefore they must have always changed slowly over millions of years. Of course this theory does not take into account the worldwide flood at the time of Noah, which displaced rocks suddenly and not over millions of years (2 Peter 3:5-6).

The evolutionist also points to rock strata, claiming that simple forms of life are fossilised in the “oldest” rocks. Diagrams of well-formed rock strata appear in school textbooks, but nowhere in the world does a complete geological column like that exist. It is usually only two or three layers, and even then sometimes the rocks which the evolutionists claim are the “oldest” are on the top! The biblical account of the flood explains the unusual rock strata formations. The massive upheaval to the Earth’s surface, caused by the flood and waters from the deep, formed very unusual combinations of rock.

There are many other more complicated facts which point to a young Earth. One of the less complicated arguments, which points to a young Earth is that when one adds up the genealogies in the Bible (even allowing for gaps) the total is much less than ten thousand years.

Despite all of the evolutionists’ guesswork and theories, there is still no proven scientific fact to contradict that.

5. It gives no explanation for all the animal graveyards

All over the world fossil bones are being discovered. The bones remain after the soft parts of the animal decay. Creatures only become fossilised in this way if they are buried immediately in sediment at or soon

after death. Many animal fossils have been found in a position that suggests sudden death. Indeed huge numbers of animal fossils have been found together pointing to a sudden catastrophe. Mammoths have been found preserved in the ice in Siberia with fresh grass in their mouths, again suggesting sudden death. Another example is a group of miners in Belgium who suddenly discovered they were surrounded by huge bones. Experts were called and it was discovered that they had dug into the middle of the fossilised remains of the dinosaur Iguanodon. Thirty more Iguanodons were found in that site. They had been swept into a deep ravine and covered in sediment.

Evolution cannot adequately explain these examples, but the Bible can! The great flood in Noah's day recorded in Genesis 7! Herds of animals perished quickly and often violently due to the effects of the torrents of water caused by the rain and water from the deep caverns of the Earth. The great flood is not a fairy tale! It did happen and the fossilised remains of all types of animals prove it. Dinosaurs are not a contradiction of the Bible's account. Job 40:15-18 speaks of an animal called the behemoth. It is described as a huge animal with a tail like a cedar tree and bones like bars of iron, probably a grass-eating dinosaur.

6. Darwin and other evolutionists themselves were not convinced

Listen to the following quotations and contrast these statements to the definite declarations of God in His Word the Bible. *[Distribute these quotations in advance and now ask the teens to read one each out loud.]*

- ✦ George Marsden (an evolutionist) was honest enough to say, "It is simply difficult to believe that the

amazing order of life on Earth arose spontaneously out of the original disorder of the universe." It is an accepted scientific fact that order cannot arise spontaneously out of disorder.

- ✦ Sir Arthur Keith (an anatomist and anthropologist) said, "Evolution is unproved and unprovable." Perhaps deep down this man knew that creation by God is the only feasible explanation for the world as we know it.
- ✦ Darwin was honest enough to admit that, "There are two or three million species on Earth ... but it must be said that, in spite of all the efforts of trained observers, not one change of a species into another is on record."

These people had doubts and question marks over their theories. However God's Word speaks with authority and leaves no room for doubt (Genesis 1:1).

7. It tries to explain life without God

The main reason evolution is so popular is that it ultimately does away with the need for God or a Creator. People are quick to accept any evidence that there is no God because then they can live for themselves and enjoy sin without restrictions.

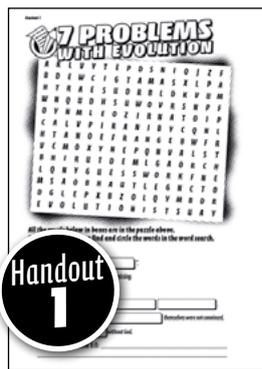
The very first verse in the Bible forces the reader to make a simple choice. *[Read Genesis 1:1.]* Either you believe that He did create it all or you believe that He didn't. If He did not, then you and I are here simply by chance. God has not created us and therefore we are not accountable to Him. We can live our lives in whatever way we please. However, if there is a God (and there is) then we are accountable to Him for everything, including the way we live and our response to His provision of salvation. One day we will all have to give an account

of our lives to God (Romans 14:12). Are you going to believe the unproven theories of sinful man or will you believe in the living God who created all things?

Conclusion

Remember James whom we met in the sketch at the beginning of our lesson? The situation he faced is one that you are very likely to face too. You will meet many people who do not believe what the Bible says about how this world was created, but instead believe that we are here as a result of a process of evolution over many years. When you are faced with this view, remember all the things we have learned today. Evolution is only a theory. As we have seen, there are many things about it that simply do not add up. Instead of believing in a theory, put your faith in the all-powerful God who made this wonderful world we live in.

In our next lesson we will discover many of the amazing things He has made. God alone has the answer to the question, "How in the world did we get here?" Believe Him!

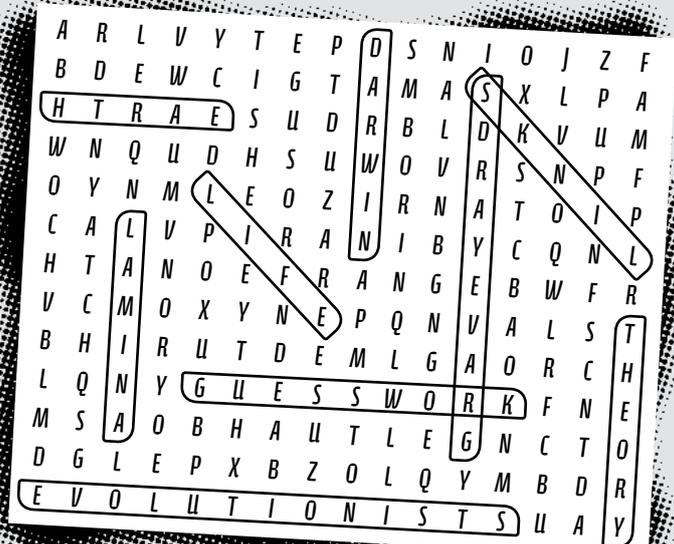


Method: Searching for the links

Photocopy and distribute handout 1. The teens could fill it in during the programme or later at home. ●



HANDOUT 1 ANSWERS



Fill in the blanks: Theory; guesswork; links; Earth; animal graveyards; Darwin; evolutionists; life.

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

How in the world did we get here? (2)

2

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to weigh up the evidence and conclude that the natural world and humanity are the work of a Creator God.
-  to gain confidence in their faith as they see that many things in our world point to a Creator.
-  to learn about creation evidences which they can use in their personal evangelism.
-  to repent for living life as if God didn't exist, acknowledge Him as their Creator and receive His forgiveness.

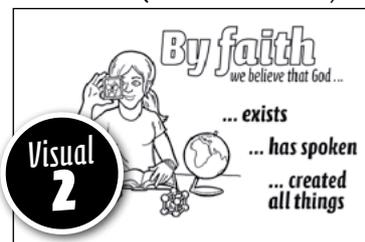
This is quite a long lesson due to the necessary attention to detail which this subject requires. You may consider teaching this lesson in two parts. Alternatively you could choose to only briefly mention, or leave out entirely, some of the seven amazing creations.

Introduction: Where did it come from?

Place a glass of milk on a table and ask, "How did it get here?" Allow the teens to state the different stages: cow ate grass; farmer milked the cow; lorry brought milk to the dairy; pasteurisation; packaging; supermarket; purchased it; poured it into the glass. Is that a fact or a theory? Think of all the people who observed the different stages from the cow to this glass: farmer, lorry driver, dairy worker, young person stacking shelves at the supermarket. You could even show the supermarket receipt to prove you were there at a certain time and bought it.

Here's an even bigger question. "How in the world did we get here?" How can we find the answer? Was someone there when this

world was being created? Can that person tell us what happened? God was there at the very beginning of creation (Job 38:4). He spoke – He created – He observed (Psalm 33:6-9). It is all recorded for us in the Bible (Genesis 1:3-4).



Show visual 2.

By faith we believe that God ...

- ... **exists** – The Bible never sets out to prove that there is a God or to prove that He created all things. The Bible assumes the indisputable fact of God from the very first verse of the Bible – “in the beginning God ...” (Genesis 1:1). God was always there (Psalm 90:2). By faith we believe that He exists (Hebrews 11:6).
- ... **has spoken** – In the Bible God has told us how everything was created (Hebrews 11:3). He continues to speak to mankind through the wonder of creation all around (Romans 1:20). In the Bible our Creator tells us what He expects of us (e.g. Exodus 20).
- ... **created all things** – We cannot prove creation scientifically. Nor does any true scientific fact contradict the biblical account of creation. So we accept by faith that there is a God, that He has spoken and that He created all things (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16).

In our last lesson we discovered that the theory of evolution does not hold true. So, “How in the world did we get here?”

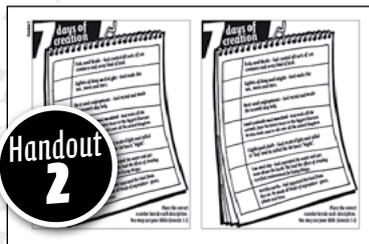
Where can we find the answer to this very important question? It is God who has the answers and He has recorded everything in His Word, the Bible. *[Ask one of the teens to read Genesis 1:1-2.]*

Let's now work forward from this solid foundation and look at Genesis 1.

Literal days

[Read Genesis 1:1-2 again.] These verses clearly tell us that God spoke and in six literal days He created everything. We know it was six actual days because the Hebrew word used for "day" is the same word as is used for "a twenty-four hour period" in other parts of the Old Testament. Some people would try to convince us that the six days represent millions of years, thus tying in with evolution better. But that is just an attempt to give the theory of evolution some credence by mixing it with the Bible's account.

Method: What was created when?



Handout
2

Distribute handout 2 and give the teens time to fill it in using their Bibles. Then

continue with the teaching below.

Seven days of creation



Visual
3

The seven days of creation in Genesis 1-2 are as follows: *[Show visual 3.]*

- Day one** Light and dark – God created light and called it “day” and He called the darkness “night”.
- Day two** Sea and sky – God separated the water and put some above the Earth. This had the effect of creating a perfect environment for living things.
- Day three** Fertile earth – God separated the land from the sea. He made all kinds of vegetation – grass, plants and trees.
- Day four** Lights of day and night – God made the sun, moon and stars.
- Day five** Fish and birds – God created all sorts of sea creatures and every kind of bird.
- Day six** Land animals and mankind – God made all the animals, from the tiniest insect to the biggest dinosaur. He also made man to rule over all the animal kingdom.
- Day seven** Rest and enjoyment – God rested and made the seventh day holy.

LESSON BREAK

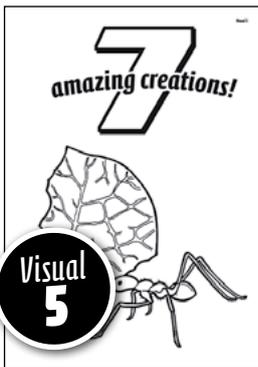
When you look at how ordered and amazingly complex God's creation is, it is amazing that many people still believe that it all came about by an accident called the “big bang” and emerged into the marvel that it is today. When we look at the complex life forms around us in our world, the only logical conclusion we can come to is that there must be a Creator behind it all.

[Show visual 4.] Look at this picture. If I were to drop these watch parts out of the window of the twenty-fifth floor, is there

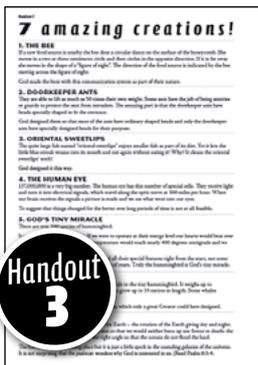


any chance that, when those parts hit the ground, they will land in such a way that the watch would be put together perfectly and be working? What if I went up to the fiftieth or the hundredth floor, would it increase the chances of me getting my watch to work? Or if I allowed the pieces of the watch to lie on the ground for years and years would my watch ever begin to work? No! In the same way, it seems just as crazy to say that complex life forms on Earth came into being by evolutionary factors including millions of years. It doesn't matter how many millions of years you wait, some things are just never going to happen! They are so complex – they cannot be explained simply by chance. All the evidence points to a Designer.

Method: Discover seven amazing creations



and created and which could not have evolved or happened by chance.

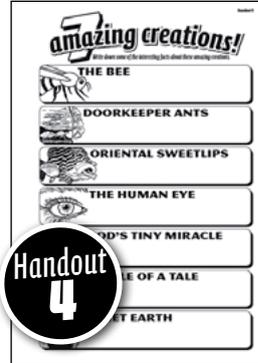


[Show visual 5.] We have looked at seven problems with evolution, and at the seven days of creation recorded in Genesis 1. Now let's look at seven wonderful things which God planned

and created and which could not have evolved or happened by chance. Divide the teens into groups and give each person a copy of handout 3. Delegate one or two of the examples to each group. Give them time to prepare a short presentation and

then allow them to present their findings to the whole group.

Optional method: Complete the facts



You may decide to teach this section yourself without the group work. To keep the young teens' attention, distribute handout 4 and allow the teens to fill in the empty spaces while you are teaching.

Whichever option you use, it would be helpful to display images of the various creatures mentioned. These could be downloaded from the Internet and either printed out or displayed on a projector.

Seven amazing creations

The bee dance

Bees live on nectar, which they get from flowers. They fill their honey sacs with nectar and fly back to the hive to contribute to the feeding of thousands of other bees. The small quantity it can carry does not make a big difference to the food reserve, but it has an amazing way of communicating to other bees where the food source is.

If a new food source is nearby the bee does a circular dance on the surface of the honeycomb. She moves in a two or three centimetre circle and then circles in the opposite direction. If it is far away she moves in the shape of a "figure of eight". The bee also indicates distance by the speed she wiggles her abdomen when performing the dance. Fast movement indicates the food is close and slow movement indicates food is quite far away. The direction of the food

source is indicated by the bee moving across the figure of eight. Straight up means fly towards the sun. Down means away from the sun. If the bee moves at an angle away from the sun, that is the angle which they must fly to find the food.

Now, could this have evolved?! How did the bees survive before the communication pattern was established? Even if a smart bee thought of this method of communication how did it explain to the other bees what it meant by this strange behaviour? The true explanation is that God made the bees with this communication system as part of their nature.

Doorkeeper ants

Another amazing creature is the ant (Proverbs 6:6-8). Ants are some of the hardest workers in the animal kingdom. They are able to lift as much as fifty times their own weight. They live in communities and work really well together without any kind of supervisor.

One kind of ant builds their nest in tree trunks. The entrance to the nest is a small hole in the tree trunk.

Some ants have the job of being sentries or guards to protect the nest from intruders. They spend their whole lives guarding the entrance to the nest by blocking the hole with their bodies. The amazing part is that the doorkeeper ants have heads specially shaped to fit the entrance. Their heads are flattened and shaped like a cork to fit the hole. If the hole is too big for one, then several work together to block it. Their heads are specially strengthened and even camouflaged to match the bark of the tree. When an ant wants to enter the nest they tap on the bark of the tree and the doorkeeper ants recognise them by smell before letting them in.

God designed them so that most of the ants have ordinary shaped heads and only the doorkeeper ants have specially designed heads for their purpose.

Oriental sweetlips

Just a brief mention of a wonderful working relationship, which God designed. The quite large fish named "oriental sweetlips" enjoys smaller fish as part of its diet. Yet it lets the little blue-streak wrasse into its mouth and out again without eating it! Why? The blue streak wrasse cleans the oriental sweetlips' teeth! It goes in and cleans parasites and residue off its host's teeth then leaves safely.

This special relationship could not have happened by accident. The clear explanation is that God designed it this way.

The human eye

One hundred and thirty-seven million. A very big number! What is the significance? The human eye has this number of special cells. They receive light and turn it into electrical signals, which travel along the optic nerve at three hundred miles per hour. When our brain receives the signals a picture is made and we see what went into our eyes.

Evolution? Not likely! Can you imagine what use a partly-evolved eye would be? No use at all, as a partly-formed eye could not perform its function. To suggest that things changed for the better over long periods of time is not at all feasible.

God's tiny miracle

There are over three hundred species of hummingbird ranging in size from about seven centimetres to twenty-two centimetres. Their wings beat fifty to eighty times per second emitting a humming

sound, hence its name. It can hover, fly backwards and sideways. It can fly up to 80 km/hour (50 miles/hour). It is active for about twelve hours per day. This frantic activity burns up huge amounts of calories. The equivalent in humans would be 1,300 hamburgers per day! If we were to operate at their energy level our hearts would beat over one thousand times per minute, our body temperature would reach nearly 400°C and we would burst into flames!

God has equipped the humming bird with a needle-like bill, which penetrates deep into flowers to extract nectar. God has also given the hummingbird a long specially designed tongue, which is curled up at the edges to form two troughs to hold the nectar. The tongue then curls up and retracts to the back of the head up to thirteen times per second. The nectar is then squeezed down the throat. In order to counteract their busy life they go into a hibernation type sleep for twelve hours each night allowing them to control their energy requirements. The bee hummingbird weighs only 2 g (one tenth of an ounce). They build very neat nests using cotton, mosses and spiders' webs.

In order to survive they would have needed all their special features right from the start, not some so-called evolutionary process over millions of years. Truly the hummingbird is God's tiny miracle.

A whale of a tale

The blue whale is at the opposite end of the scale to the tiny hummingbird. It weighs up to 120 tonnes (equivalent to twenty-eight elephants!) It can grow up to 33 metres (108 feet) in length.

The sperm whale can stay under water as long as ninety minutes and dive as deep as three thousand metres (9,800 feet).

Their lungs are joined directly to their blowhole on top of their heads, not to their mouths. This allows the whale to feed underwater and also means the calf does not drown when taking its mother's milk. Some whales produce up to seven hundred litres of milk per day. The calf does not even need to suck as the mother whale actually pumps the milk into her babies' mouths.

These are just some of the amazing things about whales, which only a great Creator could have designed.

Planet Earth

Consider the order God put in place for the Earth – the rotation of the Earth giving day and night; the four seasons; placed just the right distance from the sun so that we would neither burn up nor freeze to death; the axis of the Earth placed at exactly the right angle so that the oceans do not flood the land. The Earth is truly an amazing place, but is just a little speck in the unending galaxies of the universe. It is not surprising that the psalmist wonders why God is interested in us (Psalm 8:3-4).

Conclusion

So, how in the world did we get here? As we look at all this amazing evidence, it is hard to come to any other conclusion than ... God created us! How could all of these wonders exist without a Designer? There's only one possible explanation for it all. It has been created by an all-wise God.

The fact that a powerful God exists, who designed and created all these things, is so clear to see and it should cause us to praise Him (Revelation 4:11). No-one can complain that God has left insufficient evidence of His existence (Romans 1:20). The entire natural world points to God (Psalm 8:3-4).

That demands a response from you. Are you going to reject what is so clear? If you do, the Bible says that you have no excuse and you will be subject to God's righteous wrath (Romans 1:18).

He has created you for His glory (Colossians 1:16). If you are a Christian, then you can have the courage to tell your friends and teachers why you believe that God created this world. (You could even use some of the illustrations you have learned here today.)

If you are not a Christian, He wants you to acknowledge Him as your Creator. He wants you to say, "I am sorry for living as if You did not exist and going my own sinful way. Now I know that You are my Creator and that I should be living for You. You want to give my life real purpose and direction. Thank You for sending Your Son the Lord Jesus to die for me. Please forgive me for my sin, come into my life and help me to live for You, my Creator and my God. Amen." ●

What in the world is wrong? (1)

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand how sin entered the world and the dramatic and far-reaching consequences that came with it.
-  to be reminded of the grace of God in providing a Redeemer for sinful mankind.
-  to avoid sin and live holy lives to the glory of God.
-  to realise that Jesus Christ took the punishment they deserved and to put their trust in Him alone for salvation.

Introduction



Last time we looked at the question, “How in the world did we get here?” Today we want to ask the question, “What in the world is wrong?” [Show visual 6.] Every time we

hear the news, we are reminded that this world in which we live is far from perfect.

Method: Newspaper headlines

Give each teen a page spread from a national newspaper and ask them to pick out a bad news story and to say in a couple of sentences what happened. Then ask the teens what has gone wrong in society. Allow them to share.

Sociologists and others blame the problems in our society on the environment in which people live. It is suggested that if people had better living conditions (i.e. better housing,

leisure facilities, pay, working conditions, etc) then their behaviour would be different. While it is true that people who live in socially deprived areas are more likely to be involved in crime, at the same time rich people sin too! The sins are the same; they are just sometimes on a different scale. Adultery, stealing, fraud, lying, alcohol and drug abuse, etc are also common sins among the rich. Many “celebrities”, even though they are so wealthy, end up destroying their lives with sin. [Ask the teens to give you some examples of such famous people who have “crashed out”.]

It would be a really interesting experiment to take people out of average conditions and put them in a perfect environment to see if their behaviour improved dramatically. But wait a moment! That situation has already been tested – by Adam and Eve who were placed in perfect conditions! They had everything you could desire in life, yet they still fell into sin and everything was changed forever.

Six times God says in Genesis 1, when He observed what He had created, that it was “good”! Then after the creation of the man and the woman, He said that everything He had made was “very good”! So we shouldn’t blame God, because the world He created was “perfect”. So what went wrong? The problems that we have in our world today are all a direct result of the invasion of sin.

God’s enemy, Satan, intervened to try to ruin and spoil their perfect environment. Let’s read about it together in Genesis 3:1-6. [Have another leader read these verses.]

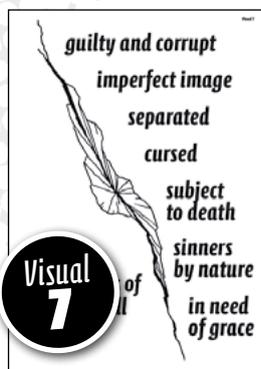
So even in a perfect environment with everything they could possibly wish for,

Adam and Eve sinned and as a result sin entered the world. This event is known as “the Fall”, because it was here that man fell from favour with God. Sin forced a huge chasm between God and man. The Fall had drastic and far-reaching consequences for everybody ever born.

Seven effects of the Fall

Show visual 7.

1. We are guilty and morally corrupt



Before the Fall, Adam and Eve were totally innocent and free from sin. They did not even realise they were naked. However, after they sinned, we read that their eyes were opened and they

became aware of their disobedience and their real guilt (Genesis 3:7).

Although it was Adam and Eve who committed the first sin, none of us can claim that we have never disobeyed God (1 John 1:10). So whose fault is it? In a sense, all of us share in the blame for the sin we see all around us. Adam and Eve fell from grace but we all fall short of God’s standard (Romans 3:23). We have all sinned and we are therefore all guilty. This is something we cannot deny.

Have you ever had a virus on your computer? A really bad virus can completely corrupt your hard drive. Because of the Fall, we too are morally corrupt (Genesis 6:11-12). By our very nature, we are not inclined to love God wholly with heart, mind, and strength, as God requires. We are more naturally inclined to look out for our own interests over those of others,

thus demonstrating that we are guilty and morally corrupt.

2. We reflect an imperfect image of God

Method: Tinfoil mirror

Hold up a large mirror to the group so they can see their reflection. Then hold up a large piece of tinfoil. Ask what the difference is. Then explain that it is still very effective in reflecting the light but the image is somewhat distorted.

Before the Fall, Adam and Eve as perfect humans were true reflections of the image of God. Genesis 1:27 says that God created man in His own image. God intended man to be a mirror of the Creator God to all of His creation. Man was not created as just another part of the animal kingdom. God made Him differently and gave him a special status to exercise dominion over all the other creatures. Man also reflected the image of God in his characteristics, especially in his capacity to have relationships and to express love to God and one another.

While we still reflect God’s image in this and other ways, that image has now become imperfect. This is one of the saddest effects of the Fall. Our role as image bearers of God is restricted because of the stain of sin. However, if you have repented of your sin and been born again, then you can still be a light for Jesus your Saviour in this dark sin-cursed world (Matthew 5:14-16).

3. We are separated from God

Before the Fall Adam and Eve were friends of God. God came to the garden and had fellowship with them. It was a very special relationship. But after the Fall that relationship was broken by sin. God sentenced them to death and threw them out of the garden and away from His presence

(Genesis 3:22-24). From that moment on, mankind became enemies of God.

When God's Son was here on Earth most people hated Him. He spoke the truth and they did not like it. In the book of Acts we read that people did not like being told they were sinners (Acts 3:12-4:4). They were opposed to God because they didn't like the message. Right down through the centuries it was the same and it is still the same today. People do not want God in their lives but want to live for themselves.

God created Adam to have fellowship with Him. He wants that fellowship with you also, but that is only possible when you come to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

LESSON BREAK

Method: Bible hangman

Choose three verses that teach about sin (e.g. Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12; Psalm 51:5). On a whiteboard, overhead acetate or a large piece of paper, draw a line for each letter in the verse with a longer space between the words. Don't forget to include lines for the reference. Allow the teens to take turns to roll a dice. Whenever a teen rolls a six, that person is allowed to guess a letter. Write that letter on every line where it appears in the verse. The winner is the one who can say the verse perfectly. Even if they think they know it, they must roll a six before they can give the answer.

4. We are affected by God's curse

In Genesis 1 we have the creation of every living thing, followed by God's verdict that it was good. Then in Genesis 2 we have the description of a very special place that God created called the garden of Eden. Let us see what this place was like. [Ask one of the teens to read the description in Genesis 2:8-10.]

Method: What has gone wrong?

Find a newspaper or Internet article about a famine situation in the world today. Have a young person read it aloud and then ask the group how the scene described in the article differs from the Bible's description of the garden of Eden. Mention that many people find it hard to understand how God can allow such things to happen today, yet the answer lies in what happened to the Earth as a result of Adam and Eve's sin.

After the Fall, God cursed man's environment. Oh yes, God's world is still a beautiful place and its wonders speak of the God who created it (Psalm 19:1), but now it is much harder to farm the ground and to produce food from the earth (Genesis 3:18). Romans 8 says that the whole of creation is suffering because of Adam's sin (Romans 8:22). God's world was perfect but it is common in our day for natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods to occur. When that happens, they sometimes kill thousands of people and leave vast parts of the Earth devastated.

God's curse on the ground has made it harder for us to put daily food on the table (Genesis 3:19). While the developed world has managed to create a trade system whereby the supermarket shelves are usually full all year round, in many countries millions of people have to toil endlessly to provide just the basic necessities. Harvests fail and people die of starvation and disease. One in eight people in our world does not have access to safe water supplies. It is hardly surprising that the Bible tells us that the creation is waiting and longing to have this curse removed (Romans 8:19).

5. We are subject to physical death

Adam and Eve had been told to multiply and fill the Earth, but another effect of sin for Eve and all future women was that child-bearing would be accompanied by pain (Genesis 3:16). Things that were not present in Genesis 1 are now very much a part of our life here on Earth. Because of the Fall there is now much pain, suffering and sorrow.

Our bodies are subject to decay and physical death. Death is our final enemy. No matter how much money or knowledge we possess, we cannot stop death.

When awful things happen, people sometimes blame God, but who is really to blame? *[Ask one of the teens to read Romans 5:12.]* The curse on this world came about because of Adam's sin but also because of our own sins. One day we too will die physically. Those who are still in their sin will also die eternally and be separated from God in Hell forever. Do you realise how serious that is? Hell is not just a swear word or an "imaginary place". Hell is real. If you are condemned to Hell there is no second chance!

While you have time, make sure you make preparations in this life for the life to come. The Bible says if you put your trust in Jesus Christ that you will not be subject to everlasting punishment but will receive eternal life (John 3:16).

6. We are sinners by nature

Another effect of the Fall is that Adam and Eve's first sin has automatically been transmitted or imputed to every human being. Sometimes this is referred to as "original sin". We just read in Romans 5:12 that the curse of sin spread to all men. Even before you committed your very first sin, you were already a sinner, because you were

born that way (Psalm 51:5). A young child does not need to be taught to sin – evidence of this sin is not hard to find.

When Christ died on the cross, even though He had never sinned, He bore the sin of mankind and died in our place (Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 Peter 2:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21). Just as through Adam death has been imputed to us, so through faith in Christ can life be imputed to us (1 Corinthians 15:22).

7. We are in need of God's grace

Another effect of the Fall is that it created a situation whereby man was condemned to eternal death and totally unable to do anything about it. The only person who could help was God and He already had a plan! We find it first mentioned in Genesis 3:15 – the seed of a woman would bruise the head of the serpent. This is a reference to God's great plan to send a Saviour to defeat Satan completely. And that is what happened. God sent His own Son Jesus Christ to this Earth. He was born to a virgin, He lived a sinless life, died on the cross taking the punishment which our sin deserved (1 Peter 2:24). He then rose again and later ascended into Heaven.

By dying on the cross, He defeated Satan and provided the way of salvation that was necessary from the point of that first sin in the garden of Eden.

Future restoration and glory

Will the world always be this way? No! God, in His great mercy, has promised not to leave His creation in its sinful state (2 Peter 3:13). One day He will remove the curse that Adam by his actions brought into this world (Revelation 22:3). One day He will make a new Heaven and a new Earth, a

place that is free from sin and free from its dreadful effects.

Method: Verse look up

How will the new creation be different to what we have become familiar with?

Rather than reading the verse out loud, the teens should look it up, read it quietly and then stand up when they can answer the question, "What two things that God made in His original creation will not be in His new creation and why?" Give them the reference Revelation 21:23. Answer: the sun and the moon because the glory of God will be their light.

Will you be there? Those who choose to continue in their sin and not to accept God's way of salvation will have another eternal home. They will be thrown into the lake of fire (2 Thessalonians 1:8-10;

Revelation 20:12-15). Make sure that the new world will also be your future home (John 3:16; Romans 10:8-10). Turn from your sin and ask the Lord Jesus to forgive you. Then you will be friends with God, you will be forgiven for your sin and you will be put into a right standing with God. Then you too can look forward to this new creation knowing that you will enjoy God forever in a truly wonderful place.

Conclusion

Now you can see and understand why the Fall had such drastic and far-reaching effects. It is obvious what in the world is wrong – it is sin. The outcome of rejecting God is too awful to contemplate. It doesn't have to be that way. Instead of staying in your sin, come to the Lord Jesus – today. ●



What in the world is wrong? (2)

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand the temptation pattern that led to the first sin.
-  to develop a strong determination to resist temptation to sin.
-  to know the power and blessing of God in resisting temptation.
-  to become so disgusted by the sin in their own lives that they come pleading for God's forgiveness.

Introduction

In the first lesson on “What in the world is wrong?” we discovered the answer is “sin”, which came into the world at the Fall. The only way to have our sin dealt with is to come to the Lord Jesus. We are saved in an instant but the change to be like the Lord takes time. We are in a constant battle against Satan and this brings difficulties in the Christian life.

One of the biggest difficulties is dealing with the temptation to sin. Let's look at Genesis 3:1-6 again and learn from some of the mistakes Eve made. Watch for the subtleness of Satan and Eve's five big mistakes, which led to sin.

Ask one of the teens to read Genesis 3:1-6 aloud.



Show visual 8 and reveal each heading as you teach the five points below.

Eve's five big mistakes

1. She listened

Eve made the mistake of listening to Satan and his lies. Satan is very cunning with his lies and suggestions. In Genesis 2:17 God had clearly said that Adam and Eve were not to eat of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil”. In Genesis 3:1 Satan questioned God's Word by saying, “Did God really say ...?” He tried to cast doubt on God's Word. Eve then reminded Satan that God had said they would die if they ate of the tree in the middle of the garden. But Satan said, “You will not surely die.” Now he was completely denying God's Word. He then went on to suggest that to eat the fruit was a good thing to do because they would become like God. All the time he was subtly undermining God's Word by putting questions in Eve's mind and by telling lies.

Method: Group discussion – Satan's lies

Divide the teens into groups. Give each group a piece of paper with a theme on it and get them to think about what lies Satan might say to that theme. Use words like: alcohol, sinful thoughts, stealing from a shop, video games, books with occult content, boy/girl relationships, copying music, etc. Allow the groups to give brief suggestions. Use follow-up questions to teach the following part.

Satan may be saying to you, ...

- “Try alcohol – just once.”
- “Smoking is cool.”

- ✦ “It’s OK to view pornographic images/ films.”
- ✦ “It’s OK to enjoy sinful thoughts. At least it’s better than doing the sin.”
- ✦ “It’s OK to steal – I need it and if I had the money I would pay for it.”
- ✦ “Those games, books, music, etc may have satanic content, but it doesn’t affect me.”
- ✦ “Making copies of copyrighted music is OK – everybody does it.”
- ✦ “Our relationship has become physical but it’s OK because we really love each other.”

When you want to look up a Bible verse with the teens, ask them to “draw their swords” (hold their Bible up high). Give the Bible reference and have them repeat it. On the command, “Attack!” they will compete to find the verse. The first teen to find it stands up. Give a few moments for others to find it and then ask the winner to read the verse aloud.

Sword drill: John 8:44. Jesus called Satan the father of lies. When Satan starts to suggest something to you – stop listening – he is a liar!

2. She looked

Eve didn’t just glance at the fruit but let her gaze linger. Perhaps that is like you when you see something on TV or on the Internet that you know is sinful. Instead of changing the TV channel or quickly getting away from that Web site, your gaze lingers. Satan knows how to make sin appealing. He tells you all sorts of lies. He says, “It’s OK to look at such things, sure it won’t do you any harm and no-one will know.”

Method: Memory game

Tell the teens to watch very carefully. One after

the other, show a series of ten pictures very quickly (only one second per picture). Choose a couple of volunteers, have them stand up and recall the pictures they saw in the right order. Then remind them that when they see something sinful, even if only for a second, that image can become indelibly marked on their mind.

Sword drill: Philippians 4:8. At this stage in the temptation look for something else to do. Look away and get your mind active on something that is good.

3. She longed for

Her gaze developed into desire. Eve let her interest become a desire which she could not suppress. That is the way Satan deceives us. He tries to get you to have a small initial interest in what is wrong. He presents sin as exciting and attractive. Then he intensifies the temptation to the point of you giving in. Satan shows the pleasure of the moment but hides the long-term consequences. Sin can lead to damaged health e.g. from smoking, alcohol or drugs. Involvement in certain sin can also lead to you gaining a bad reputation. A relationship that becomes physical can result in an unwanted pregnancy or in you contracting a sexually transmitted infection (STI). In that moment of longing for sexual intimacy, Satan also hides the emotional and spiritual consequences for taking such action. Satan doesn’t want you to think about the regrets or the feelings of guilt, emptiness and unhappiness which will follow and may accompany you for many years of your life.

Method: Explore 1 Corinthians 10:13

Have the teens look up 1 Corinthians 10:13 and explore it with them, using the following questions:

- ✦ What does the verse teach about temptation? (*There is no such thing as a new temptation – someone somewhere has faced it before.*)
- ✦ How is God described in the verse? (*Faithful.*)
- ✦ What does God promise to the person who is being tempted? (*He will not allow them to face more than they can bear.*)
- ✦ Where does strength to resist temptation come from? (*From God – He promises to provide a way of escape for us.*)
- ✦ What should you remember next time you are tempted? (*You do not have to give in – God is able to help you resist.*)

You could emphasise what the verse is teaching by using this quotation from the Bible commentator, Warren Wiersbe – “When God allows His people to go into the furnace of temptation, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat.”

Sometimes a temptation can be so strong that it feels almost unbearable. We can feel like no-one else has ever experienced pressure this strong. However God tells us in His Word that in such situations there is always a way out. Even when you find yourself in a confusing situation, never think that sin is your only option. There will always be a way that is right and that does not require disobedience to any of God’s moral laws. Choose that way and resist the temptation.

LESSON BREAK

4. She took and ate

Eve gave in to the tremendous pressure of temptation, which Satan brought her way. It is not sin to be tempted but it is sin to give in. When we give in we immediately have our fellowship with God broken and we lose the

joy of our salvation. Before we sin Satan tries to minimise the gravity of it in our minds. Then after we have sinned he comes and maximises the wrong and makes us feel like a failure. The tempter becomes our accuser and starts to say things like, “What sort of Christian are you, doing such a thing?” Satan portrays the sin as enjoyable now, only to use it later to make us feel miserable. When you are under severe pressure, or better still when you are at the beginning of the temptation, cry to the Lord for help. Eve did not. She tried to reason in her own strength and failed. Learn from her mistake.

Sword drill: Hebrews 4:15. Because the Lord suffered when He was being tempted, He understands how difficult it is for us and He is able to help. [Read Hebrews 2:18.] So look to Him for help. Remember these verses the next time you are tempted and don’t give in.

5. She involved others

Instead of immediately acknowledging her sin and seeking forgiveness she encouraged Adam to participate with her in the sin. Eve’s sin led to Adam sinning against God too. It can be the same in our lives – if you give in to temptation, others may follow your example. As a Christian, be very careful of the example you set to others. Even as a young person, you can have a big influence on other people. Make sure your example is a positive one (1 Timothy 4:12).

What happens when we fail?

We all give in to temptation in some form or another. When we do, it is important to do the right thing.

Sword drill: 1 John 1:9. If you are a believer then you do not have to be saved

again. But you must confess your sin to the Lord and seek His forgiveness. If you do, God will forgive you. Then seek to stay close to the Lord and look to the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance.

Here's a practical tip for you. After you have confessed your sin and come back into fellowship with God, take a moment to ask yourself some critical questions. For example, "What triggered my first sinful thought? Was it something I saw on TV or the Internet? What can I do the next time I am in a similar situation to break the chain of events?" Assessing past mistakes is a helpful way to avoid similar temptations in the future.

Method: Case study – David and Bathsheba



Ask a leader to read 2 Samuel 11 out loud to the whole group. Split the teens into groups, distribute handout 5 and have the teens discuss the answers. At the end review their answers and draw their attention

to what is happening in the illustrations at the bottom of their handouts.

Conclusion

What in the world is wrong? Answer: sin! It came into the world at the Fall and had a drastic effect on mankind. It is wonderful to know that through faith in Christ we can have our sin forgiven – but then as we seek to live for the Lord Jesus, we need to constantly watch for Satan's temptation. Learn from the mistakes Eve made. Do not allow temptation to get a grip on you, but instead learn to identify it and deal with it immediately. Remember, God promises that He will give you the power to resist because His Holy Spirit who lives in you is stronger than your enemy, Satan (1 John 4:4). Yes, you are in a constant battle against sin but if you are trusting in the Lord Jesus then you are on the winning side!

Method: Group discussion

Look again at the themes that were discussed in groups at the start of the lesson. Discuss ways that you could avoid sinning against God in such situations. ●

HANDOUT 5 ANSWERS

Instead of idly walking around on his balcony, where should David have been (verse 1)? **At the battle against the Ammonites.**

Times of idleness are often the times when temptation is strongest. What could you do to avoid such times? **Get involved in Christian work; develop hobbies or other interests; avoid prolonged periods alone; etc.**

What two commandments did David break in verse 2? **Tenth and seventh – Coveting and adultery.**

How did David's sin affect some other people (verses 5,15)? **Bathsheba conceived and her husband Uriah was murdered.**

Which commandment did he break in verse 15? **Sixth – Murder.**

Look again at the five big mistakes that Eve made. Can you find parallels with the story in 2 Samuel 11? List as many as you can noting down the appropriate verses. **Looked, verse 2 – saw her bathing;**

longed for, verse 2 – desired to behold her; took and ate, verse 4 – sent for her and lay with her; involved others, verse 5 – Bathsheba became pregnant.

In Psalm 51 we have David's prayer of confession. In verses 1-2, what does he ask God to do with his sin? **Blot it out, wash him and cleanse him.**

David had sinned against Bathsheba and against her husband and who else according to verse 4? **God.**

Read verses 10-12. How do you think David is feeling deep inside? **Full of remorse; had no joy in his relationship with God.**

What good example does this Psalm give you of what to do when you are aware of sin? **Be open and honest with God; confess your sin and seek His forgiveness.**

Where in the world are you? (1)

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to fully understand God's plan to save mankind through the sacrificial death of His Son.
-  to be thankful to God for His great love in sending the Lord Jesus Christ to be the Saviour.
-  to take whatever action is necessary to ensure they are on God's side, not Satan's side.
-  to see clearly that the Lord Jesus is God's answer to the problem of their sin and to put their trust in Him.

Introduction: "Get to the other side"

Ask the teens to try to solve this puzzle. You are standing by a river with a chicken, a fox and a bag of corn, all of which you must get to the other side. The only way across is by using a small boat, which is only big enough to take you and one of the items at a time. You must be careful about what you leave unattended together on either side of the river. If you leave the chicken and the corn together, then the chicken will eat the corn. If you leave the fox and the chicken together, then the fox will eat the chicken. How can you get all three safely across?

Answer: Take the chicken across, come back, take the corn across and bring the chicken back, take the fox across and finally come back for the chicken!

The Lord's side - or Satan's side?

[Show visual 9.] In the Old Testament we find a story where people are asked



to consider whose side they are on (Exodus 32:1-6,19-20). Moses has left the children of Israel alone while he goes up Mount Sinai to meet with God. When he does not return for a

long time the people become impatient and confused and that leads to them making some very bad choices. They turn away from the true God and begin to worship a golden calf they have made. Suddenly through the noise and confusion Moses appears carrying the stone tablets on which God has written the Ten Commandments. He breaks the stone tablets when he sees the sin of the people and cries out, "Whoever is on the Lord's side – come to me!" (Exodus 32:26).

Moses is amazed that the Israelites could turn their back on God who had done so much for them. So he issues a challenge – "Who is on the Lord's side?" He was asking the same question we are asking in this lesson – "Where in the world are you? Are you for God or against Him?"

Moses made it clear to the people that there were just two possibilities – either they were on God's side or they were against Him. The Lord Jesus made exactly the same point in His teaching many years later. He spoke about people either being on the broad road to destruction or on the narrow road to salvation (Matthew 7:13-14). He says there is no middle ground when it comes to our response to God's way of salvation.

For us today, the situation is the same. We are either on God's side or on Satan's side – there is nowhere in between. As Jesus clearly said, anyone who is not on His side is against Him (Matthew 12:30). Which side are you on? Where in the world are you?

As we have already discovered, all of us begin our lives on Satan's side. We were born with a sinful nature (Psalm 51:5) and as a result fall short of God's standard (Romans 3:23). When we consider this, and realise how perfect and holy God is (Isaiah 6:3), it seems impossible that we could ever be right with Him. But God has provided a way in which you can leave Satan's side and get on His side. There is only one possible way – and that is through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

In our lesson today we are going to discover how the Lord Jesus Christ is the answer to the problem caused by our sin. He has done all that is necessary to give us the opportunity to have our sin problem dealt with and come into a right relationship with God again.

He came to our world and lived a sinless life

People who met the Lord Jesus when He was here on Earth were forced to admit that they had never met anyone like Him. He displayed the power of God in amazing ways.

Method: Sword drill to discover what Jesus did

Have a succession of sword drills in which the teens look up the following verses to discover some of the amazing things the Lord Jesus did when here on Earth. Instead of reading the verse aloud, they must simply say what it tells us the Lord Jesus did.

- Matthew 7:28-29 – He taught with authority.
- Mark 6:54-56 – He healed the sick.
- John 11:43-44 – He raised people from the dead.
- Mark 4:39 – He controlled the forces of nature.

Amazing though these things were, there was something else which set the Lord Jesus apart from everyone else who ever lived – He never sinned (1 Peter 2:22), despite facing the same temptations we face (Hebrews 4:15). Can you imagine that? Probably not! It is impossible for us to live even one day without sinning.

Method: Sin multiplication

[To help the teens understand how different Jesus was to us, have them do the following mental arithmetic.] Imagine you live your life to a good standard. Each day you only think one wrong thought, do one wrong action and say one wrong word. Three sins per day. How many is that per week? (*Answer: 21.*) There are approximately four weeks in a month. How many sins a month? (*Answer: 84.*) There are twelve months in a year. How many sins a year? (*Answer: 1,008.*) Round this down to 1,000 and multiply by your age. How many sins in your lifetime? Remember, this is based on just three sins per day – and most of us will admit to many more than that!

It is impossible for us to count the number of sins we have committed in our lifetime. How different the Lord Jesus was! Throughout His life Jesus was never unkind or selfish, never dishonest. He never did anything with evil intent. He never said a sinful word, or even thought a sinful thought. The Lord Jesus Christ lived on Earth as a real person, yet He was perfect

because He is God the Son. It is vitally important to understand this. If the Lord Jesus had not lived a perfect life, then He could not be our Saviour. Only Someone who had no sin of His own could take the punishment for yours and mine.

He gave His life to give us life

It seems so strange that someone who had never done wrong should suffer the death of a common criminal. Yet that is what happened to the Lord Jesus – He suffered an agonising death by being nailed to a cross. Did He deserve it? Of course not! Was it a terrible mistake? No! It was all part of God's plan. Jesus died so that you might be saved from the punishment your sin deserves (Isaiah 53:6) – so that you might be able to leave Satan's side and get on God's side!

What did the Lord Jesus achieve by His death?

- ✦ He suffered willingly so that your sin could be forgiven (1 Peter 2:24).
- ✦ He took all your sins upon Himself (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- ✦ He took your place and became your substitute (1 Peter 3:18). Sometimes in a football match a player will get injured and is unable to continue playing. A substitute takes his place. On the cross the Lord Jesus took your place. You deserve to be punished for your sin, but He took the punishment instead.
- ✦ He satisfied God's righteous anger at sin (Isaiah 53:11). God accepted the sacrifice He made for sin and is willing to forgive all those who will put their trust in Him.

What tremendous love the Lord Jesus showed by His willingness to suffer death on the cross. He was willing to bear all that

suffering even though He deserved none of it. Do you realise how deep the Lord Jesus' love for you is? He did all this in order that you could be forgiven and be in Heaven with Him one day.

LESSON BREAK

He rose from the grave to give us hope

Praise God that the Lord Jesus Christ did not stay dead! We do not have a dead Saviour, but One who is alive forever. This is what makes Christianity unique among all other religions. Other faiths can point you to the place where their founder's body is, but the tomb where the Lord Jesus' body was laid is empty! He is alive!

Method: John tells us what happened

Have the teens turn to the Gospel of John and find the answers to the following questions about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

- ✦ How were the soldiers sure that the Lord Jesus was really dead? (*John 19:32-34 – blood and water came out of His side.*)
- ✦ What happened to His body? (*John 19:41-42 – they placed it in a tomb.*)
- ✦ What did His followers discover on the Sunday morning? (*John 20:1,6-7 – the tomb was open, the linen cloths were lying there but the body was gone.*)
- ✦ Who was the first one to see the risen Lord Jesus? (*John 20:15-18 – Mary Magdalene.*)
- ✦ How did Jesus prove to Thomas that he really was alive? (*John 20:26-27 – by showing His wounds in His hands and side.*)

God had raised the Lord Jesus from the dead, proving that His sacrifice for sin had been acceptable (Romans 4:25). Jesus Christ is alive for evermore and is therefore able to save you (Hebrews 7:25a). The knowledge that Jesus has risen from the dead gives hope to all who believe in Him. Because He died and is alive again, all who believe in Him can be sure that when they die they too will enjoy life after death (1 Corinthians 15:20-22). Believers also have the wonderful encouragement of knowing that the Lord Jesus is in Heaven today and is praying for them (Hebrews 7:25b). Do you have this certain hope? You can only have it by trusting in the Lord Jesus who died for you and who is alive again.

So where in the world are you?

What a wonderful plan of salvation God has provided! Because of the perfect life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, it is possible for you to have your sins forgiven. You do not need to stay on Satan's side. Instead, if you are willing to turn away from your sin and believe that Jesus died to take the punishment your sin deserves, you can be made right with God (Acts 3:19). To be on the Lord's side is to be on the victorious side. Your sin will be forgiven, you will find real peace, joy and meaning in life and best of all you will go to be with the Lord in Heaven some day.

In contrast, Satan's side is the losing side. While Satan may offer things which seem attractive, in the end sin will destroy your life and leave you separated from God for all eternity.

Perhaps you have heard about the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus many

times, but have never come to put your trust in Him. Simply hearing is not enough – you need to act on what you know to be true. What is holding you back? Are you afraid of what your friends may say? Or do you feel this is something you can leave until you are older? Maybe you feel there are too many things in your life, which would have to be given up if you were to become a Christian. None of these are valid reasons for rejecting what Christ has done.

Conclusion

Moses presented the children of Israel with a very clear question about whether or not they were on the Lord's side. As we have thought about all that the Lord Jesus Christ has done, you are now faced with a similar question. Whose side are you on? Have you turned from your sin and trusted in Jesus? If not, you are still on Satan's side. Don't stay on Satan's side when you can have your sin forgiven and come to know all the wonderful blessings of the Christian life.

The question Moses asked over three thousand years ago is still so important today. The answer determines whether you will spend eternity with God or be separated from Him. Where in the world are you? Are you on the Lord's side? Make sure the answer is "yes"!



Photocopy and distribute handout 6. The teens could fill it in during the programme or later at home. ●



HANDOUT 6 ANSWERS

Wording quiz (left column): Holiness; save; person; rose; son; evermore; again; sinned; deserves.

(Right column): Right; sin; alive; suffered; forgiven; real; punished; faith; perfect.

Fit the words (arranged in order): Forgiven; right; faith; real person; perfect; Son; sinned; suffered; holiness; punished; deserves; rose again; alive; evermore; save; sin.



Where in the world are you? (2)

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to see from God's Word that it is possible to be sure you are saved.
-  to realise that assurance is not dependent on feelings.
-  to be challenged to live a life that evidences a true conversion.
-  to realise that they have never been truly saved and to turn to God for salvation.

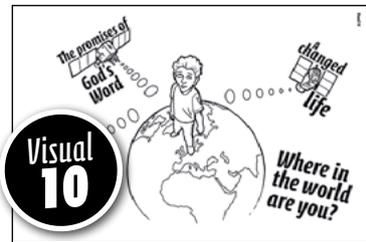
Introduction

When Moses challenged the people of Israel with the words, "Who is on the Lord's side?" what happened? [Give the teens opportunity to answer, then read Exodus 32:26.] The sons of Levi immediately gathered around him. Despite the contemptible sin all around, there were still people who loved the Lord and were not ashamed to stand up for Him. These people had no doubt about where they stood. They were able to say with complete assurance, "We are on the Lord's side."

In our last lesson we saw how God, through His wonderful plan of salvation, has made it possible for us to leave Satan's side and become right with Him. Because of what the Lord Jesus has done, there is now a way in which sin can be forgiven. Some of you have already put your trust in Christ. You can remember a time when you repented of your sin and got right with God but now you are maybe not so sure where you stand.

Today again we are asking the question, "Where in the world are you?" If you are

in a car and you lose your way, switching on a satellite navigation device will tell you exactly where you are. It can do that because it is able to receive signals from satellites, which enable it to pinpoint your exact position, anywhere in the world. Wouldn't it be great if it was that easy to find out where in the world you are – spiritually speaking?



[Show visual 10 and reveal the headings as you teach.]

Maybe you would discover

that you are far away from where you should be, or that you are not where you thought you were. Sometimes the road we take in life takes an unexpected turn. Sometimes the terrain is much rougher than we expected. It is easy to become confused, to lose your orientation and even to reach the point where you are not sure if you are a Christian at all.

Ask for reasons why many teens have doubts about their salvation. Explain that it is common for people to have doubts but we want to see today how we can be sure.

Is it possible to know for sure that your sin has been forgiven and that you will go to Heaven one day? Yes, it is and it is vitally important that you are sure. How can you be sure that you are a child of God and safe in His hands? Here are some signals which can confirm that you are saved.

The promises of God's Word

The Bible, God's Word, can be trusted completely. It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18), so we can believe whatever the Bible says about any subject. With regard to salvation the Word of God is very clear. Verse after verse clearly states that the person who genuinely turns from sin and trusts Christ is saved and nothing can change that.

Method: Verse look up

Write the following references on little strips of paper and distribute them in advance – one per person. Then ask the teens, one after the other, to read the verses out to the whole group. John 3:18; John 10:28; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:13.

All these verses make it clear that when we respond in faith to what Jesus has done, our salvation is certain. Of course, you alone know if you have been genuine in your repentance from sin and believing in Christ. If you have, then you can be completely sure that your sins are forgiven and that you will spend eternity in Heaven. You do not need to doubt or worry – your assurance of salvation is based on the promises of God's Word and those promises can never be broken.

The witness of the Holy Spirit

When we come to faith in Christ, God the Holy Spirit immediately comes to live within us. He also ...

- ... gives us assurance that we really are God's children (Romans 8:16).
- ... helps us to know that what we have believed is indeed trustworthy and that He remains within us (1 John 4:13).

... reminds us that because we belong to God's family we will never face condemnation (Romans 8:1).

... assures our hearts with an inner peace that cannot be explained (Philippians 4:7).

Of course we should not rely on our feelings, but we should rely on what God has said. The Holy Spirit's work in our lives reinforces the promises of God's Word.

A changed life

The moment someone turns from their sin and trusts in Christ they are saved. As time goes on, that person's life will show evidence that they really are on the Lord's side. Becoming a Christian is not just a case of turning over a new leaf – it is the beginning of a new life.

Method: Explore 2 Corinthians 5:17

Have the teens look up 2 Corinthians 5:17 and help them discover what it teaches, using the following questions.

- ✦ What does it mean to be "in Christ"? (To have trusted Him as Saviour and Lord.)
- ✦ How are those who are "in Christ" described? (New creations.)
- ✦ What are some of the "old things" which should pass away when someone becomes a Christian? (Bad language, wrong attitudes, bad temper, sinful practices, etc.)
- ✦ What are some of the "new things" we should expect to see developing in a Christian's life? (Evidence of the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, self-control, etc.)
- ✦ How do these changes help us know that we are God's children?

(These changes do not come about in our own strength but through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.)

- To think about: Since you became a Christian, are you aware of changes in your life?

Our old sinful ways should be left behind as we begin to live in a way that is pleasing to God. In thoughts, words, attitudes and actions the desire of every Christian should be to become more and more like Christ. Of course we cannot do this in our own strength – it is only possible in the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within all who have trusted in the Lord.

LESSON BREAK

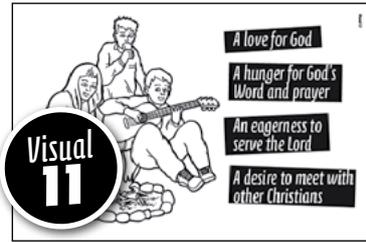
Method: Play taboo

Divide the teens into two teams. One person from each team is given three cards, each with an object written on it, which he/she must describe. Each card should also have a list of five other words, which are “taboo” (they are not allowed to say them). Choose one team to begin and give them thirty seconds to work through the three words on their cards. Then the other team tries. The team to get the most words in the fastest time wins. The last word for one of the teams could be “Christian”. (Taboo words could be: Jesus, disciple, saved, follower, Antioch). This will help you lead into the next part of the lesson.

Sometimes it is not so easy to describe what a Christian is like. Sometimes we get to know someone and we think, “He might be a Christian.” What things about that person would maybe make us think that way?

[Give the teens opportunity to give you some suggestions.] In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read about “new things” that come as evidence that someone has truly been saved. Here are some things you should expect to find in your life if you are truly a Christian.

A love for God



[Show visual 11. Have one of the teens read John 14:15.]

God must have first place in

the Christian's life. This means obeying His commands, even when other people might want to persuade us to do something else. The Bible teaches us clearly how God wants us to live. If we really love Him, we must seek to do the things He wants us to do and stay away from the things He forbids.

A hunger for God's Word and prayer

[Have one of the teens read Psalm 119:97.]

A Christian has the wonderful privilege of being able to talk to God through prayer and listen to God speak through His Word. Every Christian should seek to have a time each day when they can pray and read God's Word. This “quiet time” is absolutely vital if we are to get to know God better. We cannot expect to grow in our faith if we do not spend time with God. If you are truly a Christian then you will have a strong desire within you to read the Bible for yourself, to listen to others expounding the Word and to pray to God.

An eagerness to serve the Lord

[Have one of the teens read Psalm 100:2.]

When we think of all that the Lord has done, it is only right that Christians should be eager to do all they can for Him. We must be willing to invest our time and abilities, and look for any opportunity to serve the Lord in our church and local community. This will certainly involve seeking to tell others about Him. Perhaps other things will have to be set aside to

enable us to give time to the Lord. A true Christian will demonstrate an eagerness to serve the Lord and will jump at the opportunity to do so.

A desire to meet with other Christians

[Have one of the teens read Psalm 122:1.]

The person who loves the Lord will enjoy being with others who love Him too. It can be difficult to live as a Christian in this world. Fellowship with other believers is a great source of strength and encouragement. Attending church, Bible class, youth fellowship, Scripture Union at school – all these meetings give opportunity for fellowship with other Christians. The true Christian will be someone who looks for opportunities to spend time with fellow believers. Love for other believers is one of the marks of the Christian (1 John 4:7; John 13:35).

Where in the world are you?

How wonderful it is that we can be absolutely sure that our sins are forgiven and that we will never face God's punishment! If you are a Christian, you have no need to doubt your salvation. Instead you can rest on the promises of God's Word, the witness of the Holy Spirit and the evidence that the Lord is really at work in you, changing your life.

Some people think that this assurance gives them a licence to sin, but that sort of thinking is all wrong (Romans 6:1-2). If a person is thinking that way, you have to wonder if they are saved at all! If you are a true child of God then you will not want to sin. You have died with Christ, He now lives in you and you want to live your life for Him (Galatians 2:20).

However, perhaps you claim to be a Christian, but are not really sure. Maybe you have no sense of the peace of God in your life. As we have thought about the evidence of a changed lifestyle, you realise that these things are not evident in you. Are you really sure you are on the Lord's side? The Lord Jesus makes it clear that the lives of His followers will produce evidence that they belong to Him (Matthew 7:20). Why not speak to one of the leaders and make sure you really are on the Lord's side?

Conclusion

This issue is too important to have doubts about. If you have never truly been saved it can happen today – and you can know the joy of being sure that your sins are forgiven. Then if you are asked, "Where in the world are you?" you can give a clear answer, "I am on the Lord's side!"

Method: Buzzer quiz

This quiz is a summary of the lessons covered so far in this series. The quiz has three rounds:

- 1. Alternate round:** Each team is asked a question alternately, gaining two points for a correct answer. If a question is answered incorrectly, then the opposing team can gain a point by answering it correctly.
- 2. Starter round:** A question is asked for both teams. The team member to buzz first answers the question. If correct, no points are awarded but that team is asked three further questions gaining one point for each correct answer. Incorrect answers are not passed over, nor are there penalties for wrong answers.
- 3. Quick fire round:** Each question is for both teams. The person to buzz first gains one point for their team for each correct answer, but loses a point if the answer is wrong.

To make the game more fun, have one person on each team play the role of the buzzer. He sits on a chair and the other team members stand around the back of him with their hands behind their backs. When someone knows the answer they must tap the buzzer on the head. When the buzzer feels a hand on his head, he immediately shouts out the name of his team. One leader should ask the questions and another leader should help keep order when playing this game.

Keep the quiz moving quickly as it is more exciting. Do however take time during or after the quiz to review wrong answers as this reinforces the learning process.

Alternate round

1. Give two of the seven problems with the theory of evolution. (Only a theory; involves guesswork; missing links still missing; Earth not that old; animal graveyards; Darwin and others not convinced; tries to explain life without God.)
2. What phrase occurs more than eight hundred times in Darwin's book? ("Might have been.")
3. How does the Bible help to explain the many animal graveyards which have been found? (Animals died in the flood – Genesis 7.)
4. What effect does the theory of evolution have on people's attitude to God? (Leads people to believe there is no God.)
5. What did God create on the fourth day? (Sun, moon, stars.)
6. What did God create on the sixth day? (Land animals and man.)
7. What insect has its head specially shaped to help it do its job? (Doorkeeper ant.)
8. Which part of the human body has one hundred and thirty-seven million special cells? (The eye.)

Starter round

1. On which mountain did Moses receive the Ten Commandments? (Mount Sinai.)
2. Which commandments had the people broken by making a golden calf? (First and second commandments – "You shall have no other Gods before Me" and "You shall not make for yourself a carved image.")
3. Why do all of us begin our lives on Satan's side? (Because we are born with a sinful nature.)
4. Why is it so important that Jesus lived a perfect life? (If He had not been perfect, He could not have taken the punishment for our sin.)

Quick fire round

1. What term do we use for the entry of sin into the world? (The Fall.)
2. What effect does Adam and Eve's sin have on us today? (We are all born in sin.)
3. What word beginning with "G" describes our position before God? (Guilty.)
4. As well as sin, what else entered the world as a result of Adam and Eve's actions? (Death.)
5. What was Eve's first big mistake? (She listened to Satan.)
6. What does Satan try to make us do with God's Word today? (Doubt and disbelieve it.)
7. Why is the Lord able to understand how we feel when we are tempted? (He was tempted as we are.)

8. *What should Christians do when they sin? (Confess their sin to the Lord.)*

Starter round

1. *What is it impossible for God to do? (To lie.)*
2. *What three things provide evidence that a person is truly saved? (The promises of God's Word; the witness of the Holy Spirit; a changed life.)*
3. *What did Jesus say was the test of whether we love Him or not? (Obedience to His commands.)*
4. *Give two other things, which are evidence of a changed life. (A love for God; a hunger for God's Word and prayer; an eagerness to serve the Lord; a desire to meet with other Christians.)*

Quick fire round

1. *Why was Moses angry when he came down the mountain? (The people had made a golden calf and were worshipping it.)*

2. *What question did Moses ask the children of Israel? ("Who is on the Lord's side?")*

3. *What did he do with the tablets of stone? (He threw them down and broke them in pieces.)*

4. *What two things must you do to get on the Lord's side? (Turn from sin and trust in Christ.)*

5. *Who doubted the resurrection of the Lord Jesus? (Thomas.)*

6. *What does God promise will never happen to those who trust Christ? (They will never be condemned.)*

7. *Give a verse which promises that those who trust Christ will be saved. (E.g. John 3:18; John 10:28; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:13.)*

8. *What should we not rely on for assurance of salvation? (Feelings.) ●*

In the world but not of the world (1)

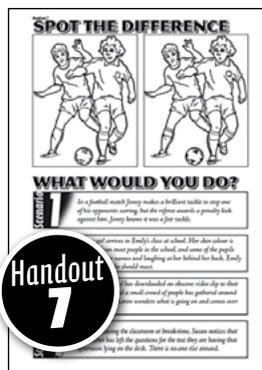
Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that Jesus Christ calls His followers to live lives different from those who do not know Him.
-  to desire to live to please the Lord no matter what the cost.
-  to identify areas in their lives which need to change and to ask the Lord to help them make those changes.
-  to realise that coming to faith in Jesus Christ demands willingness to live a changed life.

Imagine a Christian girl in a school class where there are no other Christians. How might you “spot the difference” between her and the others who are not Christians? [Allow the teens to give suggestions. The following answers may emerge: prays before eating her lunch; doesn’t cheat; speaks up in class when the teacher says something that is against her beliefs; doesn’t join in when others are talking negatively about others or telling dirty jokes; is usually on time and does homework well; displays a Christian symbol (necklace, badge, WWJD bracelet), is a friend to people whom others ignore.]

Help the teens to realise that if they are Christians then it should be possible to spot differences in their lives as well.

Introduction: Spot the difference



Distribute handout 7 to the teens. They must try to spot the eight differences between the two pictures. Perhaps you could have a small prize for the person who finds the eight differences first. The remainder of the handout will be completed later.

Jesus prays for us

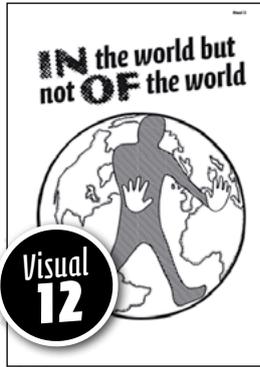
In John 17 we find a very special prayer, which the Lord Jesus prayed when He was here on Earth. Let’s read it together. [Have the teens look up John 17:6-19.] He is praying for His followers, and in John 17:16 He makes a very interesting statement. He says, “They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.” Whatever did Jesus mean? When you become a Christian you become a citizen of Heaven but you don’t go there right away. Even though Heaven is your home, you still have to live as a Christian in this sinful world. One day the Lord will take us from this world and we will go to be with Him in Heaven forever. In the meantime, He wants us to live in this world in such a way that those around us who are not Christians can see a difference in us. We



HANDOUT 7 ANSWERS



are in the world but not of the world – so we should not live like the world.



[Show visual 12.] Jesus' prayer shows that He clearly understands what it is like for His followers in the world. He knows the pressures and difficulties we face. But look carefully at

verse 15. Jesus did not ask His Father to take His followers out of the world. Instead He prays that they will be protected from the devil who seeks to fight against them. The Lord Jesus wants His followers to remain in the world so that they can be witnesses for Him to others who do not know Him. The apostle Paul once said that he longed to leave this world and be with Christ because that would be far better (Philippians 1:23-24). Yet at the same time he knew that God had a work for him to do here. If you are a Christian, the same is true for you.

The challenge to be different

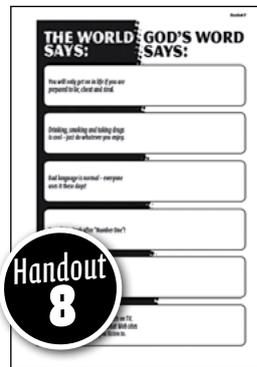
Being in the world but not of the world presents many pressures for those who are Christians. We know we should live as God wants us to, but all around us there are people who do not live their lives to God's standards. It is not easy to be different. Standing out from the crowd is a difficult thing to do and may result in us being laughed at or thought strange by our friends. But this is what the Lord Jesus calls us to do.

For the Christian, the Bible must be our guide to what we should or should not do (Psalm 119:105). The Bible is God's Word, and shows clearly how He wants His people

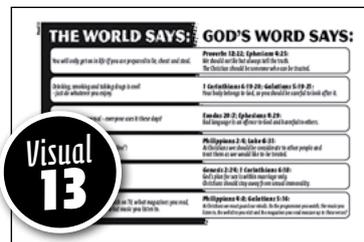
to live. That is why it is so important for Christians to read God's Word each day. We need to get to know what it says so we can be ready to react to the different situations we come up against day by day. Knowing what the Bible teaches will help you prepare for the difficult decisions and choices you will have to make. Of course, what the Bible says will often be very different to what the world says. If you are going to do what the Bible says, you will have to be willing to be different from others around you.

We are going to look at some issues you may face, and see what the world says we should do in these situations. Then we will consider what God's Word has to say about the same situations.

Method: Discussion groups



At this point in the lesson divide the teens into groups and provide them with a copy of handout 8. It is necessary to have a leader in each group to guide the discussion. Make sure each leader



has a copy of visual 13 in advance. Allow the teens to look up the verses and

discuss what God's Word has to say about each of the issues. Have a "report back" time and summarise the results using the visualised chart (visual 13).

LESSON BREAK

What the Bible says about the world

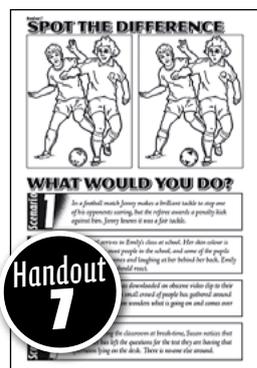
Studying these issues makes it very clear that there is a big difference between the world's standards and God's standards. If you are going to be obedient to God, it will certainly mean being different from those around you. This is exactly what Jesus meant, when He said His followers are "in the world, but not of the world". The Bible has a lot to say about the Christian's attitude to the world. *[Have the teens ready to read each of the following verses.]*

- ✦ Romans 12:2 – Christians should not become like the world, but should be different. Someone else put it like this: "Do not let the world squeeze you into its mould." It is so easy just to be like everyone else and not to stand out. The clear challenge of God's Word is that His people should be different and should make a difference in the world they live in. The word "transformed" in this verse comes from the word "metamorphosis" which describes the process by which a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. When this happens, the difference is plain for all to see. It should be the same when someone becomes a Christian. They should no longer conform to the sinful standards of the world around them, but instead stand out as those whose lives have been changed by the work of the Holy Spirit who now lives in them.
- ✦ James 1:27 – Don't let the world contaminate you with its sinful ways. Workers in nuclear power stations have to take careful precautions to ensure they do not become contaminated by radioactive materials. They are constantly aware of the danger of

contamination and the harm it could do both to them and to others. This verse warns you that as you live in this world there is a danger that you may become contaminated by it. You need to take precautions too. Be alert to things that may cause you to fall into sin. Sometimes you may need to walk away from those who would try to lead you into sinful situations. It is not easy to keep clean, but with God's help it is possible.

- ✦ 1 John 2:15 – If we love the world, then we don't love God. Be careful of having divided loyalties. The Lord Jesus warned His followers that it is impossible to love the material things of the world and also to love God at the same time (Matthew 6:24). If our love for material things grows, then our love for God will diminish. God seeks first place in our lives and anything else which takes that place is an idol. Living to please Him should be the goal of every Christian, no matter what the cost may be.

Method: What would you do?



Refer the teens to the second part of handout 7 and have them read the scenarios. Ask them to tell the story as it might develop if the main character was not a Christian, and then again as it would if the main character was a Christian. You might consider having the teens act out the various scenarios.

Conclusion

The Lord Jesus gave His followers a real challenge when He reminded them that

they are “in the world but not of the world”. He made it clear that He expects those who love Him to show by the way they live that He has changed their lives.

How does your life measure up? Is it truly different from the lives of those around you who are not Christians? The answer depends on your attitude to God’s Word. If you are prepared to live in obedience to God’s Word, even when other people do not want you to, then you will discover what it means to be “in the world but not of the world”.

Method: Alphabet quiz

Divide the teens into two teams. When you call a letter, the first person to bring you an object beginning with that letter (e.g. C – a coin; P – a pen; W – a watch) earns the right to answer the question beginning with that letter. A correct answer earns ten points. Call the letters at random. If no object can be found, ask the question to both teams and allow the first person that stands up to answer it. If the answer is wrong the question is passed to the other team.

What “A” is forbidden in Exodus 20:14? (Adultery.)

What “B” is the Christian’s guide in all situations? (Bible.)

What “C” must we not be to the world according to Romans 12:2? (Conformed.)

What “D” should the Christian be from the world? (Different.)

What “E” contains God’s Ten Commandments? (Exodus.)

What “F” is the place God should have in every Christian’s life? (First.)

What “G” contains God’s plan for marriage? (Genesis.)

What “H” should Christians be according to Ephesians 4:25? (Honest.)

What “I” are we told to stay away from in 1 Corinthians 6:18? (Immorality.)

What “J” wrote that we must not love the world? (John.)

What “K” do we need to do with God’s Word in order to obey it? (Know.)

What “L” is wrong if it is bad? (Language.)

What “M” can be affected by what we watch, read or listen to? (Mind.)

What “N” is the correct answer when asked to take drugs or alcohol? (No.)

What “O” does God want us to be to the teaching of the Bible? (Obedient.)

What “P” did Jesus do for His followers in John 17? (Prayed.)

What “R” should Christians do with God’s Word each day? (Read.)

What “S” is the chapter of John where Jesus prayed for His disciples? (Seventeen.)

What “T” describes our bodies in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20? (Temple.)

What “W” are Christians in but not of? (World.) ●

In the world but not of the world (2)



Objectives: We would like the teens:

 to understand the meaning and application of sanctification in their daily lives.

 to desire to become less like the world and more like Christ.

 to practise the daily discipline of resisting the influence of the world by reading the Bible and praying, and as a result to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit.

 to realise that they cannot change themselves but need a supernatural work of God in their lives.

Introduction: "Family likeness"

Ask a number of teens and leaders to bring a photograph of themselves as a baby to the meeting. Show the photographs to the teens and see how many they can correctly identify. When giving the answers, ask the teens what features in the baby photograph enabled them to identify the person concerned. Pay special attention to features, which make them like their parents or brothers and sisters. This introduction will help the teens to focus on the teaching that Christians should have a resemblance to the Lord Jesus Christ.



[Show visual 14.] As Christians we are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In our last meeting we saw what it means to be those who are "in the world but not of the world". True Christians will be different

from the world around them. As time goes on, they will grow to be more and more like the Lord Jesus. As we follow the Lord, we will find that He is working in us to make us more like the type of people He wants us to be. This process is called "sanctification".

What is sanctification?

Sanctification is a work of God's grace in the life of a believer making him more and more free from sin and more like Christ. It begins when God saves us through faith in Jesus Christ. When we trust the Lord we are made right with Him immediately – but sanctification is not like that. It takes a long time, indeed this work of God continues throughout our entire lifetime. There may well be special times in our Christian lives when God challenges us about our walk with Him, and as a result we are drawn closer to Him, but sanctification is an ongoing process which changes our inner nature. We cannot change ourselves through our own efforts – sanctification is a supernatural work of God. It means to be set apart (like Sunday is set apart from the rest of the week). It also means to purify, to be separated from sinful things and dedicated to God. Through the power of God at work in our lives, we as Christians are enabled to resist sin more and more and to live lives that are pleasing to God.

It affects every part of our being – our minds, our hearts and our wills.

Method: Sword drill

Have a series of sword drills on the following verses to help the teens discover how our minds,

hearts and wills are changed by God during the process of sanctification. When each verse is found and read, make a brief comment using the notes provided.

The mind

1 Corinthians 2:14 – Before God saved us, our minds were unable to understand spiritual things.

Romans 12:2 – God opened our minds to enable us to understand the Gospel and now He wants to renew our minds, changing the way we think and the values we have.

The heart

Jeremiah 17:9 – Our hearts were full of sin before we trusted Christ.

Ezekiel 36:26 – When we were saved our hearts were changed.

Matthew 22:37 – As God continues to change our hearts we will seek to put God first in our lives.

The will

Psalms 40:8 – As God changes our minds and hearts, we begin to desire to do God's will.

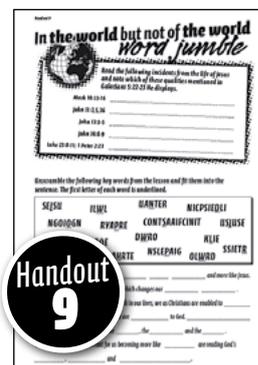
Hebrews 13:20-21 – Instead of going our own sinful way, we want to do what is pleasing to God.

Becoming more like Jesus

As God continues to change our minds, hearts and wills, these changes will become apparent in our lives. Remember, sanctification is all about growing to be more and more like the Lord Jesus. The world will try to make you more like it, but Jesus wants you to become more like Him.

But what was the Lord Jesus like? We can discover a lot from reading the stories about Him, which are recorded in the Gospels. Before we do that, let's look at Galatians 5:22-23. These verses list a number of things which should be evident in the life of a person who is being changed by God: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These qualities are known as the "fruit of the Spirit" because the Holy Spirit produces them in Christians. All of these things were evident in the life of the Lord Jesus when He was here on Earth, and so should be evident in us if we are really growing to be like Him (1 John 2:6).

Method: What was Jesus like?



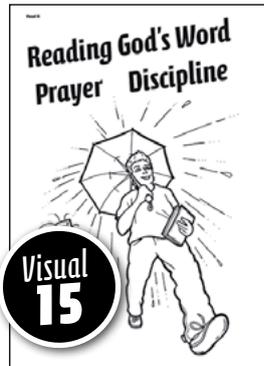
Divide the teens into small groups, each with a leader and distribute copies of handout 9. Teens should look up the references together and discover how the Lord Jesus behaved in various situations.

Also encourage them to keep a bookmark in Galatians 5:22-23 so that they can compare each episode to that passage and discover which of the qualities mentioned the Lord Jesus displayed. The remainder of the handout will be completed later on in the lesson or at home.

LESSON BREAK

Are you growing to be more like the Lord Jesus? Perhaps as you read through the list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, you are aware that these things are not really evident in your life. If that is the case, then perhaps you are not fully co-operating with God in His work of sanctification. Yes, sometimes it is not easy

to live in this world as a Christian. It can be difficult but if we really desire to become more like Jesus then we will realise that we too have our part to play. What does our role involve?



Show visual 15.

Reading God's Word

Everywhere we look the world is seeking to influence us with its standards. On television, in films, in advertisements and in magazines we are

constantly bombarded with messages and images which tell us that sin is OK. They tell us that certain things are normal – “Everybody does it, so it must be OK”. Here we must be on our guard. It is through the Bible that God speaks to us, showing us His ways and His standards. As you read and think about what the passage is teaching you will often realise that it is contrary to what the world is saying. It is then that we must evaluate our attitudes and behaviour. We need to be radical and allow the Word of God to shape us and mould us into the person that He wants us to be.

As you become more aware of what God is like and how He wants you to live, God will use this knowledge to change your mind, heart and will. You will begin to think and act more in accordance with His will (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Method: What has God been saying to me?

Have a few Christian teens ready to share briefly what they have been reading in God's Word, and what they have learned from it. Perhaps they could also recommend some Bible reading notes suitable for teens. This could be a great encouragement to other young Christians

in your group to begin having a regular quiet time.

Prayer

It is impossible for you to change yourself or live to God's standards in your own strength. You need God's help – so ask Him for it! Pray day by day, asking God for the help you need to live for Him (Hebrews 4:16). Prayer is a vital source of strength for the Christian. The Lord Jesus Himself needed to spend time alone in prayer to His Heavenly Father (Matthew 14:23). If it was necessary for Him, you can be sure it is necessary for you too!

When we group Bible reading and prayer together we often refer to that time as our “quiet time”. It is a time when you can be alone with God and fully focused on Him. Do you have a time set aside each day to meet with God? It is a vital time and very important if you are to become more and more like the Lord Jesus. You cannot expect this to happen if you are not regularly taking time to talk to Him and to allow Him to talk to you.

Method: Illustration – Time for the Bible and prayer

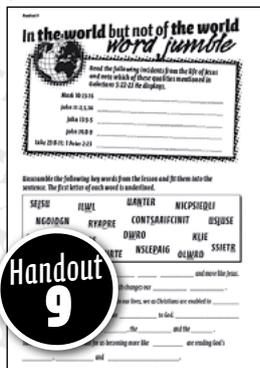
Get a small jam jar and put a fairly large pebble in the bottom. Fill the jar with other much smaller pebbles and put the lid on. Then pour out all the pebbles and fill the jar again, this time leaving the large pebble to the end. You will find that it will not fit into the jar. It only fits when it goes first and the smaller pebbles go in around it.

Use this illustration to stress to the teens the importance of making prayer and Bible reading a priority in your life. If you allow other things to fill up your life first, often you will find no time to read and pray. But if you make your quiet time a priority, there will still be time for

all the other activities you need to do. (You need to prepare this well in advance to make sure that all the pebbles fit as they should!)

Discipline

Having a regular time with God each day requires discipline. But that is not the only type of discipline you require as a Christian. When faced with temptation, you must be prepared to resist and not give in. The Bible clearly tells us that when we stand up against the devil and resist him he will flee from us (James 4:7). However, this too requires real discipline, because often temptations are attractive. God promises that He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to bear (1 Corinthians 10:13), so you can be sure He will give you the strength you need to resist. But will you use that strength? Or will you give in to temptation? You need to be disciplined enough to say “no” to things you know to be wrong. This is all part of becoming more like the Lord Jesus.



Handout
9

Method: Handout

You may wish at this point in the lesson to allow the teens to complete handout 9.

Alternatively you could continue here with the conclusion and finish the handout afterwards.

Conclusion

God has a wonderful plan for your life – He wants you to be like His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). What an amazing privilege! How wonderful to have such a goal in life! Of course there will be disappointments along the way. Changes in your life may not occur as quickly as you might like, and there will be times when you let the Lord down and do things you know disappoint Him. When this happens you need to confess your sin and ask for His forgiveness. You will find Him ready and willing to forgive (1 John 1:9).

It is not easy to live for God in a sinful world. How good it is to know that God does not expect us to do it in our own strength! We are often weak – but He is strong and is able to keep us from stumbling until one day, in Heaven, we shall at last be free from sin (Jude 24). Young Christian, you are “in the world but not of the world”. With God’s help, you really can be different. ●

HANDOUT 9 ANSWERS

Mark 10:13-16: **kindness, gentleness**

John 13:3-5: **gentleness**

Luke 23:8-11; 1 Peter 2:23: **self-control**

John 11:3,5,36: **love, kindness**

John 14:8-9: **longsuffering**

Sanctification helps us to become less **like** the **world** and more like Jesus. It is an **ongoing** process, which changes our **inner nature**. Through the **power** of God at work in our lives, we as Christians are enabled to **resist** sin more and more and to live lives that are **pleasing** to God. **Sanctification** affects every part of us including the **mind**, the **heart** and the **will**.

Three things that are important for us becoming more like **Jesus** are reading God’s **Word**, **prayer** and **discipline**.

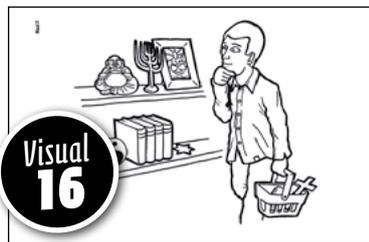
Who in the world is right? (1)

9

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to discover the key doctrinal beliefs of the Christian faith.
-  to believe that the Christian Gospel provides the only way of salvation.
-  to use the truths discovered to make comparisons with other religions and identify errors.
-  to understand clearly the Christian message of God, sin, salvation and eternity and to put their personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Introduction: Shopping for religion



[Show visual 16.] Look at the guy in the visual. What do you think he is he doing?

[Allow teens time to answer.] He is trying to decide which religion to follow. What options does he have? [Allow the teens to answer.] Many people today are searching for real meaning in their lives. They think they will find this by exploring world religions and learning about what they have to offer the seeker. Such people treat religion like a spiritual supermarket. They have a look at all the religions on offer and then choose a little bit of this and a little bit of that, ending up with a whole mixture of beliefs. Often people think like this because they do not believe that any religion has the complete truth, but instead that all religions lead to God.

There are certainly many religions in our world today. Can you name some? Islam, Hinduism, Catholicism, Orthodox, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Buddhism and the New Age Movement – the list could go on and on. Who in the world is right? Are these religions and cults really opposed to Christianity – or are they just different ways of saying the same thing? How can we be sure?

Finding the truth

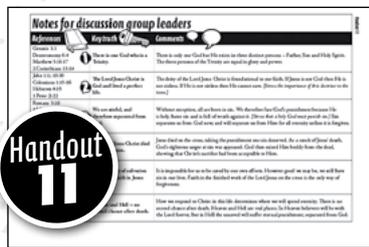
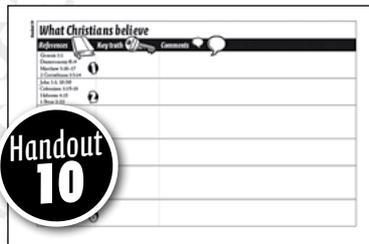
Before the invention of scanners, banks needed to train their staff to identify counterfeit notes. The training method was quite simple – the staff spent hours studying genuine bank notes. They became so familiar with the real notes that they were immediately able to recognise counterfeits.

If you want to be able to recognise false teaching, the best way to do it is to be familiar with the truth! Then when someone tells you what he or she believes, you will be able to measure it against what you know to be true. We are going to spend some time discovering some important truths from the Bible, God's Word. Then at our next meeting we will compare the teachings of some other religions to that of the Bible. In this way we can discover who in the world is right!

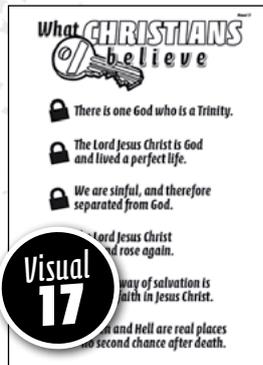
But wait! Someone may say, "How can we be sure that the Bible is true?" The belief that the Bible is God's Word and therefore absolutely true is one of the foundations of the Christian faith. The Bible claims to be the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21) and there is much evidence

for believing that this is true. Prophecies found in it have been fulfilled. It has been miraculously preserved over the centuries despite the efforts of many people to destroy it. Archaeological evidence backs up the stories it contains. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself stated clearly that the Bible is to be believed (John 5:39, 17:17). The fact that the Bible is God's Word is one of the truths against which we will measure other faiths in our next meeting. Now we are going to discover some other key truths.

Method: Discussion groups



Divide the teens into groups and give each person a copy of handout 10. Have a leader in each group who has prepared in advance using the notes provided in handout 11. Let the teens look up the Bible references and discuss them together, noting down the key doctrine and its importance. If you have unsaved teens in your group, take the opportunity to present the Gospel through this exercise. If time does not permit every



group to study all the doctrines then divide the exercise, making sure all the points are covered. At the end have a "report back" time and summarise using visual 17.

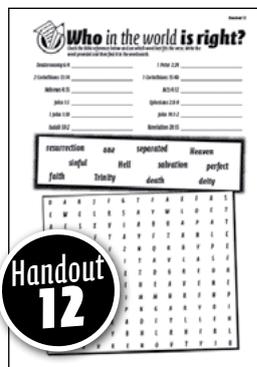
LESSON BREAK

If using the lesson in two parts you should finish the first part at point four on the table (handout 10). For the second part, deal with points five and six continuing to use the handout provided.

Conclusion

The truths we have studied together are foundational to the Christian faith. They are the standard against which all other beliefs must be measured. In our next meeting we will look at a few other faiths and see how they measure up to this standard.

However, right now there is an important question to be answered – where do **you** stand with regard to these important truths? Have you come to realise that you are a sinner and that you need to put your faith in the perfect Son of God who died and rose again so that you can be forgiven and spend eternity in Heaven? It is vitally important that you do. If you are a Christian do you understand these key truths well enough to explain them to people who don't believe? Perhaps you need to take your handout home and study these things a little further. Then you will be in position to answer anyone who



asks you, "Who in the world is right?"

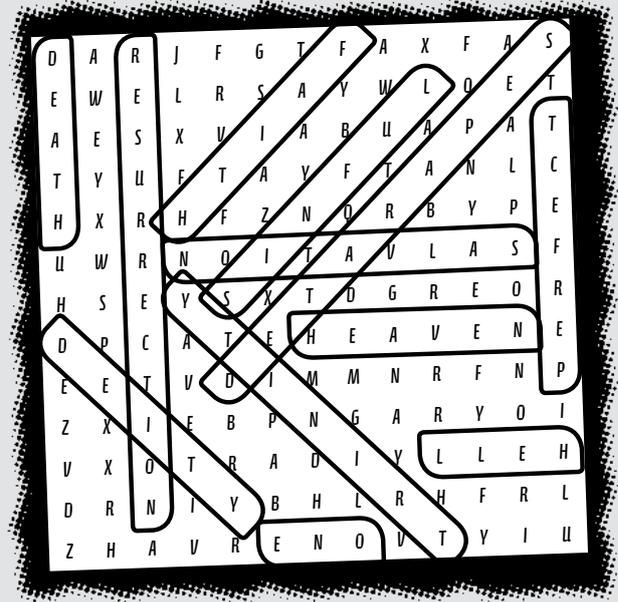
Photocopy and distribute handout 12. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. ●



HANDOUT 12 ANSWERS

Left column: **One; Trinity; perfect; Deity;**
sinful; separated.

Right column: **Death; resurrection; salvation;**
faith; Heaven; Hell.





Who in the world is right? (2)

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to compare other religions against key Christian doctrines and recognise how these faiths fall short.
-  to develop a burden to bring the Gospel to those of other faiths.
-  to pray for those who are blinded to the truth of the Gospel.
-  to realise that other religions do not provide the way of salvation and to submit to the truth of the Gospel.

This lesson attempts to measure the beliefs of four different faiths – Roman Catholicism, New Age, Islam and Jehovah’s Witnesses – against key Bible truths. Sensitivity will be needed if you have teens in your group who come from one of these religious backgrounds. They may find it offensive to have their religion compared to a cult such as Jehovah’s Witnesses. In this case it may be best to cover up that column and not discuss that particular faith but concentrate on the other three. However, be sure to stress the importance of the Bible truths studied, and emphasise that any faith which denies any of these truths is not teaching God’s way of salvation.

Work your way through the points for each faith using the visual provided. These symbols are suggested – “✓” if they teach the Bible truth, “✗” if they do not and “½” if there is a concern regarding the interpretation placed on the truth. Brief notes are provided on each point. (For further study you could use www.carm.org)

Introduction: Measure up puzzle

In this lesson we will measure other faiths against the key doctrines of Christianity we

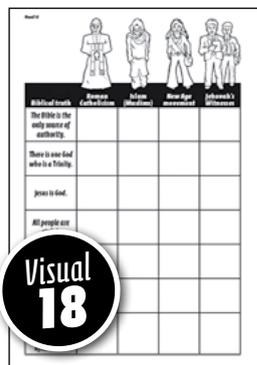
discovered in the last lesson. Use this puzzle to get the teens thinking about measuring.

You have a three-litre container and a five-litre container. How can you use these containers to measure out exactly four litres of water?

Answer: Fill the three-litre container and pour the water into the five-litre. Fill three-litre again and pour into five-litre until it is full. This leaves one litre in the three-litre container. Empty the five-litre and the pour the one litre into it. Then fill three-litre again, pour into five-litre and you have four litres of water!

Now we want to do some measuring of a different kind! In our last meeting we discovered a number of important truths, which form the foundation of the Christian faith. [Ask teens how many of these they can remember.] This week we want to consider a number of other religions and see how they compare. We will compare them point by point with the vital truths we have

discovered. This will help us discover who in the world is right. [Show visual 18. If you are leaving one of the religions out then be sure to cover it over, or temporarily delete it on PowerPoint.]



	Catholicism	Islam	New Age	Jehovah's Witnesses
The Bible is the only source of authority.				
There is one God who is a Trinity.				
Jesus is God.				
All people are...				

LESSON BREAK

If teaching the lesson in two parts, deal with two of the faiths in the first part and the other two in the second.

Biblical truth	Roman Catholicism	Islam (Muslims)
The Bible is the only source of authority.	✗ The traditions and teaching of the Roman Catholic church are given equal authority to the Bible. Also the Roman Catholic Bible contains some books (the Apocrypha), which were not accepted as Scripture by the early Church.	✗ The Muslim equivalent to the Bible is the Koran.
There is one God who is a Trinity.	✓ The Roman Catholic church believes and teaches this doctrine.	✗ Muslims believe that there is one God (Allah) but do not accept that God is a Trinity.
Jesus is God.	✓ The Roman Catholic church believes and teaches this doctrine.	✗ Muslims believe that Jesus is an important prophet, a “good man” – but not God.
All people are sinful.	✓ The Roman Catholic church believes and teaches this doctrine, although it teaches that some sins are more serious than others.	✓ Muslims accept this truth.
The Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again.	✓ The Roman Catholic church believes and teaches this doctrine.	✗ Muslims do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus.
Salvation by faith in Christ alone.	✗ The Roman Catholic church teaches that salvation is by good works, and especially through the church and its sacraments – baptism, Mass, etc.	✗ Muslims do not accept the work of Christ. Instead salvation is obtained by pleasing God through good works and religious observances.
Heaven and Hell are real places – there is no second chance after death.	✗ The Roman Catholic church teaches there is a place called purgatory where souls go after death to be punished for sin. After a time they will gain access to Heaven. The prayers of other people can shorten time spent in purgatory.	½ Muslims believe in Heaven and Hell. However, they believe that the way to Heaven is to ensure that your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds.

Biblical truth	New Age movement	Jehovah's Witnesses
The Bible is the only source of authority.	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>New Agers do not accept that there is a definite source of authority – there are no clear standards of right or wrong. They have no unified belief system, though they have many common practices and philosophies.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">½</p> <p>Jehovah's Witnesses claim to believe the Bible but have their own translation. How their leaders interpret the Bible is considered more important than the Bible itself.</p>
There is one God who is a Trinity.	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>New Agers believe that everything (people, animals, plants, and all creation) is part of God. To New Agers, God is not a person, but merely an impersonal force. This view is very close to that held by Eastern religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, etc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">½</p> <p>Jehovah's Witnesses believe in one God (Jehovah) but deny the doctrine of the Trinity – Jesus is not God and the Holy Spirit is merely a “force”.</p>
Jesus is God.	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>New Agers believe Jesus was a man who realised the human potential He had (something they say we all need to do) but claim Jesus was no more God than anyone else is.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus is God the Son who created all things (Colossians 1:16), but they claim that God created Him.</p>
All people are sinful.	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Because of their beliefs that everyone is God and that there are no absolutes of right and wrong, New Agers do not believe all are sinful.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">½</p> <p>Jehovah's Witnesses accept that people are sinful but believe they can still please God by their efforts.</p>
The Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again.	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Because they do not believe that Jesus is God, New Agers do not accept the resurrection.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">½</p> <p>Jehovah's Witnesses claim to believe that Jesus died and rose again – but believe that He was raised again as a spirit, not with a physical body.</p>
Salvation by faith in Christ alone.	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Because they explain away sin, New Agers see no need for salvation as we understand it.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Jehovah's Witnesses believe that everlasting life is a reward for good works and faithful service. This explains their great zeal in door to door visitation.</p>
Heaven and Hell are real places – there is no second chance after death.	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>New Agers believe in reincarnation – that all who die return to Earth in a future life. They believe that the way a person lives in this life will determine the way he will be reincarnated in the next.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Jehovah's Witnesses believe in Heaven but not Hell. They claim that the wicked will not be punished eternally but will be annihilated.</p>

Method: Group prayer time

Have a prayer time at this point where the teens could pray for those of other faiths who need to hear of Jesus, and also for those who are trying to reach them. To guide the teens in their prayers, provide them with some prayer information from missionaries working in other faith situations.

Conclusion

When there are so many different religions, who all claim to be right, it can be very easy to get confused! Remember the bank staff we mentioned the last time? The only way they could recognise counterfeit notes was to be very familiar with real ones. It is the same for us – amid so many different religions, we need to be very sure we know what we believe.

Never be ashamed of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus (Romans 1:16). Jesus Himself made it clear that there is only one way of salvation (John 14:6). Pray for those who are placing their faith in other religions – and be ready to explain the truth to them at every opportunity.

Method: True or false quiz

Have the teens all stand in the middle of the room. Read out the following statements one by one and tell them if they believe the statement is true to go to one side of the room and if they believe it is false to go to the other side of the room. Then give the answer. Those who are wrong are out of the game. When all are eliminated, bring everyone back in again and continue with the remaining questions.

1. 2 Timothy 3:16 states that the Bible is God's Word. (T)
2. The New Age movement accepts the Bible as the Word of God. (F)
3. Muslims believe in reincarnation. (F)
4. Jehovah's Witnesses work to try to earn salvation. (T)
5. There is no second chance to be saved after death. (T)
6. We are saved by faith and good works. (F)
7. Jehovah's Witnesses have their own translation of the Bible. (T)
8. The Lord Jesus is God, but did not live a perfect life. (F)
9. Jesus rose from the dead with a physical body. (T)
10. Because God is love, He is not really bothered about sin. (F)
11. Archaeological evidence contradicts the Bible. (F)
12. God the Holy Spirit is not as important as God the Father. (F)
13. The Muslim name for God is "Allah". (T)
14. Romans 14:6 teaches that Jesus is the only way to God. (F)
15. New Age beliefs are very similar to Eastern religions. (T)
16. Good works are the proof that we really have been saved. (T)
17. Muslims believe that Jesus rose from the dead. (F)
18. Isaiah 59:2 says that sin separates us from God. (T)
19. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus is God. (F)
20. Jesus rose from the dead with a physical body, according to the Jehovah's Witnesses. (F) ●

Why in the world am I here?

11

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that God has created them and put them in this world for a purpose.
-  to realise that true contentment in life is to be found through bringing glory to God.
-  to become active in Gospel ministry, both at home and overseas.
-  to realise that true joy in life is only to be found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Introduction

Ask the teens one by one to say what is the one thing they would really like to do or to achieve in life. Suggest maybe visit a famous place, meet a famous person, do something really crazy.

Many people in the world today reach a point in their lives where they ask the question, “Why in the world am I here?” It is a big question and a very serious question. We saw the last time how there are many belief systems in the world that all try to give an answer to this question. People will explore different religions trying to find real meaning and purpose to their lives.



[Show top part of visual 19.] Look at the guy in this picture. His life is in a mess. Maybe he has made wrong choices, ignoring what is right and because of sin he has ended up where he is. He is so

fed up and disappointed with life. He just wonders what it is all about. Have you ever wondered that?

Searching for true meaning

The writer of Ecclesiastes talks about how confusing and frustrating it can be to live in this world. He is searching for purpose and understanding. However, when he observes how people live and the pleasures that they spend their time and money on, he comes to the conclusion that it is all just pointless! Thirty-eight times he uses “vanity” to describe it. The word simply means “vapour” – a substance in the air, one minute it is there and the next, it has disappeared. In other verses he describes life as being like running after the wind and trying to catch it (Ecclesiastes 1:17). In the end he comes to a very important conclusion.

Finding the answer

[Read Ecclesiastes 12:1,13. Ask the teens what conclusion he came to.] His conclusion was that the most important thing in life is to fear God, to keep His commandments and not to leave it too late. He said that we should remember the Creator in the days of our youth. Have you been doing that or have you been ignoring God? Maybe you are like the guy on the visual. Maybe you have been trying out the pleasures of this world, you have just been trying to enjoy yourself and you have tried not to think about God. You may choose to go on living that way but you still haven’t answered the question, “Why in the world am I here?”

[Read Ecclesiastes 12:14.] One day every one of us will stand before Almighty God and He will judge our every deed. Maybe you say, "But why will I have to give an account to Him? Why can't I just live my life the way I want to?" The answer is that God is our Creator (Genesis 1:27). He is the One who has given us our lives and the One who has the right to require us to give an account to Him for how we live our lives.

Do you remember why God created the first man (Genesis 1:27)? God created us to have fellowship with Him. We have already seen in previous lessons how sin came into the world and ruined that special relationship between God and man. You will only find true meaning and satisfaction in your life whenever you sort out your relationship with God. If you are not already a Christian then you are a sinner in need of a Saviour. Christ Jesus died to make it possible for you to have that relationship with God restored (1 Timothy 2:3-6). Repent and turn to God and He will forgive you for your sins and give you true peace and meaning for your life (Acts 3:19).

Living a God-centred life



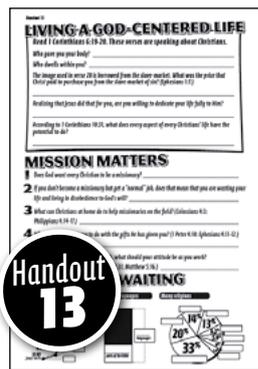
[Cover the top and now show the bottom part of visual 19.] Let's take our character and put him in another situation. Let's suppose that materially he has everything he wants. He's been a Christian for a couple of years. He goes to church and youth fellowship every week and reads his Bible almost every day. Yet sometimes he feels as if he is just going through a routine. He wonders if there must be more to the Christian life than this. He is asking

himself, "What does God want me to do with my life?" or to put it another way, "Why in the world am I here?"

If you can identify with this person, then you need to realise that the reason you are here on Earth is to serve God and to bring glory to Him. To be saved is one thing, but you also need to be serving God.

Your life is a gift from God. Time is short and you want to make the most of your life, rather than sitting back comfortably watching it go by. If you are like this guy in the visual, then it's time to get out of your chair and to start living a God-centred life.

Method: Handout



[Distribute handout 13 and have the teens focus on the first section entitled "Living a God-centred life".] Your main purpose for being in this world is to live a God-centred life that

HANDOUT 13 ANSWERS

Part 1

Who gave you your body? **God.**

Who dwells within you? **The Holy Spirit.**

The image used in verse 20 is borrowed from the slave-market. What was the price that Christ paid to purchase you from the slave-market of sin? (Ephesians 1:7)

The shedding of His own blood.

Realising that Jesus did that for you, are you willing to dedicate your life fully to Him? [Encourage the teens to reflect on this rather than answering out loud.]

According to 1 Corinthians 10:31, what does every aspect of every Christians life have the potential to do?

To bring glory to God.

will in turn bring glory to Him (Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31). You know that God is your Creator and that your life belongs to Him. Now your heart's greatest desire is to do His will. You want to find out how you can live to bring glory to Him.

In our next lesson we will look at how we can discover God's specific will for our lives. However before we come to that, we need to realise that there are many things God has already told us to do in His Word. That is why we need to be spending time studying the Bible. When we do that, then we will get to know the character of God and we will learn how He expects us to live (2 Timothy 1:13).

Living for God is not just something you do for an hour on Sunday morning. It means living a God-centred life 24/7 – at school, at home, during your leisure activities and at church. Is that how you are living? What needs to change in your thinking? What changes do you need to make to your priorities? We should live every moment of our lives with the objective of bringing glory to God. Having God at the centre of your life is the only way of knowing true meaning and purpose for life in this world (1 John 5:20).

LESSON BREAK

Going into all the world



Sword drill: Matthew 28:18-20. Another reason that God has placed us on this Earth is to be His witnesses. Here Jesus tells His followers to go into the entire world to proclaim that good news. There are many reasons why

Christians should get involved in sharing the Gospel. Here are some to think about. [Show visual 20.]

Because God commands us to go

Witnessing is not an optional extra for the enthusiastic Christian. It is a command for all Christians (Matthew 28:19). It is part of the Christian life. William Carey, the shoemaker who took the Gospel to India, realised this in a day when missionary organisations were unheard of. People said he was crazy but he obeyed God's command to go.

Method: Mission matters

Turn to handout 13 again and ask the teens to work in groups of three or four and to complete the section entitled "Mission matters".

In Acts 1:8 the Lord told His followers to start witnessing at home before they



HANDOUT 13 ANSWERS

Part 2

1. Does God want every Christian to be a missionary?

Yes, He wants everyone to witness for Him - but not necessarily abroad.

2. If you don't become a missionary but get a "normal" job, does that mean that you are wasting your life and living in disobedience to God's will? **No, you should be where God wants you.**

3. What can Christians at home do to help missionaries on the field? (Colossians 4:3; Philippians 4:14-17.)

Pray for them; give to support their work.

4. What does God want you to do with the gifts He has given you? (1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:11-12.) **Use them to God's glory.**

5. When you leave school and get a job, what should your attitude be as you work? (2 Thessalonians 3:11; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 5:16) **Work hard; do it to the glory of God; witness to others.**

moved out. If God is not calling you to go to another land then He wants you to go to those in your school, your family and your town. Are you willing to obey this command?

Because people are waiting to hear

[Read Matthew 9:36-38.] When Jesus looked at the multitudes of people, He told the disciples to pray for them. He used the metaphor of fields where the crops are ripe and ready for bringing in a bumper harvest. What He meant was that across the world people are ready to receive the good news of the Gospel, but we need to pray that God will send out workers into His harvest field. The need is even greater today than it was then! [Turn to handout 13 again, having the teens focus on the third section entitled "People are waiting". Have them fill in the charts with the information you are about to give them.]

Expanding population

- ✦ In 33 A.D. when Jesus gave the great commission to His followers to go into the entire world and preach the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20), the world population at the time was around 170 million (0.17 billion).
- ✦ In 1793 when William Carey, who is sometimes called the "father of the modern missionary movement", sailed for India the world's population was around 900 million (0.9 billion).
- ✦ In 2009 the world's population was around 6,700 million (or 6.7 billion).
- ✦ The world's population is expected to reach nearly 9 billion by the year 2040.

Many languages

We are not only faced today with the challenge of reaching so many people, but

linguists estimate that there are almost 7,000 different languages spoken in the world today. Less than 2,500 of these language groups have part or all of the Bible in their own language. [Source: Wycliffe International.]

Many religions

On top of that, many of these 6.8 billion people would claim to already follow another religion or cult.

- ✦ 33% Christianity [You may wish to explain that this is a secular definition, which includes Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and nominal. Less than 7 percent would be considered "evangelical" in the broad sense. Many of those may not be born-again believers.]
- ✦ 20% Islam
- ✦ 14% Irreligious or atheist
- ✦ 13% Hinduism
- ✦ 6.3% Chinese folk religion
- ✦ 5.9% Buddhism
- ✦ 4% follow indigenous tribal religions
- ✦ [The rest are classified as "others".]

[Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica.]

Persecution

To add to the difficulty of the task, there are factors such as persecution and restrictions on religious freedom. In countries where strong Islamic or communist laws are in force, it is not possible to go there as a missionary. Instead other ways have to be found to reach these people.

Shortage of missionaries

There are less than 100,000 missionaries in the world (working in countries other than their own). But the task is not left

to them alone. There are nationals in these countries – pastors and “ordinary” Christians who are faithfully serving God in their local churches and seeking to reach out to their communities with the Gospel. *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® (CEF®) is one example of a missionary organisation that is working in more than one hundred and fifty countries. They have missionaries in many parts of the world but they also have many national workers who assist the local churches and believers. National workers have the distinct advantage of not needing to learn the language or the culture. Through partnering with such people, millions of children worldwide are hearing the Gospel each year.

Who will go?

The fields are white – ready to harvest. But there is a problem. [*Have a leader read Romans 10:13-17.*] How will they hear if no-one goes? Has God placed a desire in your heart to evangelise the lost peoples of the world? Will you answer His call to go and be a missionary to the nations? If so, what should you do?

Go now

Perhaps God has already placed a desire in your heart to serve Him full-time. Ask God, if it is His will, to keep that desire warm in your heart. However, you do not need to wait until you are an adult before you can begin to serve Him – you can start now by getting involved in a local church. Is there a children’s meeting in the church that you could help with each week? Are there practical jobs that you could help with? You can answer God’s call to service by getting involved in outreach to children this summer. [*This would be a good opportunity to name specific opportunities.*] Getting involved may mean

having less time for friends, sport or hobbies, but what is more important in life?

Go in the future

Remember, earlier on we said that this life is not ours, it belongs to God. It is OK to have ambitions and to make plans for the future, but we must always be prepared to submit those things to the will of God for our lives. If we go our own way we rob ourselves of the joy and contentment of being in the centre of God’s will. If God wants you to be involved in a particular job, then be in that job. If God directs you to be a missionary, then do it.

Count the cost

Serving God in missions often involves a certain amount of personal sacrifice. It may mean moving away from friends and family to a place where you may have little or no fellowship with other like-minded believers. It may mean leaving a well-paid job and having to learn to live by faith. It could mean a change in your standard of living depending on what country you go to. Being a missionary in some countries can involve persecution and may even end in death.

Experience the blessing

Despite the difficulties, many missionaries testify to being very fulfilled in their work. They see it as a real joy and privilege to be able to devote their time to studying God’s Word and sharing it with others. Being on the mission field gives you a tremendous opportunity to observe what God is doing in other countries among other people. So serving God is not just all about sacrifice – it can also be very rewarding.

Conclusion

At the beginning of this lesson we asked, “Why in the world am I here?” We have seen that living for God and telling others about Him gives us real purpose and meaning to our lives.

Here’s the challenge to us all: if you really want to experience God in a way like never before, then you need to be prepared to get out of your seat and out of your comfort zone, put God at the centre of your life, follow His leading and go and make a difference, for the glory of God. ●

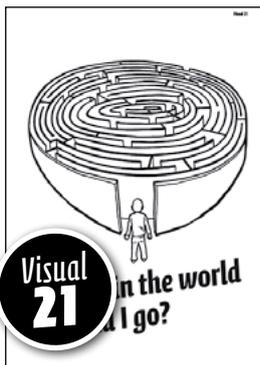
Where in the world should I go?

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand how God spoke in the past and how He speaks to us today.
-  to be walking so close to God that they will be able to ascertain His will for their lives.
-  to make plans and to take those practical steps of faith that are necessary to follow God's leading.
-  to realise that it is God's will that they repent of their sin and give their lives wholly to Him and His service.

Method: Guide me game

Use this game to help the teens focus on the idea of being guided. Divide the teens into groups of five or six. One person takes on the role of leader and all the others are blindfolded. The team must come up with a code of communication where one noise means go right, another go left, another straight ahead and so on. The leader must then guide the group by making the appropriate noise – no words are permitted. Set up a simple obstacle course using chairs which the team members must negotiate until they reach an assigned target area – perhaps a circle of string on the floor. Time them to see how long they take, then allow other teams to attempt to do it in a faster time.



[Show visual 21.] “What subjects should I take at school? Should I plan to stay at home and work as a secretary or a teacher or learn a trade? Should I go to Bible college? How do

I know if I should join the family business? Is God calling me to be a missionary or a pastor? How do I know where to go and what to do with my life?” These are all very good questions. If, as a young believer, you are asking these questions then it is a good sign that you want to know God’s will for your life. If you have never thought about these questions then perhaps it shows that you are trying to work out your life’s plan on your own without the Lord. God wants to guide you, but you have to understand how. Let us first of all look at how God guided in the past and then at how He guides His people today.

How God guided in the past

Method: Match them up

Photocopy and distribute the top half of handout 14. Have the teens match the people with the various ways that God guided in the past.

HANDOUT 14 ANSWERS

- Noah:** Directly – He was going to flood the Earth.
- Abraham:** Directly – “I will make you a great nation.”
- Joseph:** Dream – “One day you will rule over your brothers.”
- Moses:** From a burning bush – “I will rescue the Israelites from the hand of the Egyptians.”
- Joshua:** Casting lots – He guided in how the land was to be distributed among the Israelites.
- Gideon:** Dew on the fleece – God would be with him when he went to battle.
- Joseph:** Angel – “Don’t be afraid to marry Mary.”

Method: How God guided the early Christians

Let us look together at how the early Christians were guided. Study these references and note down the means of guidance that God used. *[Divide the teens into groups of three to five and complete the*

bottom part of handout 14. Have a leader with each group to guide and help. Set a time of about fifteen minutes and when time is up bring the groups back together for a summary. Show visual 22.]

We can learn a lot about guidance from the book of Acts. The New Testament church had just begun and the churches were full of young believers who had many, many questions. They were looking for guidance in a whole range of matters. Here we can clearly see how God used different means to guide His people. He also uses similar means today.

When the light is green

[Show visual 23.] Have you ever been waiting for a long time in a queue and then noticed that the person at the front has a green light but they are not moving? Maybe they are daydreaming or

they are distracted by something and they fail to see the green light.

Many older Christians have experienced that finding God’s will is a bit like that. When God wants us to do something, He will show us a “green light” and we need to go, but if the “light” is red we need to wait. If we are

not paying attention we will not see it.

Flumes like the one in the visual can be really exhilarating, especially if you are going down it for the first time. You may be a little nervous, you don’t know exactly what it is going to be like, but when you see the green light, you step forward knowing that many others have gone before and now it is your turn.

In Genesis 12:1-4 we read that God guided Abram to take his family and to move to another country. God didn’t tell him where he was to go but he didn’t need to know – that would be the next step. The light was now green, God had guided and Abram needed to get moving. Later, in the New Testament, God emphasised that by doing this Abram not only obeyed God, but also demonstrated that he trusted God (Hebrews 11:8).

So let’s get practical. How can I find out where in the world I should go and what in

the world I should do? *[Show visual 24.]*

God guides today when ...

... I am living close to Him

Sword drill: Psalm 119:10-11. If you want God to guide you then you need to be living close to Him. As you get to know Him better, you will learn to trust Him more. He has a plan for you and He wants to guide your steps (Psalm 37:23-24), but for you to see those green lights you need to be living close to Him.

If you live close to someone, you get to know them well and then you know what they

expect and what makes them happy. There is no shortcut to a close relationship with God. We must take time to pray and ask Him to guide us (James 1:5). We must also study His Word daily so that we can hear Him speak (Psalm 119:105). God will speak to us through specific verses we have read or maybe through a sermon that we have heard. It is good to keep a little notebook with your Bible so that you can write down the things God says to you.

When God guides today, He does it primarily through His Word (2 Timothy 3:15). Two words of caution though:

- ✦ This does not mean that we randomly open our Bibles and simply ask God to show us a verse. God did not give us the Bible to use it that way. He wants us to study it, to understand it and apply it to our lives.
- ✦ Secondly, remember that He will never guide you to do something that is contradictory to His Word. No matter what other things we think God might be saying to us, we must check everything against the Word of God.

You may wish to give an example of how God used His Word to guide you.

God will often give you a green light through a verse that seems to apply so clearly to your situation. A short time later you may hear or read that same verse again or other verses that all seem to be saying the same thing. When that happens, it is a sure sign that God is guiding you.

LESSON BREAK

... I am totally committed to His will

Sometimes people will stare at a bright green light and do nothing! They ask God

to confirm it again and again and again! The problem is not that God has not guided – the problem is that they do not like what He is saying and they would like Him to give them another option. Someone has said that rather than asking God to write out a contract of what He wants us to do so that we can sign it if we agree, we must instead be willing to sign a blank contract and then allow God to fill in the details later. When we ask God to reveal His will to us, we must be one hundred percent prepared to follow Him wherever, whatever, whenever. When we are totally committed to His will then He will guide us step by step towards fulfilling His ultimate purpose for our lives (Proverbs 3:5-6). Are you willing and available to go anywhere and do anything for the Lord?

... I have a teachable attitude

Sword drill: Isaiah 64:8. God our Father is the potter and we are the clay in His hands. As He works the clay on the potter's wheel, He is carefully shaping it into the object that He intends it to be. As God is forming us into the man or woman that He wants us to be, we have to be willing to be guided and instructed by others. If in the future you find yourself considering full-time Christian service it may mean being willing to take advice from the leadership of your church regarding where you should serve. It would mean studying God's Word at Bible college and learning from the wisdom and experience of older Christian leaders. Sometimes they can see the green lights that we don't see and vice versa. Sometimes they may have concerns about the plans that we have and we need to be willing to consider seriously the reservations they have.

If you believe God is calling you into mission, ask yourself questions such as, “Am I flexible enough to adapt to the challenges of living in another culture? Am I easy to work with or would my attitude cause friction in a team? Do I sometimes give the impression that I already know everything, or am I someone who is willing to learn?”

... I recognise the gifts I possess

Have you ever tried to turn the steering wheel of a car that is turned off and not moving? It is very hard to do. However, when the car is moving forward, it is much easier to steer. If we want God to steer our lives then we need to be active in the Lord’s work and serving Him.

It would seem strange if someone was interested in God’s will for their future and yet not involved in serving God now. When you get involved in the life of your church and other Christian organisations such as CEF, it gives you an opportunity to find out what you are naturally good at and to recognise the gifts that you possess (1 Peter 4:10). At the same time you are gaining experience that will be of real benefit to you in your future service.

If you believed God was calling you into missions then you might want to ask yourself, “Do I find it much easier than others in my class to learn a foreign language?” At the same time the wonderful thing is that when God calls, God equips. You may think that you are not really gifted at something, but if He asks you to do something, He will equip you to do it (1 Corinthians 1:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Maybe you are not good at speaking in front of others but don’t forget that on the mission field God does not just use preachers. He also uses farmers, nurses, teachers,

mechanics, builders, computer experts and many other people. He can use you so long as you are obedient to His call.

... I am sensitive to His leading

Those who have sensed the call of God into missions often describe their call as a growing concern or conviction for a particular people or country (Philippians 1:7). It is as if God plants an interest and a desire in their hearts, which grows and grows to the point where it becomes very clear that you should go (Psalm 37:4). Many also say that the call becomes so compelling that it is almost irresistible and they know that if they say “no” they will be disobeying God (Isaiah 6:8).

Often God’s green lights are also accompanied by a sense of peace that you cannot really put into words (Philippians 4:7). You just know that God has spoken clearly. Here also we need to exercise caution. If the only green light you have is a peace in your heart, it is probably too early to move. Pray that God will also confirm His leading to you in His Word and by other means.

Conclusion

Many Christians get so frustrated when they try to discover God’s will for their lives. “Where in the world should I go?” just seems to be such a big question that many are overwhelmed by it. But don’t worry! God is not going to reveal His plan for our lives all at once, He only guides us one step at a time (Isaiah 30:21). As you take the next step God has clearly outlined to you, you can be sure He will keep on guiding you. Remember, He has a plan for your life. If you genuinely ask Him to reveal it to

you then you can be sure He will. It is His greatest desire that you walk in His will.

Is He calling you to go across the street or across the sea? When you see those green lights, start moving. Take concrete steps to obey God's leading and experience the blessing of walking in the centre of God's will.

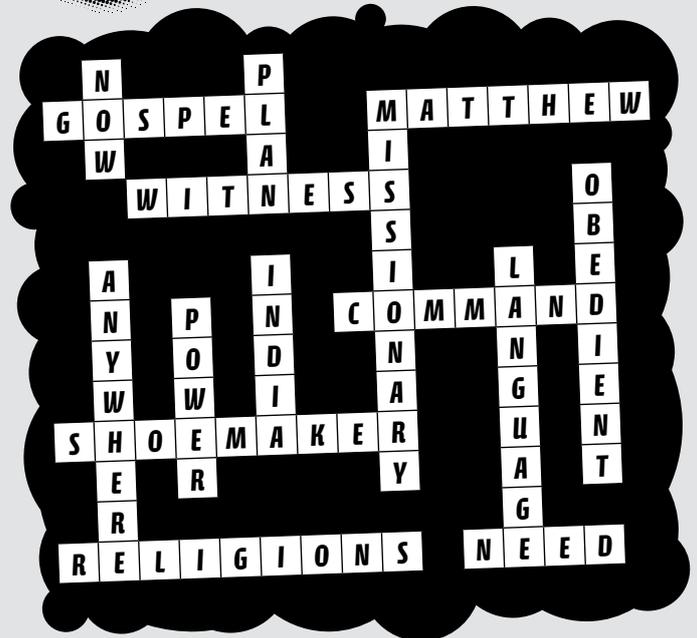


Method: Crossword

Distribute handout 15 to the teens. They may do this at the end of the meeting or complete it at home. ●



HANDOUT 15 ANSWERS





Visuals

Appendix

1

the WORLD

1 How in the world did we get here?

2 What in the world is wrong?

3 Where in the world are you?

4 In the world but not of the world

5 Who in the world is right?

6 Why in the world am I here?

7 Where in the world should I go?



**Problems
with
evolution**

- 1 It is only a theory
- 2 It involves a lot of "guesswork"
- 3 The "missing links" are still missing
- 4 The Earth is not that old
- 5 No explanation for animal graveyards
- 6 Darwin and others weren't convinced
- 7 It tries to explain life without God



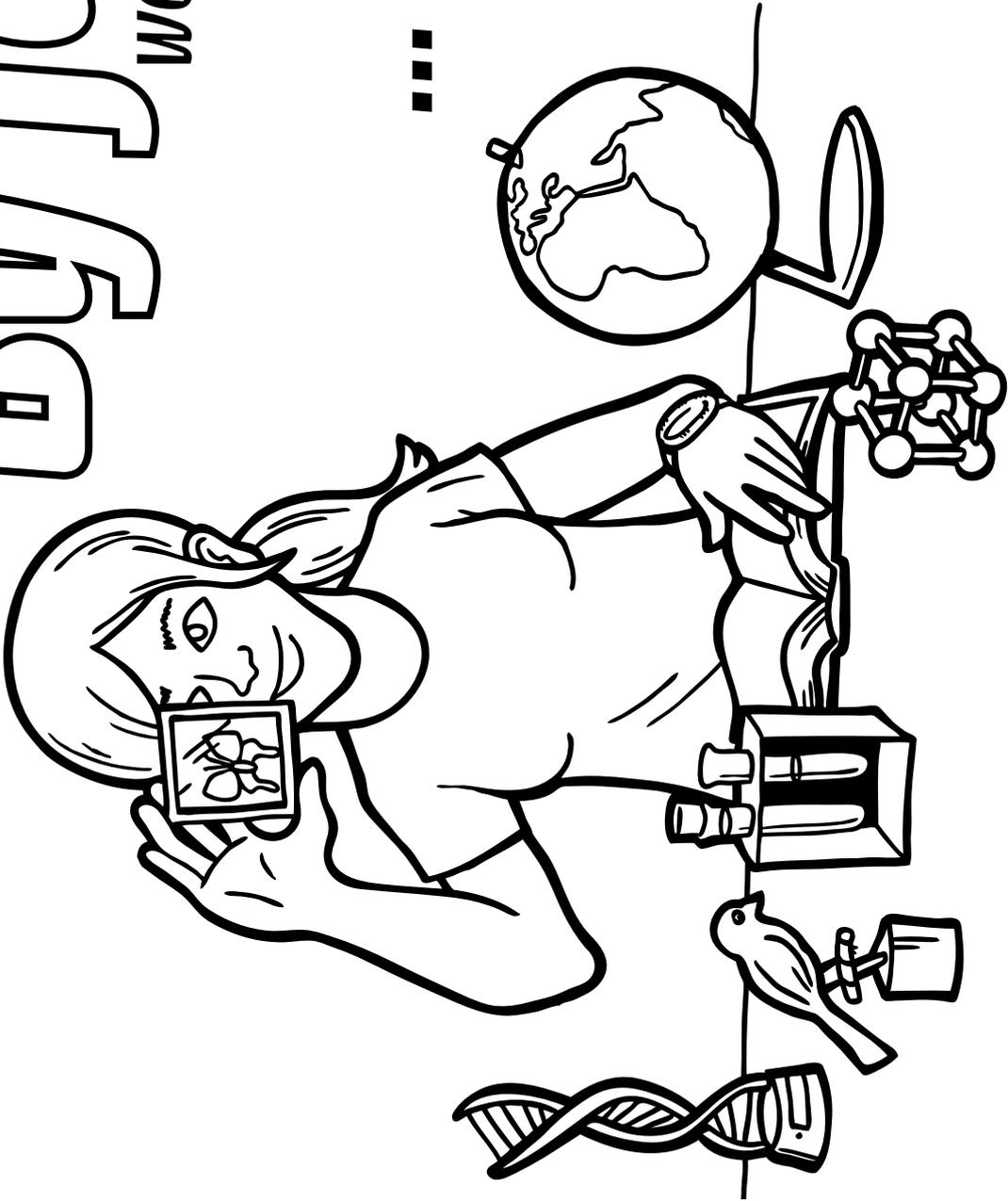
By faith

we believe that God ...

... exists

... has spoken

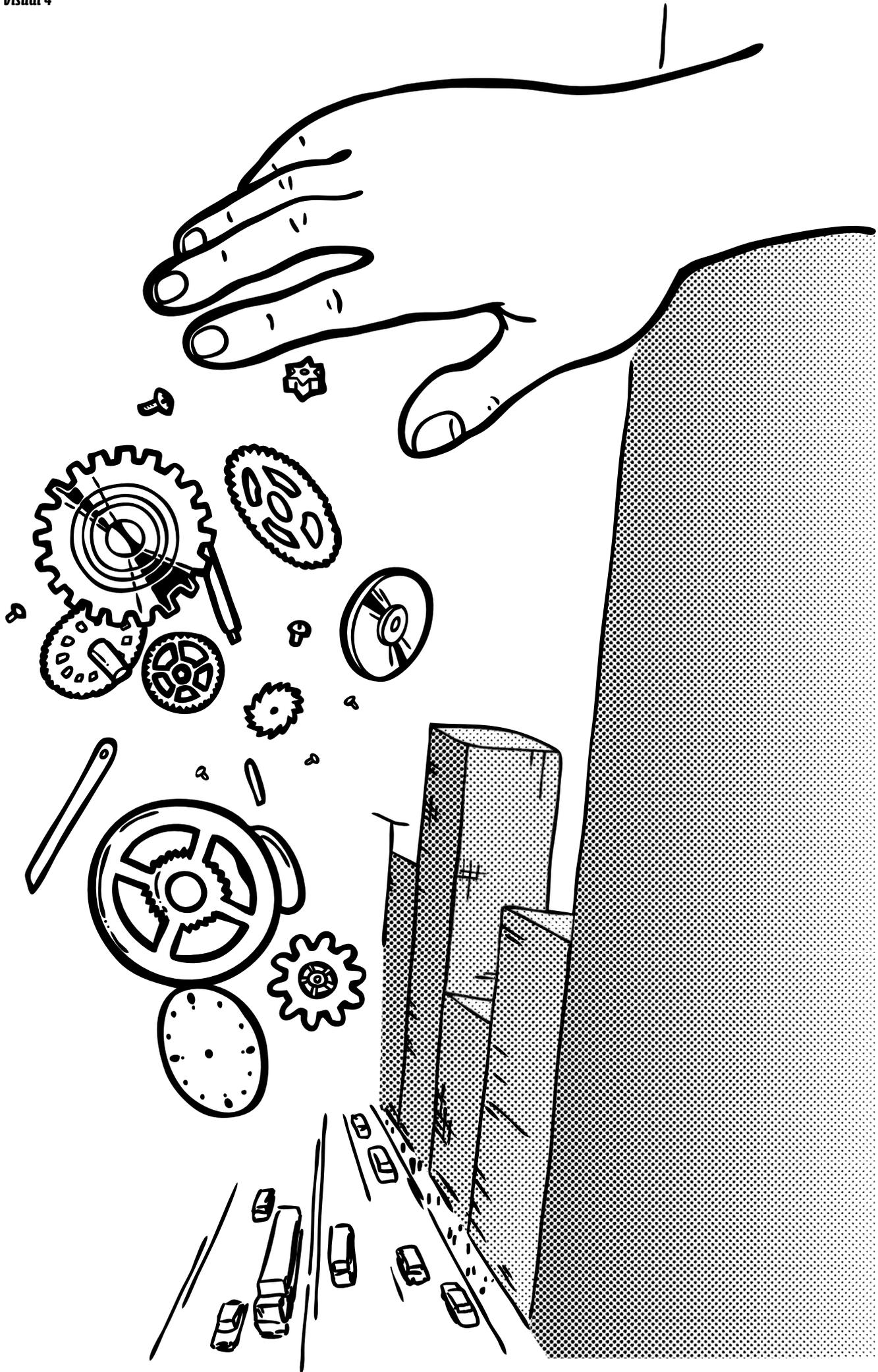
**... created
all things**



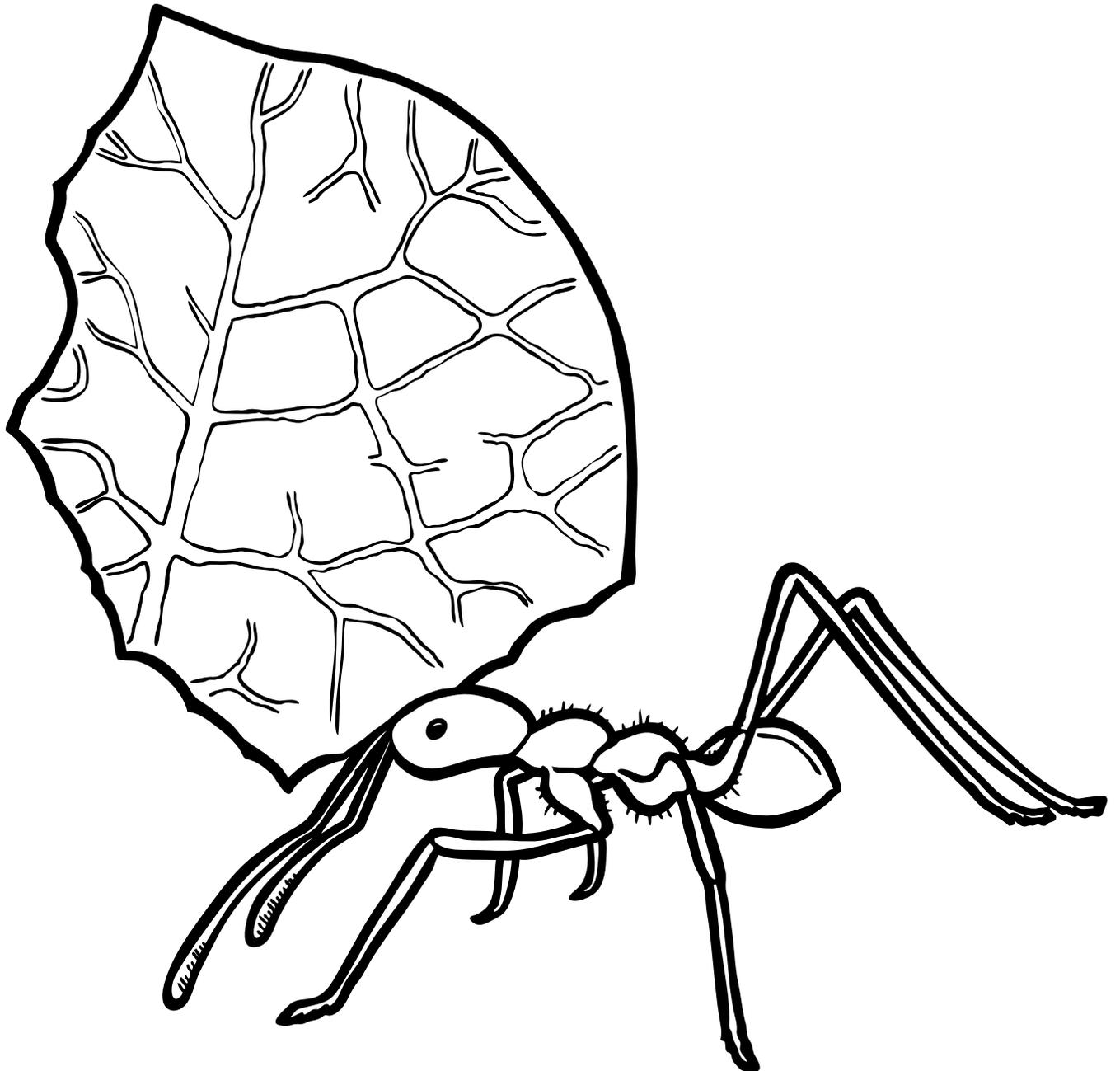
7 days of creation



1	Light and dark	✓
2	Sea and sky	✓
3	Fertile earth	✓
4	Lights of day and night	✓
5	Fish and birds	✓
6	Land animals and mankind	✓
7	Rest and enjoyment	✓

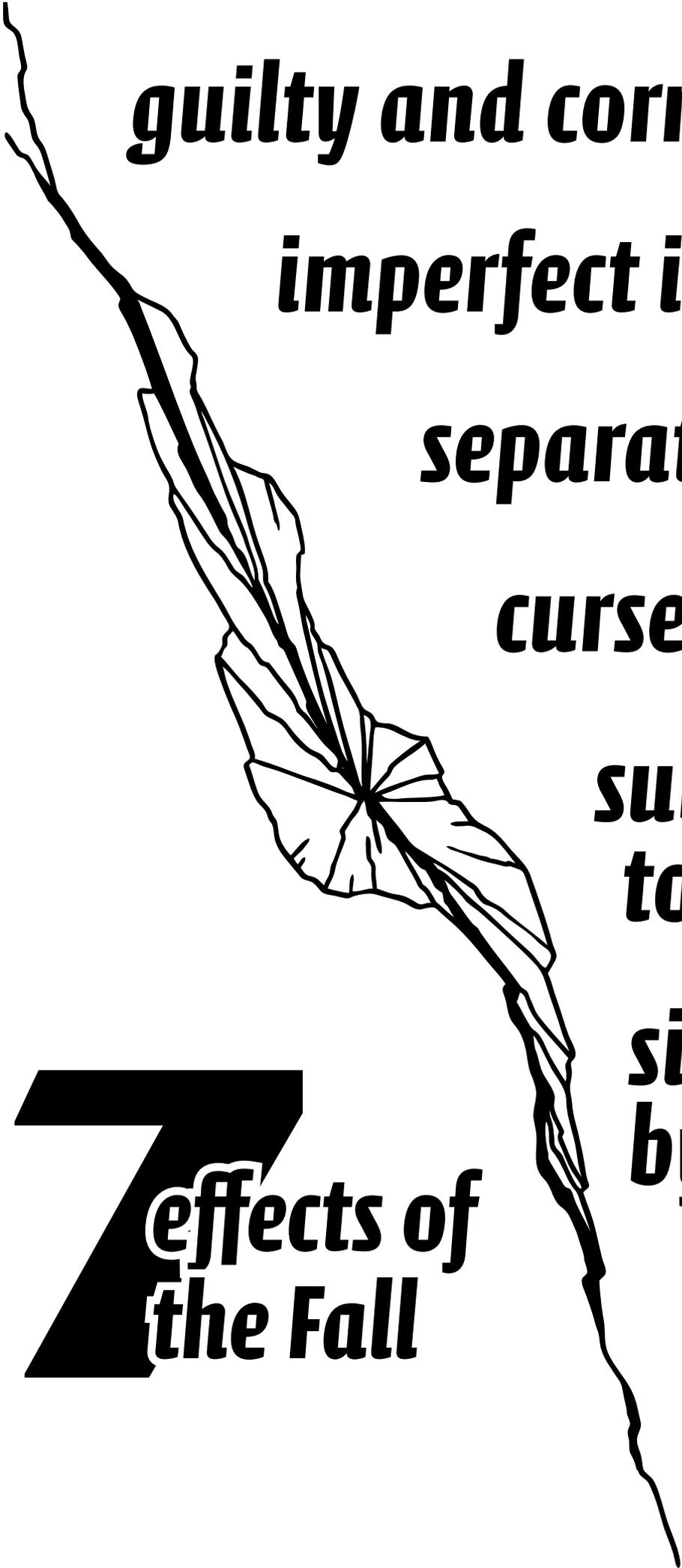


7 amazing creations!



What in the world IS WRONG?





guilty and corrupt
imperfect image
separated
cursed

subject
to death

sinners
by nature

in need
of grace

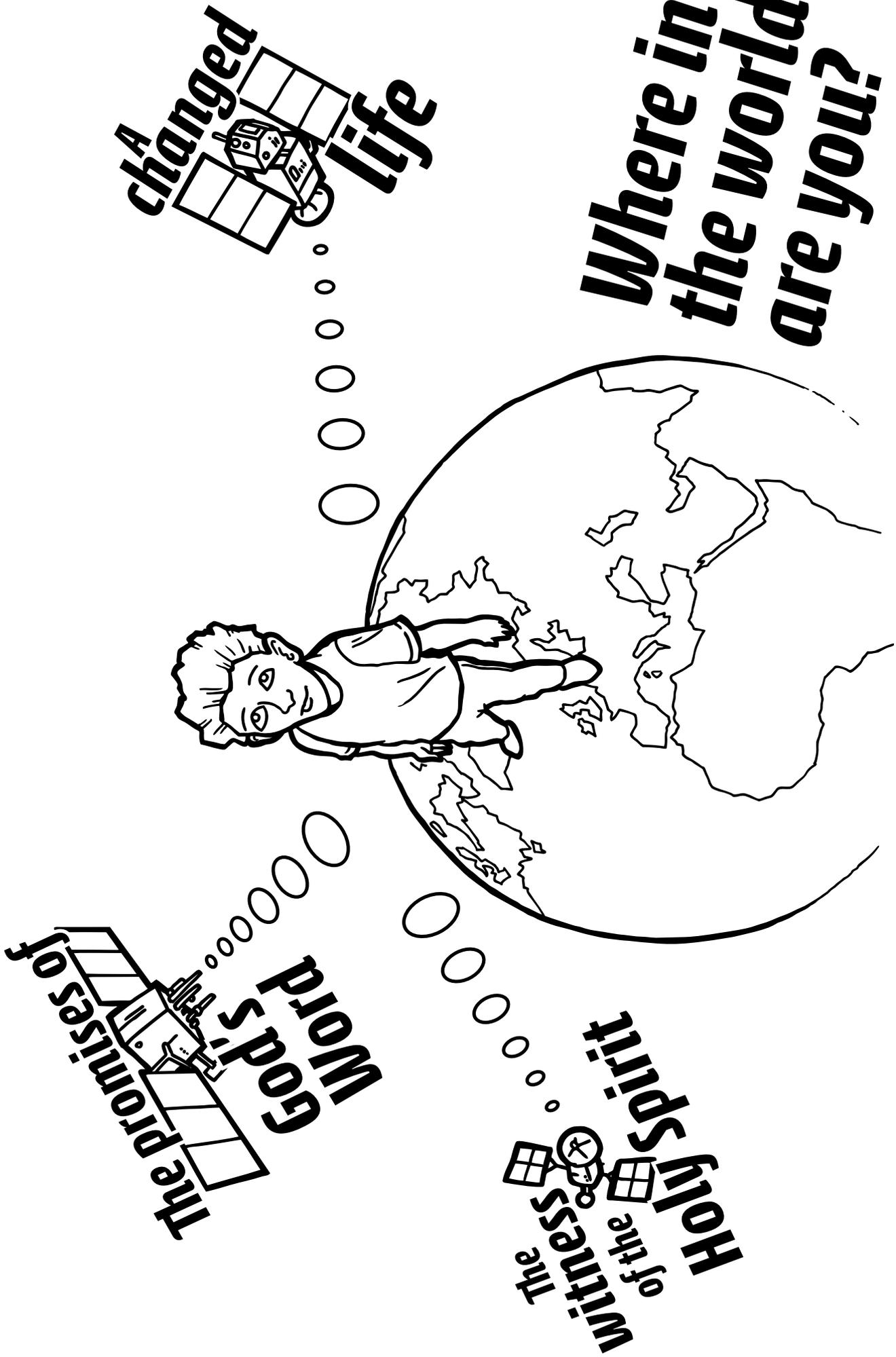
7
effects of
the Fall

Eve's **S** BIG mistakes

1. listened
2. looked
3. longed for
4. took and ate
5. involved others





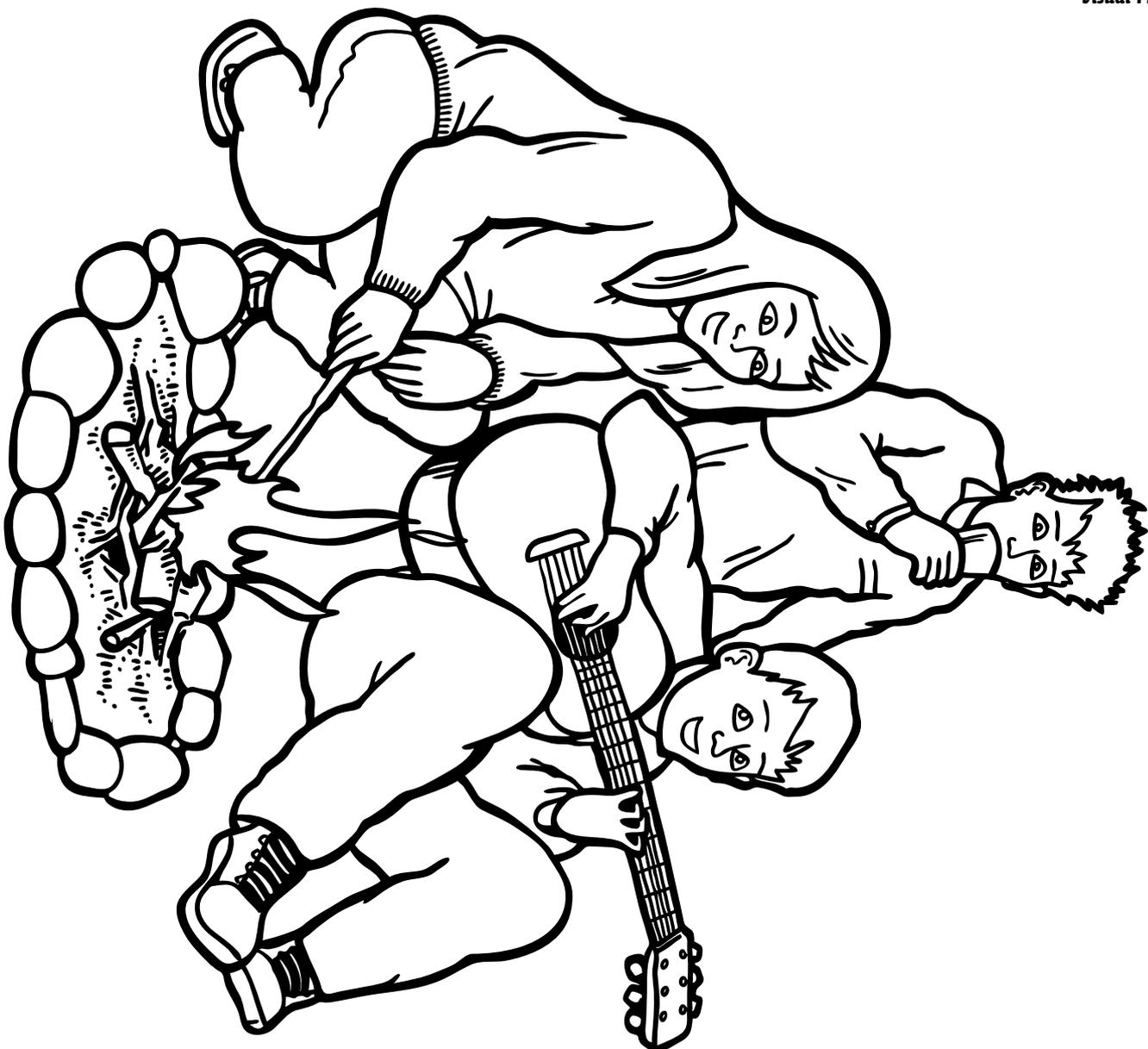


A Changed Life

Where in the world are you?

The Promises of God's Word

The Witnesses of the Holy Spirit



A love for God

***A hunger for God's
Word and prayer***

***An eagerness to
serve the Lord***

***A desire to meet with
other Christians***

IN the world but
not OF the world



THE WORLD SAYS:

GOD'S WORD SAYS:

You will only get on in life if you are prepared to lie, cheat and steal.

Proverbs 12:22; Ephesians 4:25

We should not lie but always tell the truth. The Christian should be someone who can be trusted.

Drinking, smoking and taking drugs is cool – just do whatever you enjoy.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:19-21

Your body belongs to God, so you should be careful to look after it.

Bad language is normal – everyone uses it these days!

Exodus 20:7; Ephesians 4:29

Bad language is an offence to God and harmful to others.

Be selfish – look after “Number One”!

Philippians 2:4; Luke 6:31

As Christians we should be considerate to other people and treat them as we would like to be treated.

Sex outside marriage is OK.

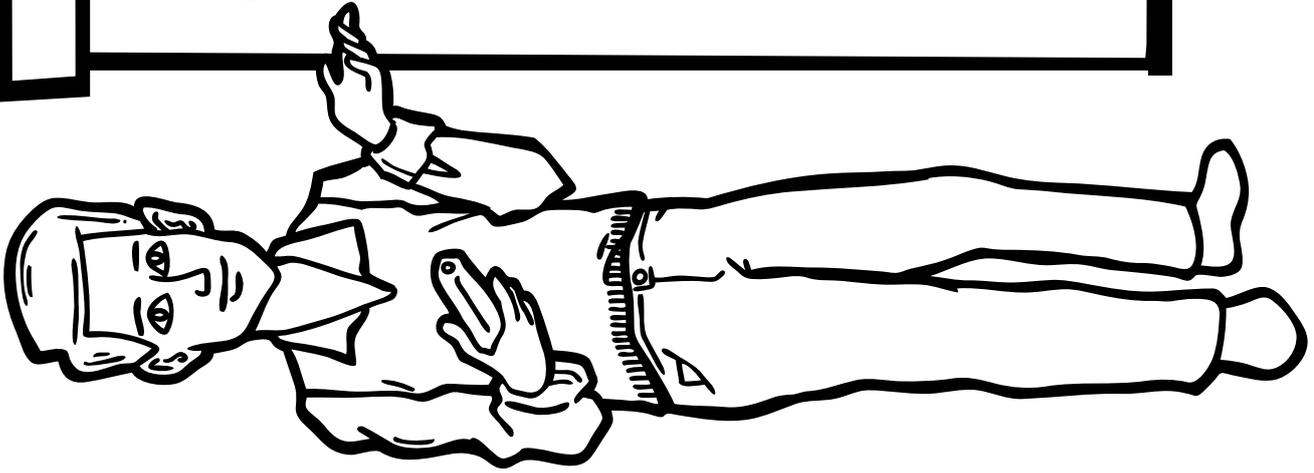
Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 6:18

God's plan for sex is within marriage only. Christians should stay away from sexual immorality.

It doesn't matter what you watch on TV, what magazines you read, what Web sites you visit or what music you listen to.

Philippians 4:8; Galatians 5:16

As Christians we must guard our minds. Do the programmes you watch, the music you listen to, the Web sites you visit and the magazines you read measure up to these verses?



What is **sanctification?**

It affects:

mind heart will

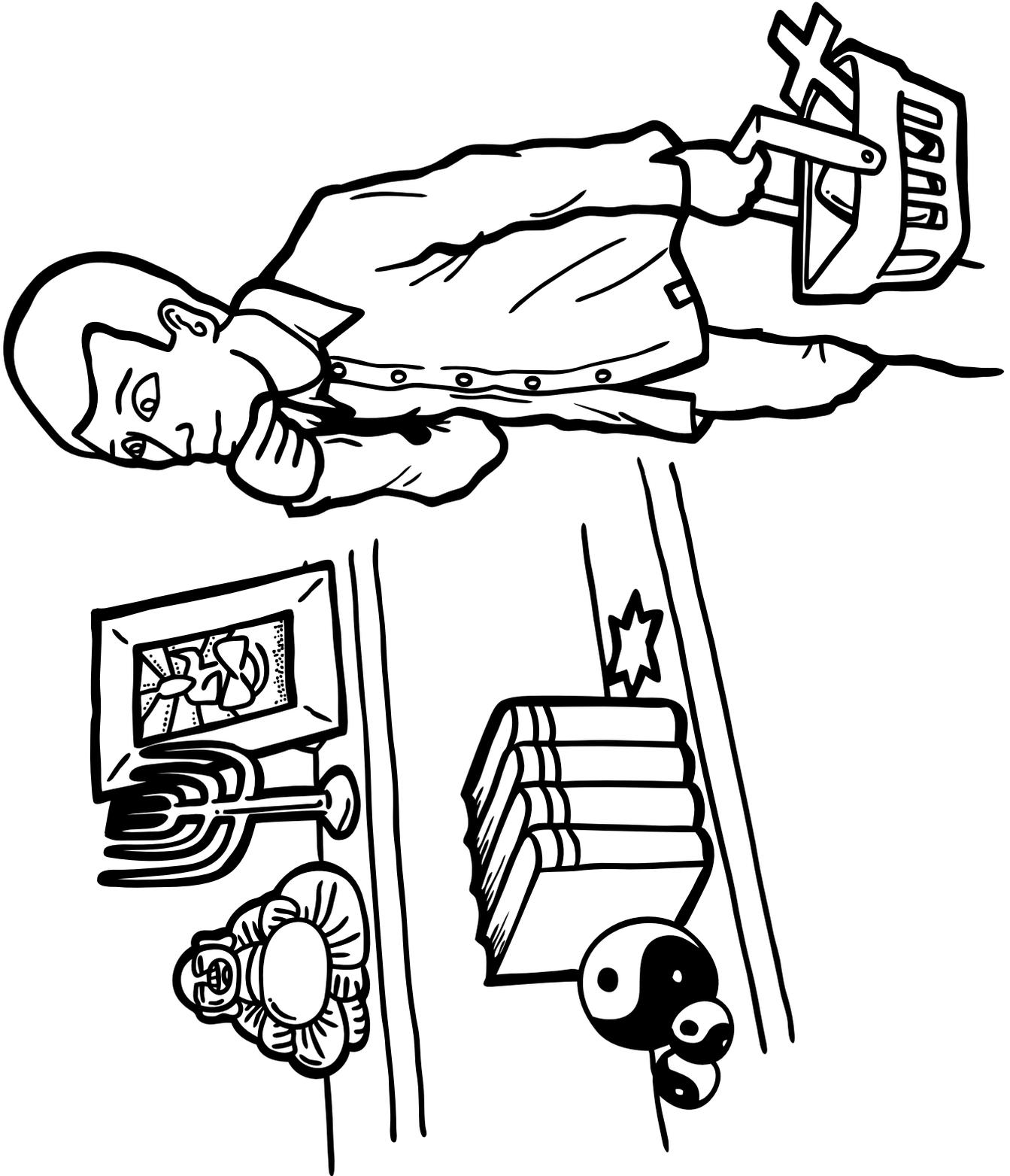


Reading God's Word

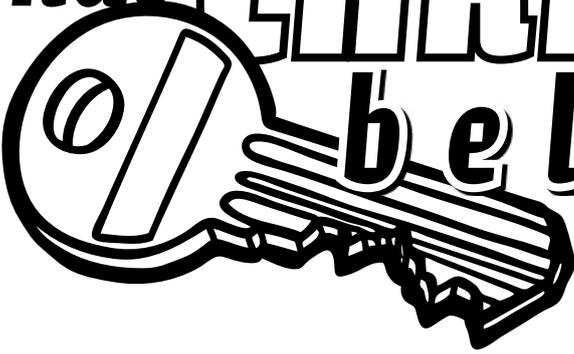
Prayer

Discipline





What **CHRISTIANS** believe



 **There is one God who is a Trinity.**

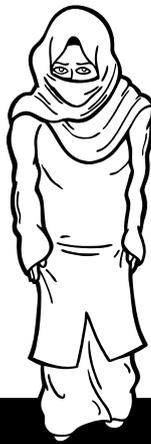
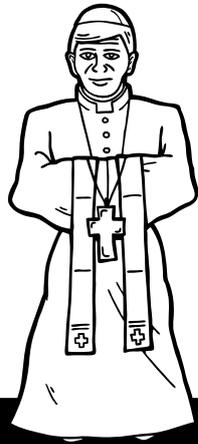
 **The Lord Jesus Christ is God and lived a perfect life.**

 **We are sinful, and therefore separated from God.**

 **The Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again.**

 **The only way of salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ.**

 **Heaven and Hell are real places - no second chance after death.**



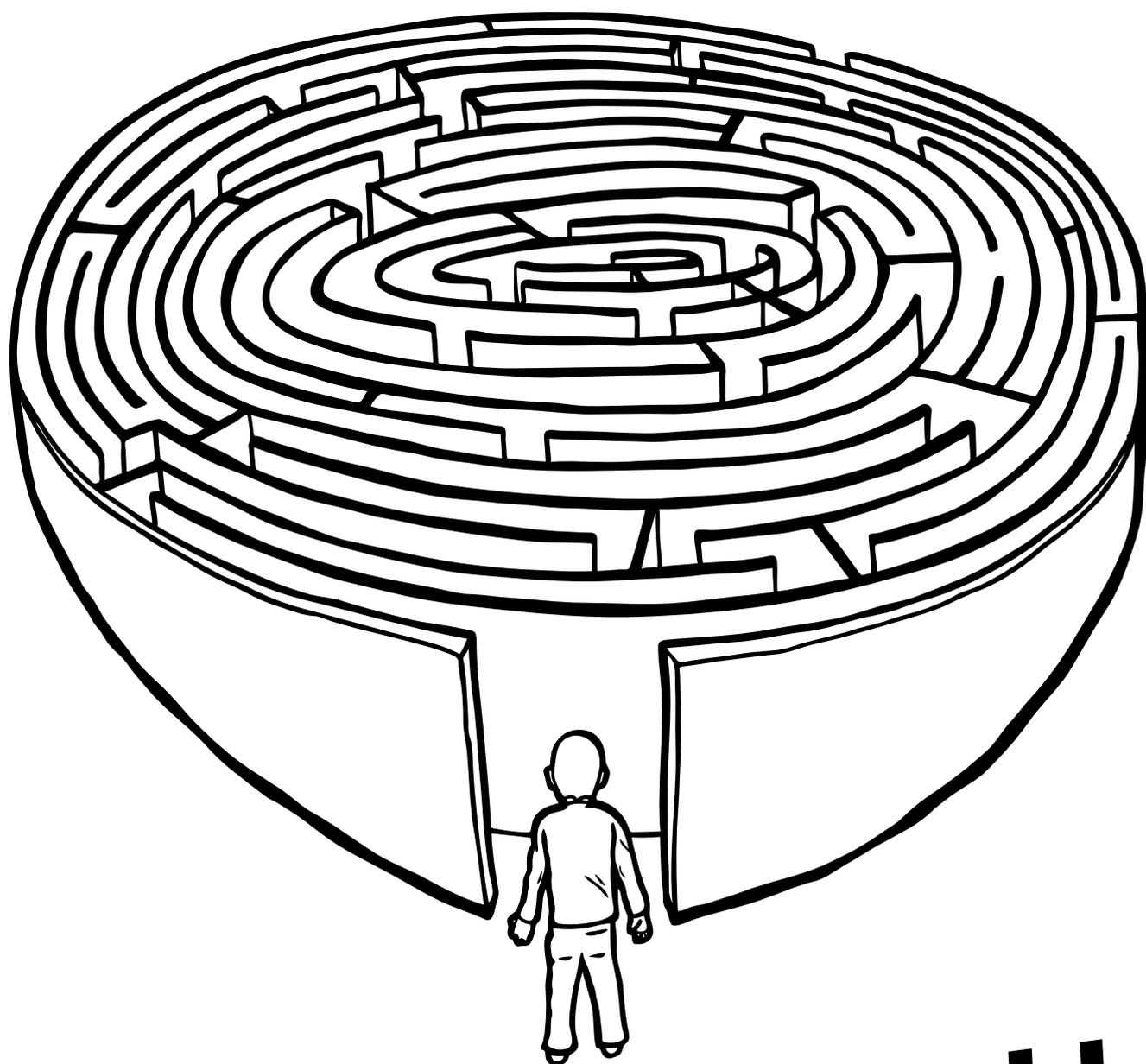
Biblical truth	Roman Catholicism	Islam (Muslims)	New Age movement	Jehovah's Witnesses
The Bible is the only source of authority.				
There is one God who is a Trinity.				
Jesus is God.				
All people are sinful.				
The Lord Jesus died and rose again.				
Salvation by faith in Christ alone.				
Heaven and Hell are real places - there is no second chance after death.				

WHY IN THE WORLD AM I HERE?





- **God commands us**
- **People are waiting**
- **Who will go?**
- **Go now**
- **Go in the future**
- **Count the cost**
- **Experience the blessing**



**Where in the world
should I go?**



How God guided the **early Christians**

Acts 8:1-4

Through circumstances which God allowed.

Acts 9:38

Through an invitation from other believers.

Acts 11:22

Through the action of a local church.

Acts 13:2

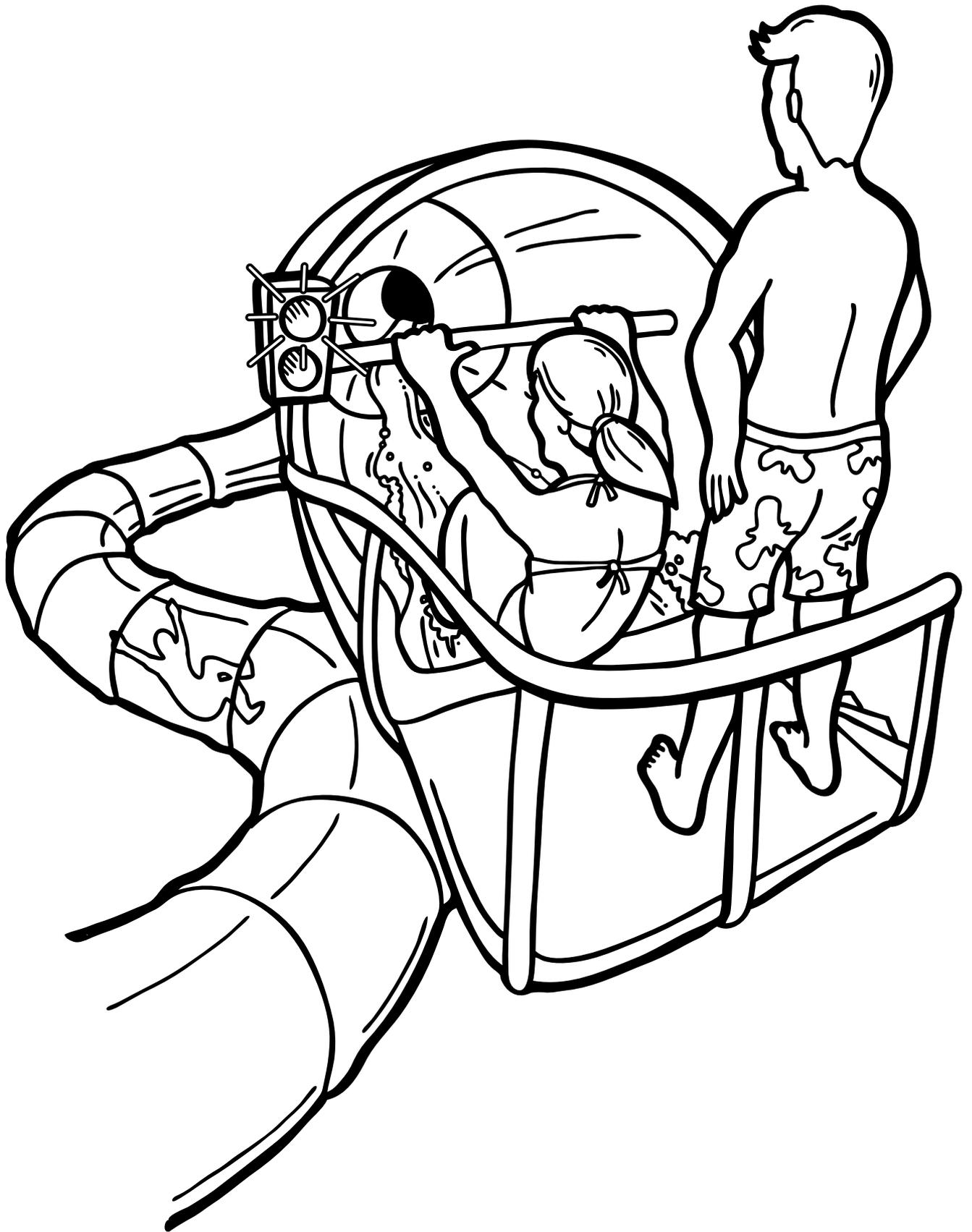
Through the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 15:36

Through responsible planning and common sense.

Acts 15:40

Through the confirmation of Christian leaders.



GOD GUIDES TODAY WHEN ...

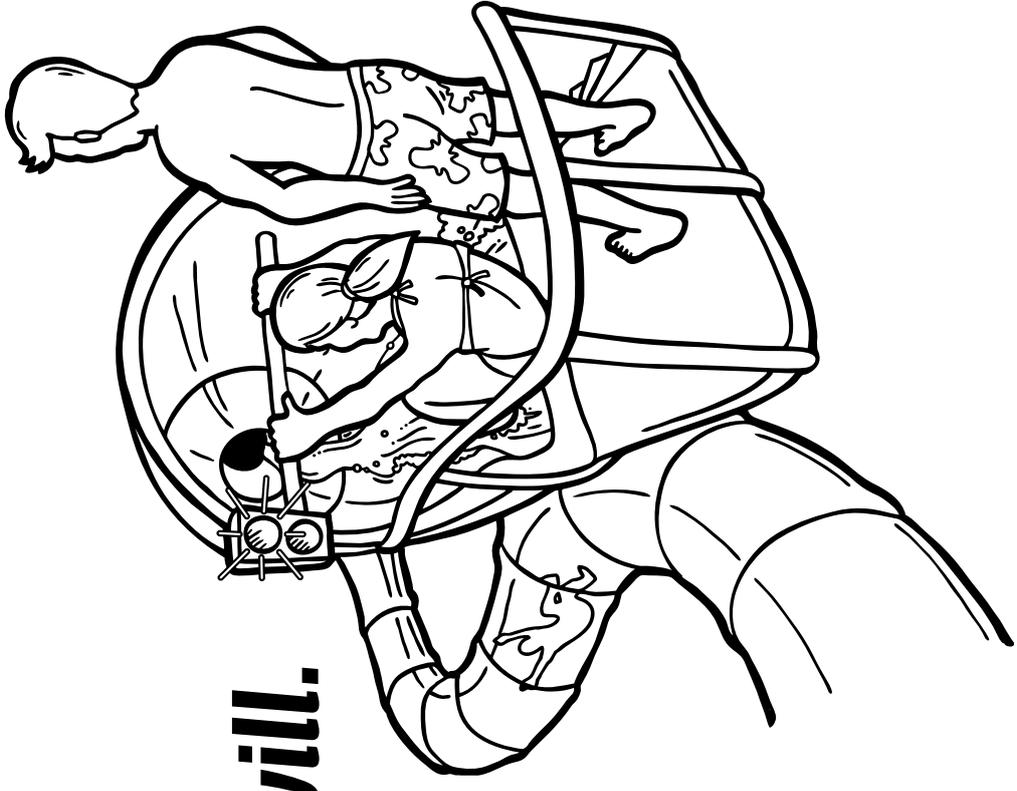
... I am living close to Him.

... I am totally committed to His will.

... I have a teachable attitude.

... I recognise the gifts I possess.

... I am sensitive to His leading.

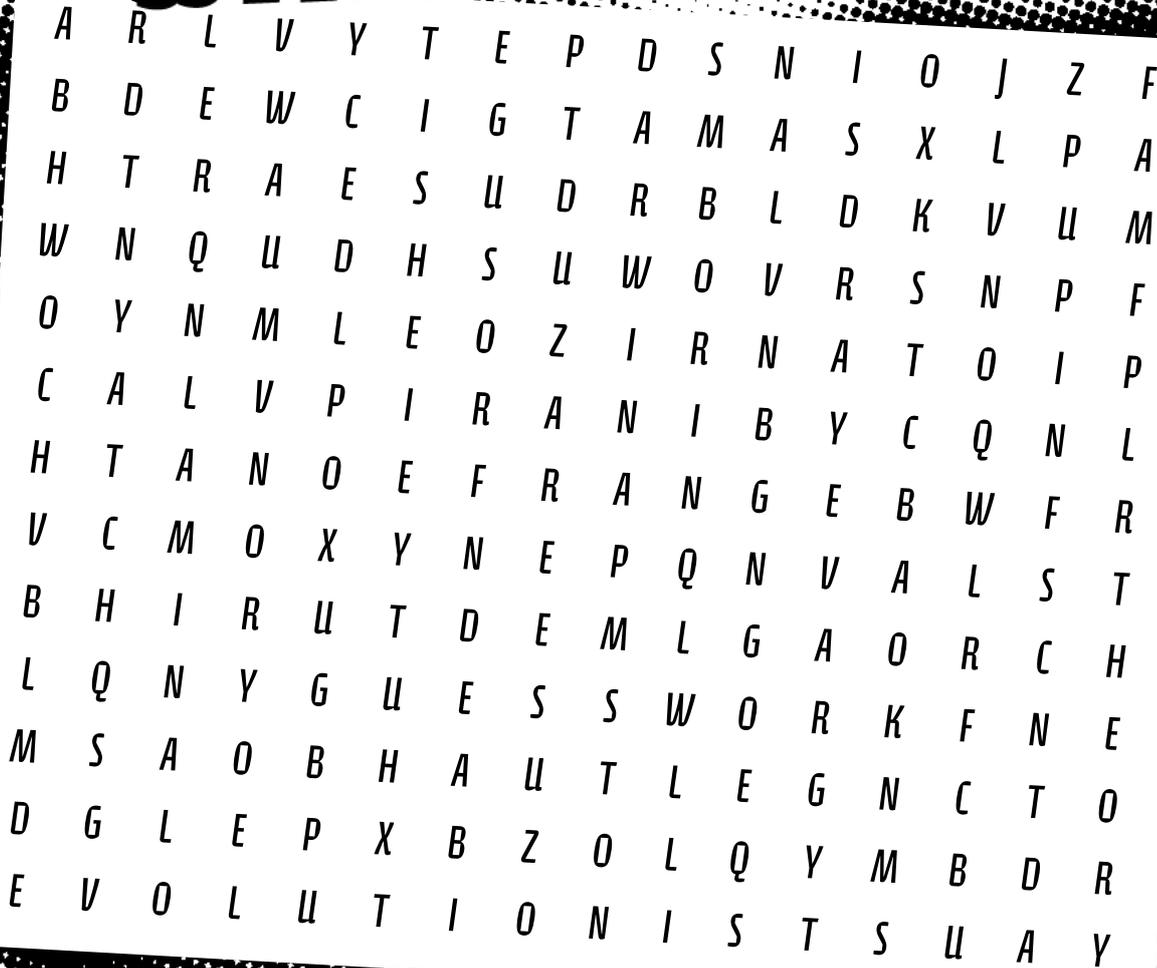


Handouts

Appendix

2

7 PROBLEMS WITH EVOLUTION



All the words below in boxes are in the puzzle above.
 Fill in the blanks, then find and circle the words in the word search.

1. It is only a .
2. It involves a lot of "".
3. The missing are still missing.
4. The is not that old.
5. It gives no explanation for all the .
6. and other themselves were not convinced.
7. It tries to explain without God.

Fill in the verse: **Genesis 1:1:** _____

7 amazing creations!

1. THE BEE

If a new food source is nearby the bee does a circular dance on the surface of the honeycomb. She moves in a two or three centimetre circle and then circles in the opposite direction. If it is far away she moves in the shape of a “figure of eight”. The direction of the food source is indicated by the bee moving across the figure of eight.

God made the bees with this communication system as part of their nature.

2. DOORKEEPER ANTS

They are able to lift as much as 50 times their own weight. Some ants have the job of being sentries or guards to protect the nest from intruders. The amazing part is that the doorkeeper ants have heads specially shaped to fit the entrance.

God designed them so that most of the ants have ordinary shaped heads and only the doorkeeper ants have specially designed heads for their purpose.

3. ORIENTAL SWEETLIPS

The quite large fish named “oriental sweetlips” enjoys smaller fish as part of its diet. Yet it lets the little blue-streak wrasse into its mouth and out again without eating it! Why? It cleans the oriental sweetlips’ teeth!

God designed it this way.

4. THE HUMAN EYE

137,000,000 is a very big number. The human eye has this number of special cells. They receive light and turn it into electrical signals, which travel along the optic nerve at 300 miles per hour. When our brain receives the signals a picture is made and we see what went into our eyes.

To suggest that things changed for the better over long periods of time is not at all feasible.

5. GOD’S TINY MIRACLE

There are over 300 species of hummingbird.

It can fly up to 80 km/hour (50 miles/hour). If we were to operate at their energy level our hearts would beat over 1,000 times per minute, our body temperature would reach nearly 400°C and we would burst into flames!

In order to survive they would have needed all their special features right from the start, not some so-called evolutionary process over millions of years. Truly the hummingbird is God’s tiny miracle.

6. A WHALE OF A TALE

The blue whale is at the opposite end of the scale to the tiny hummingbird. It weighs up to 120 tonnes (equivalent to 28 elephants!) It can grow up to 33 metres (108 feet) in length. Some whales produce up to 700 litres of milk per day.

Just some of the amazing things about whales, which only a great Creator could have designed.

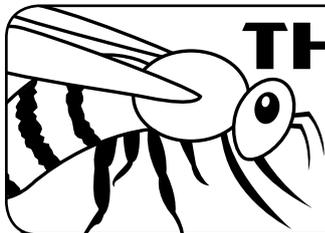
7. PLANET EARTH

Consider the order God put in place for the Earth – the rotation of the Earth giving day and night; placed just the right distance from the sun so that we would neither burn up nor freeze to death; the axis of the Earth placed at exactly the right angle so that the oceans do not flood the land.

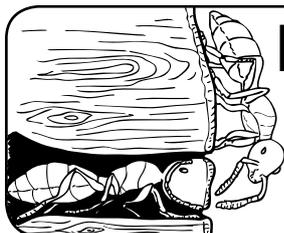
The Earth is truly an amazing place, but it is just a little speck in the unending galaxies of the universe. It is not surprising that the psalmist wonders why God is interested in us (Psalm 8:3-4).

7 amazing creations!

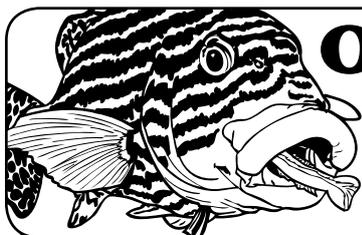
Write down some of the interesting facts about these amazing creations.



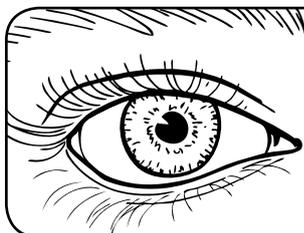
THE BEE



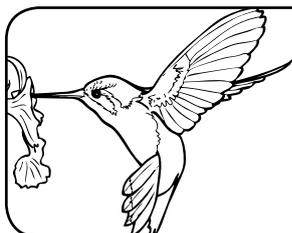
DOORKEEPER ANTS



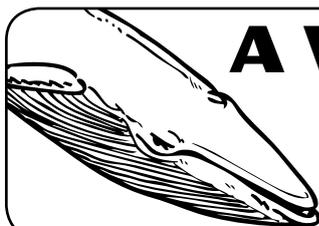
ORIENTAL SWEETLIPS



THE HUMAN EYE



GOD'S TINY MIRACLE



A WHALE OF A TALE



PLANET EARTH

Open your Bible to the tragic story of David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11.

Look at the questions below. Discuss your answers in the group before writing in your answer.

■ Instead of idly walking around on his balcony, where should David have been (verse 1)? _____

■ Times of idleness are often the times when temptation is strongest. What could you do to avoid such times? _____

■ What two commandments did David break in verse 2? _____

■ How did David's sin affect some other people (verses 5,15)? _____

■ Which commandment did he break in verse 15? _____

■ Look again at the five big mistakes that Eve made. Can you find parallels with the story in 2 Samuel 11? List as many as you can noting down the appropriate verses. _____

Psalm 51 - David's prayer of confession.

■ In verses 1-2, what does he ask God to do with his sin? _____

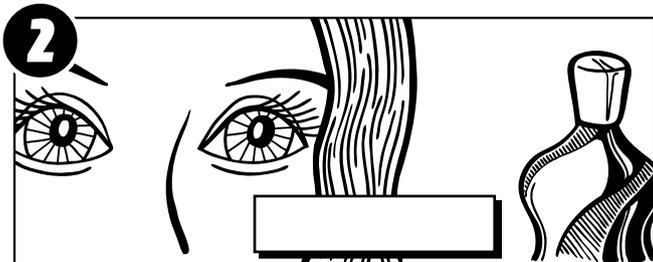
■ David had sinned against Bathsheba and against her husband and who else according to verse 4? _____

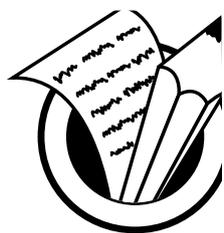
■ Read verses 10-12. How do you think David is feeling deep inside? _____

■ What good example does this Psalm give you of what to do when you are aware of sin? _____



Despite the time that has lapsed between Eve's sin, David's sin and today, temptation and the pattern that leads to sin is just the same. Fill in the blank boxes with Eve's mistakes.





WHERE ARE YOU?

Use the symbols to find the eighteen words and fit them into the sentences below.

▼ C	♪ R	⊗ D	♣ A	● X	* H	☆ L	◐ J	↖ Z	⊛ B	✕ U	★ V	⊕ S
■ G	☆ N	☎ W	→ F	* O	✈ I	▲ P	▶ M	✕ E	◀ T	* Y	✎ Q	➤ K

* * ☆ ✈ ★ ✕ ⊕ ⊕ _____	♪ ✈ ■ * ◀ _____
⊕ ♣ ★ ✕ _____	⊕ ✈ ★ _____
▲ ✕ ♪ ⊕ * ☆ _____	♣ ☆ ✈ ★ ✕ _____
♪ * ⊕ ✕ _____	⊕ ✕ → → ✕ ♪ ✕ ⊗ _____
⊕ * ☆ _____	→ * ♪ ■ ✈ ★ ✕ ☆ _____
✕ ☆ ✕ ♪ ▶ * ♪ ✕ _____	♪ ✕ ♣ ☆ _____
♣ ■ ♣ ✈ ☆ _____	▲ ✕ ☆ ✈ ⊕ * ✕ ⊗ _____
⊕ ✈ ★ ★ ✕ ⊗ _____	→ ♣ ✈ ◀ * _____
⊗ ✕ ⊕ ✕ ♪ ★ ✕ ⊕ _____	▲ ✕ ♪ → ✕ ▼ ◀ _____

God has provided a way in which we can have our sin _____ and be made _____ with Him. That way is through _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus lived on Earth as a _____ yet He was _____ because He is God the _____. Although He never _____, Jesus _____ a cruel death on the cross. God's _____ demands that sin must be _____, but on the cross Jesus took the punishment our sin _____. He did not stay dead but _____ on the third day. Because He is _____ for _____ He is able to _____ from _____.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Scenario

1

In a football match Jonny makes a brilliant tackle to stop one of his opponents scoring, but the referee awards a penalty kick against him. Jonny knows it was a fair tackle.

Scenario

2

A new girl arrives in Emily's class at school. Her skin colour is different from most people in the school, and some of the pupils are calling her names and laughing at her behind her back. Emily wonders how she should react.

Scenario

3

Someone at school has downloaded an obscene video clip to their mobile phone, and a small crowd of people has gathered around trying to see it. Aaron wonders what is going on and comes over to find out.

Scenario

4

As she is leaving the classroom at break-time, Susan notices that the teacher has left the questions for the test they are having that afternoon lying on the desk. There is no-one else around.

**THE WORLD
SAYS:**

**GOD'S WORD
SAYS:**

Proverbs 12:22; Ephesians 4:25

You will only get on in life if you are prepared to lie, cheat and steal.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:19-21

Drinking, smoking and taking drugs is cool – just do whatever you enjoy.

Exodus 20:7; Ephesians 4:29

Bad language is normal – everyone uses it these days!

Philippians 2:4; Luke 6:31

Be selfish – look after “Number One”!

Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 6:18

Sex outside marriage is OK.

Philippians 4:8; Galatians 5:16

It doesn't matter what you watch on TV, what magazines you read, what Web sites you visit or what music you listen to.

In the world but not of the world

Word jumble



Read the following incidents from the life of Jesus and note which of the qualities mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 He displays.

Mark 10:13-16 _____

John 11:3,5,36 _____

John 13:3-5 _____

John 14:8-9 _____

Luke 23:8-11; 1 Peter 2:23 _____

Unscramble the following key words from the lesson and fit them into the sentence. The first letter of each word is underlined.

SE <u>J</u> SU	IL <u>W</u> L	U <u>A</u> NTER	NICPSI <u>D</u> LI
NGO <u>I</u> OGN	RY <u>A</u> PRE	CON <u>T</u> SAAIFCINIT	KL <u>I</u> E
R <u>N</u> INE	W <u>P</u> ROE	D <u>W</u> RO	SS <u>I</u> ETR
ND <u>M</u> I	A <u>H</u> RTE	NSLE <u>P</u> AIG	OL <u>W</u> RD

Sanctification helps us to become less _____ the _____ and more like Jesus.

It is an _____ process, which changes our _____ .

Through the _____ of God at work in our lives, we as Christians are enabled to _____ sin more and more and to live lives that are _____ to God. _____

affects every part of us including the _____, the _____ and the _____ .

Three things that are important for us becoming more like _____ are reading God's _____, _____ and _____.

What Christians believe

References



Key truth



Comments



Genesis 1:1 Deuteronomy 6:4 Matthew 3:16-17 2 Corinthians 13:14	1		
John 1:1; 10:30 Colossians 1:15-16 Hebrews 4:15 1 Peter 2:22	2		
Romans 3:10 1 John 1:10 Jeremiah 17:9 Isaiah 59:2 Romans 1:18	3		
John 19:23-34 1 Peter 2:24 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 Luke 24:36-39	4		
John 14:6 Ephesians 2:8-9 Galatians 2:16 Romans 5:1 Acts 4:12	5		
John 14:1-2 Hebrews 9:27 2 Corinthians 5:8 Revelation 20:15	6		

Notes for discussion group leaders

References

Genesis 1:1
Deuteronomy 6:4
Matthew 3:16-17
2 Corinthians 13:14

1

There is one God who is a Trinity.

Key truth

Comments

There is only one God but He exists in three distinct persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three persons of the Trinity are equal in glory and power.

John 1:1; 10:30

Colossians 1:15-16
Hebrews 4:15
1 Peter 2:22

2

The Lord Jesus Christ is God and lived a perfect life.

The deity of the Lord Jesus Christ is foundational to our faith. If Jesus is not God then He is not sinless. If He is not sinless then He cannot save. *[Stress the importance of this doctrine to the teens.]*

Romans 3:10

1 John 1:10
Jeremiah 17:9
Isaiah 59:2
Romans 1:18

3

We are sinful, and therefore separated from God.

Without exception, all are born in sin. We therefore face God's punishment because He is holy, hates sin and is full of wrath against it. *[Stress that a holy God must punish sin.]* Sin separates us from God now, and will separate us from Him for all eternity unless it is forgiven.

John 19:23-34

1 Peter 2:24
1 Corinthians 15:3-7
Luke 24:36-39

4

The Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again.

Jesus died on the cross, taking the punishment our sin deserved. As a result of Jesus' death, God's righteous anger at sin was appeased. God then raised Him bodily from the dead, showing that Christ's sacrifice had been acceptable to Him.

John 14:6

Ephesians 2:8-9
Galatians 2:16
Romans 5:1
Acts 4:12

5

The only way of salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ.

It is impossible for us to be saved by our own efforts. However good we may be, we still have sin in our lives. Faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus on the cross is the only way of forgiveness.

John 14:1-2

Hebrews 9:27
2 Corinthians 5:8
Revelation 20:15

6

Heaven and Hell are real places – no second chance after death.

How we respond to Christ in this life determines where we will spend eternity. There is no second chance after death. Heaven and Hell are real places. In Heaven believers will be with the Lord forever, but in Hell the unsaved will suffer eternal punishment, separated from God.



Who in the world is right?

Check the Bible references below and see which word best fits the verse. Write the word provided and then find it in the wordsearch.

Deuteronomy 6:4 _____

1 Peter 2:24 _____

2 Corinthians 13:14 _____

1 Corinthians 15:4b _____

Hebrews 4:15 _____

Acts 4:12 _____

John 1:1 _____

Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

1 John 1:10 _____

John 14:1-2 _____

Isaiah 59:2 _____

Revelation 20:15 _____

resurrection **one** **separated** **Heaven**
sinful **Hell** **salvation** **perfect**
faith **Trinity** **death** **Deity**

D	A	R	J	F	G	T	F	A	X	F	A	S
E	W	E	L	R	S	A	Y	W	L	O	E	T
A	E	S	X	V	I	A	B	U	A	P	A	T
T	Y	U	F	T	A	Y	F	T	A	N	L	C
H	X	R	H	F	Z	N	Q	R	B	Y	P	E
U	W	R	N	O	I	T	A	V	L	A	S	F
H	S	E	Y	S	X	T	D	G	R	E	O	R
D	P	C	A	T	E	H	E	A	V	E	N	E
E	E	T	V	D	I	M	M	N	R	F	N	P
Z	X	I	E	B	P	N	G	A	R	Y	O	I
V	X	O	T	R	A	D	I	Y	L	L	E	H
D	R	N	I	Y	B	H	L	R	H	F	R	L
Z	H	A	V	R	E	N	O	V	T	Y	I	U

LIVING-A-GOD-CENTERED-LIFE

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. These verses are speaking about Christians.

Who gave you your body? _____

Who dwells within you? _____

The image used in verse 20 is borrowed from the slave-market. What was the price that Christ paid to purchase you from the slave-market of sin? (Ephesians 1:7.)

Realising that Jesus did that for you, are you willing to dedicate your life fully to Him?

According to 1 Corinthians 10:31, what does every aspect of every Christians' life have the potential to do?

MISSION MATTERS

1 Does God want every Christian to be a missionary? _____

2 If you don't become a missionary but get a "normal" job, does that mean that you are wasting your life and living in disobedience to God's will? _____

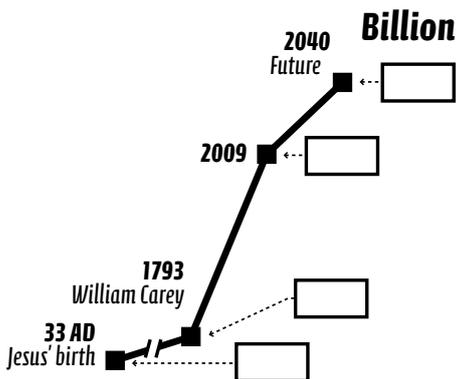
3 What can Christians at home do to help missionaries on the field? (Colossians 4:3; Philippians 4:14-17.) _____

4 What does God want you to do with the gifts He has given you? (1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:11-12.) _____

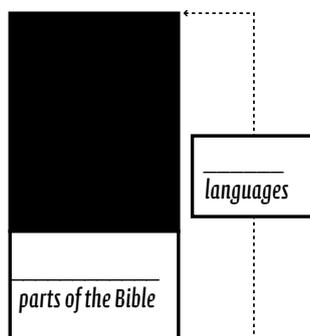
5 When you leave school and get a job, what should your attitude be as you work? (2 Thessalonians 3:11; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 5:16.) _____

PEOPLE ARE WAITING

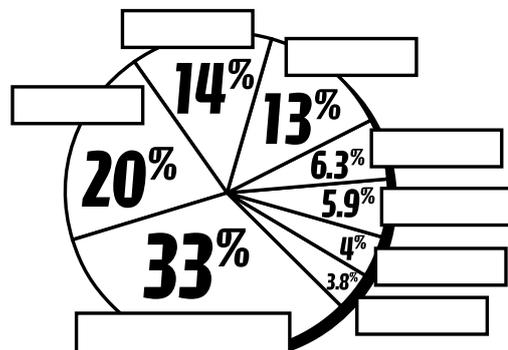
Expanding population



Many languages



Many religions





MATCH'EM UP!

Match the following people with the various ways that God guided in the past

Noah
(Genesis 6)

Abraham
(Genesis 12)

Joseph
(Genesis 37)

Moses
(Exodus 3)

Joshua
(Joshua 18:10)

Gideon
(Judges 6)

Joseph
(Matthew 1)

Dream: "One day you will rule over your brothers."

Dew on the fleece: God would be with him when he went to battle.

Angel: "Don't be afraid to marry Mary."

Casting lots: He guided in how the land was to be distributed among the Israelites.

Directly: He was going to flood the Earth.

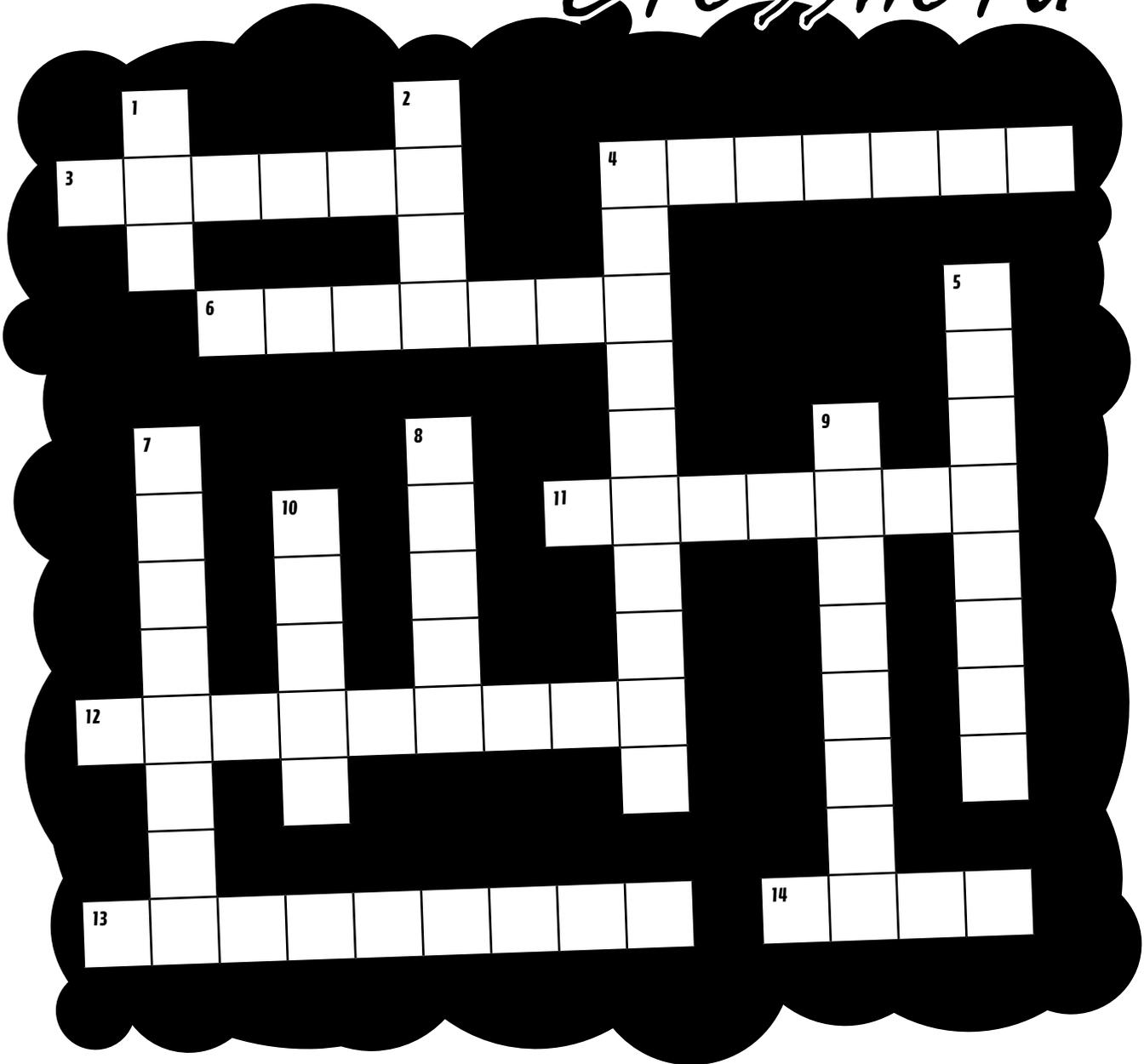
Directly: "I will make you a great nation."

From a burning bush: "I will rescue the Israelites from the hand of the Egyptians."



Reference	How God guided the early Christians
Acts 8:1-4	Through circumstances which God allowed.
Acts 9:38	Through an invitation from other believers.
Acts 11:22	
Acts 13:2	
Acts 15:36	
Acts 15:40	

Where in the world should I go? Crossword



Across

- 3 The message we must share (6)
- 4 Chapter 28 verse 19 of this Gospel book tells us to go (7)
- 6 Tell others about the Lord (7)
- 11 God's _____ is a reason for going (7)
- 12 William Carey's job (9)
- 13 There are many false ones in the world today (9)
- 14 Missionaries are needed because of the great ____ (4)

Down

- 1 The time to start serving God (3)
- 2 What God has for every Christian (4)
- 4 Someone who spreads the Gospel (10)
- 5 What all Christians should be to God's commands (8)
- 7 Where we should be willing to go (8)
- 8 Where William Carey went (5)
- 9 Missionaries may need to learn a new one (8)
- 10 Promised by Jesus in Acts 1:8 (5)