

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>LESSON 1</b>	GOD IS (PART 1)
<b>LESSON 2</b>	GOD IS (PART 2)
<b>LESSON 3</b>	GOD THE SON
<b>LESSON 4</b>	MAN'S CREATION AND FALL
<b>LESSON 5</b>	THE PROBLEM OF SIN
<b>LESSON 6</b>	REPENTANCE
<b>LESSON 7</b>	THE SAVIOUR
<b>LESSON 8</b>	SALVATION
<b>LESSON 9</b>	ASSURANCE OF SALVATION
<b>LESSON 10</b>	BAPTISM IN WATER
<b>LESSON 11</b>	TESTIMONY
<b>LESSON 12</b>	TITHING

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S GUIDE**

Welcome to your guide to Foundations 1. We hope that this Teacher's Guide will be useful to you as you teach your disciple this first series of 12 lessons on Basic Christian Doctrines and Practices (Part 1).

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The lessons in the Foundations 1 course can be broadly divided into four distinct units:

- Key truths about God
- Key truths about humanity
- God's salvation plan
- Practising Christian living

As you teach each lesson, keep these units in mind and the overall big picture of Foundations 1 to 4.

	<b>LESSON THEMES</b>	<b>LESSONS</b>
<b>FOUNDATIONS 1</b>	Key truths about God	1 - 3
	Key truths about humanity	4 & 5
	God's salvation plan	6 - 9
	Practising Christian living	10 - 12
<b>FOUNDATIONS 2</b>	Basic Christian Doctrines and Practices (Part 2)	
<b>FOUNDATIONS 3</b>	Principles of Witnessing	
<b>FOUNDATIONS 4</b>	Principles of Discipling	

Table 1: Breakdown of lessons and themes in Foundations 1.



## LESSON OVERVIEW

In each lesson, there will be key concepts that you want your disciples to learn and apply. Bear in mind that some of these concepts can be abstract since they deal with the spiritual and not the natural.

	LESSON	KEY CONCEPT(S)	KEY APPLICATION(S)
KEY TRUTHS ABOUT GOD	1: God Is (Part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Man's nature indicates God exists</li> <li>God is a Person</li> <li>Basic truths about God including the concept of the Trinity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can turn to God because He understands us.</li> <li>We should desire to serve and honour God because He created us and brought us out of sin.</li> </ul>
	2: God Is (Part 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God's characteristics</li> <li>God is worthy of worship and deserves to be glorified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can trust God because He is loving, perfect and He never fails.</li> <li>God deserves our worship because of who He is.</li> </ul>
	3: God the Son	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus shares the same attributes as God the Father</li> <li>The incarnation of Jesus Christ</li> <li>The work of Jesus Christ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can come to God freely through the work of Jesus on the cross.</li> <li>We have an eternal hope that Jesus will come back again for those who have received Him as Saviour and Lord.</li> </ul>
KEY TRUTHS ABOUT HUMANITY	4: Man's Creation and Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Man was created by God in His image</li> <li>Man was righteous but sinned against God</li> <li>The consequences of sin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We were created with an intended purpose.</li> <li>We have a fallen nature and need to rely on God daily to do what is right.</li> </ul>
	5: The Problem of Sin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The nature of sin</li> <li>The consequences of sin</li> <li>Man's inability to resolve the problem of sin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to be humble and acknowledge our sinful nature.</li> <li>Jesus is our only hope for freedom from sin.</li> </ul>



	LESSON	KEY CONCEPT(S)	KEY APPLICATION(S)
GOD'S SALVATION PLAN	6: Repentance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meaning of repentance</li> <li>• Results of repentance</li> <li>• The call to repentance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• True repentance involves turning away from sin and turning towards God.</li> <li>• We need to ask God to help us examine our own lives closely.</li> </ul>
	7: The Saviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person, passion and power of Jesus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to learn from Jesus and not just about Him.</li> <li>• We can pray to Jesus and expect a response because He has the power to answer prayer.</li> </ul>
	8: Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for salvation</li> <li>• The definition of salvation</li> <li>• The way to salvation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We do not have to live under the condemnation of past sins.</li> <li>• Good works cannot save us - only faith in Jesus can.</li> </ul>
	9: Assurance of Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assurance of salvation</li> <li>• The areas and effects of assurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We can live confidently knowing that we have been chosen by God.</li> <li>• We should not depend on doing good or on our feelings of being saved but on the fact that we have been saved through faith.</li> </ul>
PRACTISING CHRISTIAN LIVING	10: Baptism in Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The origin of water baptism</li> <li>• The meaning of water baptism</li> <li>• The biblical way of water baptism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We should desire to be water baptised as an act of obedience to the Lord and a public witness to our faith.</li> </ul>
	11: Testimony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The content of our testimony</li> <li>• Sharing our testimony</li> <li>• The results of our testimony</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As Christ works in us, we need to give Him the glory by sharing what He has done.</li> <li>• Our testimony should be in both word and deed.</li> </ul>
	12: Tithing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principles, promises and method of tithing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to honour God in our finances and to help support the local church by tithing.</li> </ul>



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TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 1     GOD IS (PART 1)**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Man is born religious.
  - a. Discuss the above statement with student.
  - b. Answers:
    - i. This is true because we tend to seek for something or someone to worship.
    - ii. Some worship a higher power, others worship wealth, persons etc.
    - iii. All men are religious whether we admit it or not. They only express it in different ways.
  
2. Man becomes like the God (or gods) they believe in and worship.
  - a. Discuss the above statement with student.
  - b. Answers:
    - i. You can see this truth everywhere.
    - ii. People who love materialism as their god 'worship' money, houses, cars etc.
    - iii. The way they live and the principles they believe in are based on their image of their god (or gods).  
E.g. The evil morals of the followers of some religious groups show the morality of the god they worship. True Christians have a strong sense of right and wrong because of their belief in a perfect and holy God.
  
3. Do you see a connection between a person's belief and his way of living?

**I. THE EXISTENCE OF GOD**

- A. Man's religious nature  
Man always looks for someone or something to worship. This explains why people worship powerful people, spirits and even things (e.g. sun, moon, stars).
  
- B. Man's moral nature  
The conviction of right and wrong causes us to need a "Being" to whom we are responsible and accountable.
  
- C. Cause and effect  
Every effect must have a cause. The cause must exist before the effect can take place. The universe did not create itself; it is the effect, the cause is God.
  
- D. Design  
Creation is beautifully and wonderfully designed. This shows the existence of a Designer God.
  
- E. Purpose  
The one who puts the purpose in action exists, whenever a purpose is clearly seen. History takes place to complete God's final plan. God is the one in control.

Which of these proofs of God's existence interests you most? Why? Discuss.



## II. THE NATURE OF GOD

- A. John 4:24
- B. God is a Person although He is a Spirit.  
God has all the characteristics of a person. He knows, feels, has the freedom of choice, and He is in control of what He does. Read **Psalm 94:9-10**.
1. A 'person' does not need to have a physical body. E.g. angels are spirit-beings and they are 'persons', but they may not have physical bodies.
  2. God understands you and I because He is a person. He understands our personal needs.

## III. BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT GOD

- A. What are the basic truths God shows about Himself?
1. The one true God (**Isaiah 43:10-11**)
  2. The everlasting "I Am" (**Exodus 3:13-14; John 8:58**)
  3. The Maker of heavens and earth (**Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 1:10-12**)
  4. The Saviour of man (**2 Corinthians 5:18-19**)
- B. God shows Himself in the Bible as one, but He is also three persons. Refer to **Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19** and **Isaiah 43:10-11**.
- Question: How can God be one and three persons at the same time?
- Answer: God is one God, but He shows Himself as three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is a divine mystery, something our limited minds cannot fully understand.
- C. God created man and brought man back to Himself.
- How does this revelation make you feel? (**Genesis 1:27; 2 Corinthians 5:18a**)
1. We belong to Him.
  2. God has the right to our lives.
  3. Sin is when we do not acknowledge God as the one true God. This is rebellion against Him. But Christ is now our Saviour and Lord.
  4. Our most important duty is to serve and honour God who created us and brought us out of sin.

## CONCLUSION

End with a prayer stating:

1. We believe that God exists.
2. We admit God has the right to claim our lives.
3. We choose to serve and give glory to God who made us and brought us back to Himself.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 2    GOD IS (PART 2)**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Brief review of Lesson 1.

God is a Spirit, but He is also a Person.

- a. You and I are also a spirit person living in a physical body.
  - b. The Lord Jesus Christ who is God, became a human being, so that He can show Himself to us in a way we can understand.
  - c. God is Spirit but we can have a personal relationship with Him through our born-again spirit.
2. In the last lesson, we learnt that 'people become like the god (or gods) they believe in and worship'. What kind of person is the God we Christians believe in and worship? This lesson will answer this question.

**I. WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS OUR GOD?**

The Bible, which is the Word of God, tells us:

- A. God is everlasting

1. Read **Psalm 90:2**.

Question : What does 'everlasting' mean?

Answer : Without beginning and without end.

Question : How long is everlasting?

Answer : It is forever.

We exist in the framework of time, so our limited mind is not able to fully understand what 'everlasting' means.

2. What comfort can we get from the fact that our God is everlasting?

- a. Our God will still be there after everything has come and gone.

That is why He said to Moses, "I AM" (**Exodus 3:13-14**). He is the "I AM", the Everlasting One!

- b. We will live forever because we have everlasting life in Jesus Christ.

We cannot be destroyed! That is why Saint Augustine (4th century theologian) said, "Join yourself to the Everlasting and you will be everlasting".



- B. God is all-powerful (**Genesis 17:1**)
1. God can do anything, because even the laws of the universe are set by Him.
  2. The knowledge that God is all-powerful should increase our faith in Him.
    - a. Nothing and no one in the universe can have victory over Him.
    - b. He can guard us from our enemies and from any danger.
    - c. He can meet all our needs.
    - d. He deserves our trust.
- C. God is infinite (without end) and Omnipresent (present everywhere) (**Psalm 139:7-10**)
1. God is present everywhere at the same time.
  2. We cannot hide or get away from God's presence.
  3. This truth makes God's enemies tremble but is very comforting to God's people.
  4. God is present with us not only when we worship Him in church, but also when we are at home, at our job, or wherever we are. So, we do not want God to find us in places that do not glorify Him, unless we are there to witness to the sinners and to help them. God's presence will follow a Christian to convict and to judge.
- D. God is unchanging (**Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8**)
1. God is everlasting and He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
    - a. Aren't you glad God never changes? We can always depend on Him because He never changes.
    - b. A Greek philosopher said a long time ago, "There is nothing permanent except change".
  2. Our God does not need to change because He is perfect.
- E. God is all-knowing (**Psalm 147:5**)
1. God knows even the deepest secrets of our hearts.
  2. God knows when we are right and when we are wrong.
  3. God knows our needs even before we ask Him.
- F. God is holy (**Isaiah 6:3**)
- A person will fall down on his knees to worship God when he thinks about God's holiness, because even though He is perfect and holy, He still accepts us and loves us.
- G. God is fair and righteous (**Deuteronomy 32:4**)
- He is not partial or biased in all His dealings with men.





H. God is love (1 John 4:8)

Love is the very nature of God. This is why the Bible says “God is love”.

Question: How did God show His holiness and His love?

Answer: Christ had to die on the cross to pay for the punishment of man’s sins because God’s holiness and righteousness required it. But at the same time, it also displayed God’s love for us because the Son of God paid the price of punishment, not us, the sinners.

## II. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD?

A. God deserves our worship because of who He is (John 4:24).

1. We worship ‘in spirit’ when we allow His Spirit to cause our born-again spirit to worship Him truly from our hearts.
2. We worship God ‘in truth’ when we worship Him by what He shows us through His Word.

B. God deserves to be glorified in everything we say and do (1 Corinthians 10:31).

1. We do this through the kind of lives we live.
2. We do this in the things we say and do.

## CONCLUSION

How can we become like our God whom we believe in and worship?

1. When we study His word and meditate on who God shows Himself to be in His Word.
2. When we ask God and let the Holy Spirit work in us to become more like Christ.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 3    GOD THE SON**

**INTRODUCTION**

Go over the Introduction in the Student's Notes with the student.

1. God the Son is divine like the Father.
2. God the Son existed together with the Father in eternity.

This is what we mean when we say 'God is one person' - God the Father and God the Son share the same attributes (qualities and characteristics).

**I. THE ETERNITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

**A. John 1:1**

1. "In the beginning" means the beginning of time.
2. This means that the Son already existed with the Father before time began.
3. This means eternity, because time did not exist before the universe was created.

**B. Colossians 1:17**

1. When Paul said that Jesus Christ "is before all things," he was saying that Jesus Christ is not a part of all things that were made.
2. All created things have a beginning, but Jesus Christ does not have a beginning because He is not a created being.

Question: Who alone is not made?

Answer: The eternal God. Therefore, Jesus Christ is eternal.

**II. THE MEANING OF THE WORDS 'JESUS CHRIST'**

**A. 'Jesus' is the Greek form of the Hebrew word 'Jehoshua' (Joshua).**

It means "'Jehovah' is salvation" (**Matthew 1:21**).

'Jehovah' is a name of God which means 'I Am'.

**B. 'Christ' is the Greek form of the Hebrew word 'Messiah' (**John 1:41**).**

It means 'the Anointed One'- the One who would save man from their sins.



### III. THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST

#### A. Immanuel (God with us) (**Matthew 1:23**)

Question: Why did God the Son become a human being? (**John 1:1,14**)

Answer: To set us free from sin, bondages and hopelessness (**Luke 4:16-19**).

#### B. The God-Man

1. Jesus Christ is truly God and truly Man.
2. While He is both God and Man, He is one Person having two natures, each completely separate and different from the other. This is a divine mystery.

### IV. THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

What Christ has done started in heaven. It was shown on earth, and it continues in glory. Jesus is Prophet, Priest and King.

#### A. Prophet

1. Compare these two verses - **Deuteronomy 18:15** and **Acts 7:37**.
2. What was the work of a prophet?
  - a. He spoke God's message to man.
  - b. He pointed man to God.
  - c. Jesus, as a Prophet, pointed out man's spiritual need and showed man the way to God (**John 14:6**).
  - d. A prophet also spoke about the future when it was God's message for the people. Jesus did both of these.

#### B. Priest

Read **Hebrews 8:1-3**.

What did a priest do?

1. He went to the presence of God on behalf of man and spoke to God for men.
2. Jesus' redemption of us from judgement involved both a priest and his sacrifice. Jesus is both Priest and Lamb (i.e. the sacrificial Lamb, another description of Jesus in the Bible). The sacrifice that Jesus offered was His own body and blood.
3. Today, Jesus is praying for all of us who belongs to Him (**Romans 8:34**).

Note: We do not need any other priest to go to God. Jesus is the only Person who can go to God on our behalf (**1 Timothy 2:5**).



C. King

God raised Jesus from death and lifted Him to the right hand of God's throne, the Majesty in heavens (**Hebrew 8:1**). He rules as Lord in the hearts of all who receive Him as Saviour and King from this position of honour.

We have a duty and a hope, as people who belong to King Jesus.

1. Duty

- a. To give Him glory and praise, to love Him and obey Him completely.
- b. To admit that He is the King in every area of our lives, to seek His kingdom first, and to do our best to increase His kingdom through witnessing, serving, and preaching the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

2. Hope

- a. The King will come again for everyone who has received Him as Saviour and Lord! Christ will return in great glory and power to rule (**Revelation 19:16; 11:15**).
- b. Christ's return to earth is the Christians' 'blessed hope' (**Titus 2:13**).

## V. MAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS CHRIST

There are only two choices regarding Jesus Christ. Either receive Him or reject Him. It was sad that Pilate chose to reject Him (**Matthew 27**).

Why did Pilate reject Jesus?

1. He was afraid of what people would say about him.
2. He valued his political job and selfish desire more than Jesus. But history tells us that not long after he rejected Jesus, he lost his political position. He died as a person who failed. He had the opportunity to receive life, but he did not take it.

## CONCLUSION

The greatest question that every human being must think about seriously is stated in this poem:

*What will you do with Jesus?  
Neutral you cannot be;  
Some day your heart will be asking,  
What will He do with me?*

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 4    MAN'S CREATION AND FALL**

**INTRODUCTION**

Refer to the question in the Introduction of the Student's Notes.

Evolutionists think it is childish to believe in what the Bible says about Creation. But the theory of evolution fails to:

1. Explain how life began. It is a well-known fact in Science that life can only come from another life.
2. Adequately answer how man was made. It cannot prove that man was developed from animal.
3. Prove that one type of animal could be produced from a completely different type of animal.

The belief in evolution is based on 'blind chance', but our faith is based on a personal relationship with the Creator God.

**I. THE CREATION OF MAN**

A. The reason for man's creation

Why did God make man?

1. To serve Him?

Yes, but this is not the primary reason.

2. To have a relationship with Him?

Yes, this is the main reason. This is why God created us in His image so we can relate with Him.

B. The Creation principles

1. Man was made good and righteous.

Read **Genesis 1:27**.

2. Man was made in the likeness of God.

Read **Genesis 1:26-27**.

Question: In what way God's image was in the first man?

Answer: a. Man had a choice - freedom to choose.

b. Man had a spiritual nature - a spirit living in a physical body.

3. Man was created with great intelligence. (**Genesis 2:19**)



## II. THE FALL OF MAN

### A. Reasons for the Fall

Read **Genesis 3:1-7**, find out how Satan tempted Eve to sin and why Adam & Eve sinned.

1. Satan:
  - a. Tempted Eve when she was alone
  - b. Made her doubt the goodness of God
  - c. Used deceptions
  - d. Accused God of lying
2. The nature of man's sin
  - a. Eve
    - i. Doubted God's warning and His goodness. She believed Satan more than God;
    - ii. Desired to live outside the will and control of God.
    - iii. Eventually disobeyed God and ate the fruit that God told them not to eat.
  - b. Adam  
He probably listened to Eve telling him what the serpent (Satan in the form of a snake) told her and was convinced when he saw nothing happened to Eve after she ate the fruit. He did not trust what God had told him.

### B. The consequences of man's sin

Read **Genesis 3:8-19** to discover the five serious consequences of Adam and Eve's sin.

1. **V. 8** - Man's close relationship with God was broken.
2. **V. 10, 12** - Man was separated from God, and he began to experience fear, shame and guilt. He also blamed others (God and his wife) for his own sin.
3. **V. 16** - Pain in woman's childbirth, and she came under the control of her husband.
4. **V. 17-19** - The ground was cursed, and man had to work very hard all his life.
5. The eventual spiritual and physical death for Adam, Eve and all their children (**Romans 5:12; 6:23**).

## CONCLUSION

After the Fall, God took the first step to bring man back to Himself.

1. He called out to Adam, "Where are you?" (**Genesis 3:9**). God knew where Adam was, but He wanted Adam to know that He still cared for him even though he had sinned.
2. He made 'coats of skin' for Adam and Eve (**Genesis 3:21**). This covering is the earliest type of Christ's righteousness that covers a sinner who accepts Him as Saviour and Lord.
3. Let's thank God for His marvellous salvation through His Son Jesus Christ.

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**LESSON 5 THE PROBLEM OF SIN**

**INTRODUCTION**

Question: Why is sin a problem?

Answer: Sin is a problem because it makes the difference between happiness and misery, freedom and bondage, heaven and hell.

Three proofs of the presence of sin in man's life:

1. The witness of history - history recorded the results of human greed, wars and deaths.
2. The sense of right and wrong in man - man's conscience causes him to feel guilty whenever he does wrong.
3. The witness of the Bible - the Word of God not only shows us the problem of sin, but also tells us how God can help us resolve the sin problem.

**I. THE NATURE OF SIN**

What does the Bible say about sin?

A. Not doing what God tells us to do.

1. The Bible shows us the nature and character of God. Man sins against God whenever he disobeyed His counsels and instructions. Sin is either doing anything that is wrong or failing to what is right.
  - a. In the Hebrew language, sin means 'go away from the way'.
  - b. In the Greek language, it means 'miss the mark', 'go aside from'.
2. The Bible calls sin 'transgression' (**Romans 4:15**) and 'lawlessness' (**1 John 3:4**).

B. Sin in two forms:

1. Sin in action e.g. lying, stealing, making false accusation etc.
2. Sin in the heart e.g. hatred, lust, envy and greed etc.

Read Mark 7:21-23. Man is a sinner both in condition and by actions.

**II. SIN IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE AND IS FOUND IN EVERY PERSON**

A. No one can be free from the guilt of sin.

Read **Isaiah 53:6** and **Romans 6:22-23**.

It is very clear from these verses that everyone sins. Whether it be people from the jungles of Brazil or from the city of London - all are sinners in God's sight



- B. Every child is born with a nature to sin

**Psalm 51:5** tells us that every child is born with a tendency to sin.

- C. Sin is found in everyone - this means that it is found in you and I.

Question: What should we do with our sin? Should we ignore it or rationalise it?

Answer: No! Let us admit it and give it up, and ask God to have mercy on us, forgive us and cleanse us, like David did (**Psalm 51:1-3**).

### III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

- A. Man's condition gets worse. Read **Romans 1:29-32**.

Because of man's sinful condition, his desires are not pure, his spiritual sight is blinded, and his will is not in agreement with God's will.

- B. Man is condemned. Read **Romans 6:23**.

Every sin committed has to be punished, this is the righteous judgement of God that cannot be changed.

- C. Separation from God - death

Read **Ephesians 2:1**.

God is holy, so He cannot have a relationship with people who are not holy. Spiritual death means to be eternally separated from God.

### IV. THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF SIN

- A. Man is not able to resolve the problem of sin.

Man has tried in their own ways to remove this sinful nature by religion, good works or self-discipline. But it is a fruitless attempt, unless God intervene.

- B. The only answer is through Jesus Christ. Read **Hebrew 7:25**.

The only way man can be saved from sin is through Jesus Christ, who is able to save even the 'worst sinner' who comes to Him.

### CONCLUSION

Read **Romans 7:15-25**. To have victory over sin:

1. **V. 17 & 24** - We must recognize our sinful condition and admit that sin is in us.
2. **V. 25** - We must trust in Jesus Christ to save us and deliver us from our sinful condition.



**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
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FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 6    REPENTANCE**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Repentance is often not taught today because people don't want to hear about their sins. They want to hear about God's love, but not about His judgement.
2. However, repentance is necessary because God cannot forgive a person if he does not admit his sins and turn away from his sinful ways.

**I. THE MEANING OF REPENTANCE**

- A. Repentance means a change of mind.

Read **Matthew 21:28-29** and **Luke 15:17-18**.

These are good examples from the Bible stating that to repent means to change our mind and our ways.

- B. Repentance is to be deeply sorry for our sins.

Read **Psalms 38:18**.

Some people are sorry because they are caught in their sins and suffered the consequences of their sins.

But a person who repents before God is sorrowful because he has hurt God and sinned against Him.

- C. Repentance is to admit our sin to God

In the Student's Notes, Points 'C', 'D' and 'E' give us the 3 steps to take which leads to true repentance.

Ask the student to tell you the 3 steps from the 'C', 'D' and 'E' in his/her notes.

Read **Luke 18:13**, **Isaiah 55:7** and **Acts 26:18**.

- D. Repentance is to put away our sin.

Read **Isaiah 55:7**, **John 8:11**.

- E. Repentance is to turn to God.

Read **Acts 26:18**, **1 Thessalonians 1:9**.

**II. THE RESULTS OF REPENTANCE**

- A. Forgiveness

Read **Isaiah 55:7**.

Question: What does **Isaiah 55:7** say God will do if a person turns from his sins?

Answer: God will forgive him of his sins.



Read **Acts 3:19-20**.

Two things are promised in the verse to anyone who turns away from his sins:

1. His sins will be 'blotted out'.
2. He will experience refreshing (blessing) from the presence of the Lord.

B. The Holy Spirit is promised to those who truly repent.

Read **Acts 2:38**.

### III. THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

Ask the student to read the first paragraph in the Student's Notes.

Ask him/her these three questions:

1. Why doesn't the future look good for man?

Answer: It is the same problem of sin.

2. What are the spiritual values we need to bring back?

Answer: A right relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ, and right relationships between people, for example, to have love and respect for one another, to be honest with each other and to care for one another etc.

3. How can we bring back these spiritual values?

Answers:

- a. We need more than religious education.
- b. We need to repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ.

A. National Repentance

Read **Psalms 9:17**.

National sins must be openly admitted and forsaken. No nation can get away from the judgement of God unless it repents. God can take away the economic progress and material comforts a nation enjoys as a judgement for national sins. God can also allow natural disasters (e.g. unusual weather conditions or earthquakes) and political problems to afflict them.

B. Personal Repentance

Question: Where do you think national repentance should begin?

Answer: National repentance begins with personal repentance. National repentance must start in the hearts of God's people, spread to pre-believers, and then become a strong, national force of repentance together.



## CONCLUSION

1. Repentance is not only for pre-believers, it is also for God's people (**2 Chronicles 7:14**).
2. It is easy to point our fingers at others, but it is much better to ask God to examine our own lives first (**Matthew 7:3-5**).
3. Close in a prayer for personal and national repentance.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 7 THE SAVIOUR**

**INTRODUCTION**

Read **Matthew 11:28-29** and explain that the Lord Jesus invites all of us to go to Him and to learn from Him personally.

Many go to Jesus but do not learn from Him. That is why they do not grow in their Christian lives.

In this lesson, we will learn more of Him, the person and passion of Jesus, His power and His presence.

**I. THE PERSON OF JESUS**

We are all God's children because:

He made us (**Malachi 2:10**), and we are born-again (**John 1:12-13**).

But Jesus Christ is the Son of God in a unique sense.

A. The Son of God

Read **John 3:16**.

Question: In what sense is Jesus the unique Son of God?

Answer: He is the one and only Son of God.

In **John 5:16-19**, Jesus claimed He is equal with God. And again, in **John 10:30**, He said, "My Father and I are one".

B. The second person of the Trinity

Read **John 1:1,14**.

As the second person of the Trinity, Jesus has existed in eternity before He became a human being. This is what John was saying in these verses.

C. God-incarnate (**Matthew 1:23; John 1:1,14**)

Jesus is God before He became a human being.

This was why He is called 'Immanuel' (which means 'God is with us') and 'God-incarnate'.



## II. THE PASSION (DEATH) OF JESUS

Our Saviour became a human being to die on the cross. Let us look at the purposes of His death.

### A. To save man from sin

We cannot save ourselves from sin, but Christ came to save us.

Read 1 **Peter 1:18-19**.

1. Our riches cannot save us from sin.
2. Question: What was the price Christ paid to save us?  
Answer: His own precious blood.
3. Through the blood of Christ, we have forgiveness of sins. This was what Paul said in **Ephesians 1:7**.

### B. To bring man back to God

Read **Romans 5:10**.

1. Question: Why do we need to be united again with God?  
Answer: Because we became His enemies when we rebelled against Him.
2. Question: How can we be united again with God?  
Answer: By believing in His Son and what He did for us on the cross.

### C. To destroy the works of the devil

1. Question: Who is the enemy of God and man?  
Answer: The devil (Satan).
2. Question: How did Christ destroy the works of the devil?  
Read 1 **John 3:8** and **Hebrews 2:14**.

Answer: Jesus Christ destroyed the devil's works when He lived as a victorious human being, died on the cross and rose from death.

### D. To destroy the devil

The final destruction of Satan is yet to come, but as Christians we have power (in Christ) over the devil. We do not fear death because Jesus has destroyed death by His resurrection.



### III. HIS POWER

Sicknesses, demonic activities and sin are works of the devil.

Jesus has the power to destroy the devil's works, look in your student's notes, the list of powerful things that Jesus did and still does.

We can have the power of Jesus over sicknesses, demons and sin through prayer, read **John 14:13-14**.

Jesus promised that He will answer us if we pray in His name.

- A. One of the most common fears of new Christians is that they may not be able to commit to this new Christian lifestyle. This fear is unnecessary and unreal.

Read **Jude 24-25**.

Jesus has the power to save us from sins.

- B. Since "all power in heaven and on earth" belong to Jesus (**Matthew 28:18**), He deserves our trust.

Read **Hebrews 7:25**.

We do not depend on our own strength to live the Christian life, but on our Saviour, who lives to intercede for us, and has the power to save us to the end.

Jesus still has power:

- To heal sicknesses (**Matthew 8:14-15**)
- To cast out demons (**Matthew 8:16**)
- To forgive sins (**Mark 2:5-12**)
- To answer prayer (**John 14:13-14**)
- To keep us from falling into sin (**Jude 24-25**)
- To save "to the end" (**Hebrew 7:25**)
- He has "all power in heaven and on earth" (**Matthew 28:18**)

### IV. HIS PRESENCE

Christ, who is alive today, is seated at the right hand of God in heaven.

- A. He is also in those of us who trust in Him; in our hearts by His Spirit. (**Ephesians 3:17; Revelation 3:20**)
- B. He will be with us to the end of time (**Matthew 28:19-20**)
- C. He is among us when we come together in His name. (**Matthew 18:20**)

### CONCLUSION

Truly, we have a great Saviour, we should give our life completely to Him.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 8     SALVATION**

**INTRODUCTION**

Almost all religions have some sort of teaching about salvation.

But let us turn to the Bible for the answers to four basic questions about salvation.

**WHY IS SALVATION NEEDED?**

Everyone, who is rich or poor, young or old, educated or not educated, needs salvation. Why?

A. Because of sin

Read **Romans 3:10, 23**.

1. Murders, rape and adultery are terrible sins. But sinners are not only those who physically did these crimes, a person who does these crimes in his mind or is greedy in his heart is equally guilty in the sight of God.
2. The fact that all of us have sinned against God makes it necessary for us to be saved. We sin as our sinful nature yield to the temptation to sin.

B. The result of sin

Read **Romans 6:23**.

Paul was not talking about physical death only, but a death that is separation from God and in hell forever.

How do we know? Read **Matthew 25: 41, 46** and **Revelation 21:8**.

We all need to be saved because hell awaits those who are not saved!

**WHAT IS SALVATION?**

A. Salvation is to be saved from:

1. The punishment of sin

Read **John 5:24** and **Romans 8:1**.

- a. Christ took the punishment of our sins on the cross.
- b. God takes away the condemnation of our past sins when we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour.
- c. So salvation is to be saved from the punishment of sin.



2. The power of sin

Read **Romans 6:14, Romans 7:21-25** and **8:1-3**.

- a. We have been saved from the punishment of sins, but we still need to fight the power of sin everyday.
- b. In fact, the tendency to sin we inherited from Adam and Eve is still in us.
- c. The good news is, sin does not control us, Christ who is in us can save us from the power of sin.

3. The presence of sin

Read **Hebrews 9:28**.

There is no sin in heaven. We will be saved from the presence of sin when Christ comes back to take us to heaven.

B. Salvation is new life in Christ

1. Spiritual life

Read **1 John 5:12**.

John was writing about spiritual life.

2. Abundant life

Jesus promised to give this abundant life freely to those who accept Him (**John 10:10**). This is more than having the 'good things of life'. This is the fullness of life that only Jesus can give.

3. New life

Read **2 Corinthians 5:17**.

A person's lifestyle will change after he is saved because Christ has made him a new person.

## HOW CAN WE BE SAVED?

A. Not by what we do.

Read **Titus 3:5**.

Religious works and good works cannot save us. If we were saved by what we had done, then we would boast and say we did it on our own.

B. But by faith in Jesus Christ.

1. Salvation is by God's mercy alone.

2. **Ephesians 2:8-9** tells us that we are saved by God's grace.

3. Paul said to the prison guard, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (**Acts 16:31**).

'Believe in the Lord Jesus' is more than just knowing Jesus Christ in our mind. It is believing and trusting Him with our life as our Saviour and Lord.





### WHEN SHOULD A PERSON BE SAVED?

- A. Now is the best time.

Read **2 Corinthians 6:2**. Today, now, is the best time.

- B. Procrastination is dangerous.

Satan wants people to put off salvation so that they will not be ready for heaven when they die. People who put off their salvation don't understand the danger of procrastination.

Read **Proverbs 27:1** and **29:1**.

- C. The Holy Spirit is speaking to us now.

Read **Hebrews 3:7-8**.

When God's Spirit urged people to accept Christ as their Saviour but they didn't listen to His voice, their hearts would become hardened.

### CONCLUSION

King David said, "*The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom will I fear?*" (**Psalm 27:1**). This godly confidence can be ours only when we say, "*The Lord is my Saviour*".

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 9     ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Here are two reasons why some Christians are not sure of their salvation:
  - a. They rely on doing good to be 'saved'. Their former religious leaders may have used guilt to motivate them.
  - b. They depend more on feelings than the promises in God's Word.
2. A Christian should rely on the word of God in this order: 'fact, faith, feeling'.
  - a. Fact - Christ died for my sins and He rose again.
  - b. Faith - my decision to accept Christ as Saviour and Lord.
  - c. Feeling - I feel the peace of God, but no matter how I feel the fact remains the same, so my trust in Christ should be the same.

**I. THE MEANING OF ASSURANCE**

- A. Assurance is to know for sure in our mind and spirit that we belong to God, and that we have salvation. The believer knows he is saved and does not doubt.
- B. Read **2 Timothy 1:12**.

**II. THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

- A. The promise of God

Read **John 6:37**. Ask:

1. Have you come to Jesus?
2. Did Jesus reject you?
3. If Jesus did not reject you, do you believe Jesus has accepted you?
4. Are you saved if Jesus has accepted you?

- B. The love of God

God's love is stronger than anything in life. Read **Romans 8:31-39**, here Paul said even death cannot separate us from the love of Christ as long as we choose to live in Him.

- C. The keeping power of God

Read **1 Peter 1:5** and **Jude 24-25**. Though we do not have the power to keep ourselves from temptation and sin, God does. All He asks us to do is to trust and depend on Him.

- D. The witness of the Holy Spirit

Read **Romans 8:16**. God's Spirit confirms to our spirit that we are God's children.



### III. THE AREAS OF ASSURANCE

#### A. Salvation itself

Read **Isaiah 12:2**. We can rest in our spirit and be completely assured because we know God is truly our salvation.

#### B. Eternal life

Read **1 John 5:13**. God wants all Christians to know for sure they 'have everlasting life'.

#### C. God has chosen us

Read **1 Thessalonians 1:4**.

A preacher was asked about what he thought about 'divine election'. He said, "God voted for me, the devil voted against me, I voted for myself, and I won the election."

### IV. THE EFFECTS OF ASSURANCE

#### A. Praises to God

We should never stop praising God for His salvation.

#### B. Love towards others

**1 John 3:14; 5:1** tell us that our love for others should increase.

#### C. Witness with conviction

We can witness to pre-believers with deep conviction that Jesus saves!

Read **1 Thessalonians 1:5**. Paul was a perfect example of this type of witnessing.

#### D. Confidence and hope

**Hebrews 10:35** tells us not to put away our confidence that will bring us great reward.

To keep this assurance, we must hold fast to our hope (**Hebrews 3:6, 14**).

### CONCLUSION

1. Ask the student to name the three Fs of assurance from memory.  
They are Fact, Faith and Feeling.
2. Explain a little on each of these to repeat the main points of the lesson.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 10 BAPTISM IN WATER**

**INTRODUCTION**

We study and teach the subject of water baptism for three main reasons:

1. We practise it as it is commanded in the Bible.
2. We encourage new Christians to be baptised.
3. Some churches practise other ways of water baptism.

**WHO ORDERED BAPTISM IN WATER?**

A. Jesus

Our Lord Jesus talked about water baptism when He gave the 'Great Command' before He returned to heaven. Read **Matthew 28:18-20**.

- a. It was the Lord who ordered water baptism, therefore all believers must be baptised. It is not a choice.
- b. Water baptism is an act of obedience to the Lord.

B. Apostles

We can see in the book of Acts that the apostles carried out the Lord's command to baptise new Christians, read **Acts 2:41**. Like the New Testament Church, we should baptise our new Christians like the apostles did.

**WHO SHOULD BE BAPTISED?**

A. True believers only

Read **Acts 2:37-38, 41**. Emphasize that only true believers in Christ should be baptised.

'True believers' are those who turn away from their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

B. Pre-believers cannot be baptised

Pre-believers, who have not turned away from their sins and have not accepted the message of the Gospel, cannot be baptised.

C. Babies are not to be baptised

Babies can be dedicated to the Lord, but not baptised in water. Because babies do not have the ability to understand and therefore accept the Gospel.



## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM?

- A. Through baptism, the believer is joined with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

Read **Romans 6:3-4** and **Colossians 2:12**. In baptism, the believer openly declares that:

1. He died with Christ (when He was judged for sin), he was buried with Christ, and he has risen to new life in Christ.
2. He has entered into a new relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus Christ is now His Saviour and Lord.

So, water baptism is the public witness of a believer that he is a part of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It does not mean that he becomes a part of these things immediately, but it would as the believer grows in the Lord.

Every believer should be taught what repentance, faith and putting himself under the Lordship of Jesus Christ are before he is baptised in water.

- B. It also represents the believer's desire to be a part of the Body of Christ, especially the local church.

Read **Acts 2:41**. Believers in the New Testament were accepted as members of the local church once they were baptised in water.

To enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ is also to enter into a relationship with His Body, the church. So, water baptism also represents the believer's desire to be a part of a local body of believers.

## WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL WAY OF BAPTISM?

The common ways of water baptism practised today are sprinkling, pouring and immersion.

- A. Sprinkling or pouring

Pouring and sprinkling came about when there wasn't enough water. They also make it easier for old people and those who are sick to be baptised. But the Biblical manner of water baptism is by immersion.

- B. Immersion Read **Mark 1:9-11** and **Acts 8:36-39**.

1. These verses clearly teach baptism by immersion.
2. The meaning of the word 'baptise' is to 'put in completely'.
3. Immersion shows most clearly what baptism really means - believers being a part of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

## HOW SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTISED?

Read **Matthew 28:19**. A person should be baptised in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## CONCLUSION

Encourage the student to be baptised, if he is not yet baptised.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 11 TESTIMONY**

**INTRODUCTION**

One of our first responsibilities as Christians is to tell others about Christ and our relationship with Him.

**THE CONTENT OF OUR TESTIMONY**

A. The resurrected Christ

The death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus are the important points in our witnessing to others.

Read **Acts 2:32** and **3:14-15**.

1. Christ died for our sins and rose from death is the Gospel of salvation (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**).
2. Our witness is about our Saviour who conquered death and is alive today! He is not only alive in heaven, but He is also alive in our hearts!

Read **Acts 2:33-36**.

Jesus is Lord over sicknesses, evil spirits and even death. He is greater than all the rulers and leaders of the world. He is the Ruler of the universe and the Church.

B. The Saviour Christ

Christ is doing His work in people's lives to save and to transform.

1. Christ's work in us Read **1 John 1:7, 9**.
  - a. Christ makes us clean and pure.
  - b. As we change, we become more like Him.
2. Christ's work through us
  - a. He helps others through us.
  - b. But He can work through us only if we give ourselves to Him and allow Him to use us in the way He wants to.
3. Christ's work for us
  - a. He answers our prayers (**John 14:13-14**).
  - b. He meets our needs (**Matthew 6:31-33**).



## HOW DO WE SHARE OUR TESTIMONY?

Read **Acts 1:8**. We are witnesses for the Lord through the things we say and do. Now let us see how we can do this in the best way.

### A. Through our words.

1. We share our testimony in line with the Word of God.

The testimony should not be any blessing that is against the Word of God. For example, "God has blessed my gambling business since I became a Christian."

2. We share truthfully.

We should not exaggerate. For example, if we prayed for one sick person, we should not say, "I prayed for 10 people in the hospital and God healed them all."

3. We keep our testimony short and centred on God.

We should think over what we wish to share, say it clearly and straightforwardly without unnecessary details.

4. We share with enthusiasm.

Be excited about what we share with gratefulness, giving Him the praise and glory.

### B. Through our life

1. By our clean and changed life.

Read **2 Corinthians 5:17**. The best way to tell others about Christ is through our changed life.

2. At home and outside our home.

The hardest place to witness is our home. Family members will judge what we share by the life we live daily before them.

3. Separation from sin.

People can see that we want to live a life separated from sin. But we must be careful not to put on a 'holier than thou' attitude toward others.

4. Love for other Christian brothers and sisters.

Read **John 13:35**. Our love for other Christian brothers and sisters is a witness to the world.

5. Commitment to Christ and His work

It is a powerful witness to people when they see that we value Christ and His work more than money, position or success.

6. By our death

Read **Revelation 12:11**.

a. Thousands of Christians lost their lives in the first 300 years of the church to stay faithful to Christ. This is happening in many places even today.

b. God will give us the grace and strength to go through such experience if He allows it.



## THE RESULTS OF OUR TESTIMONY

- A. We don't want to draw people to ourselves, but to Christ.

Naturally, people would like us if we were like Christ in our character and action but let us direct them to Christ.

- B. No matter how small our audience is, if we have something that brings fame to God, simply share it.
- C. Our faith becomes stronger as we witness.
- D. Most importantly, our witness should bring glory to God, and not to any man, organisation or church.

Conclude by using the points in the Student's Notes, and say, "Our testimony should direct people to Christ, encourage other believers, cause us to grow in faith and bring glory to God."

Points in Student's Notes:

The Results of Our Testimony

- A. Point or direct others to Christ
- B. Encourage believers like us
- C. Build up our own faith
- D. Bring glory to God

## CONCLUSION

1. Ask the student, "Do you have a testimony to share?"
2. Share a testimony of what God has done in you, through you or for you.



**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE I  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 12 TITHING**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. As Christians, we understand that everything belongs to God, including our possessions and money.
2. It takes money to operate a local church and to spread the Gospel. Who should pay for what it costs to take care of the church and to share the Gospel? The followers of Christ!
3. Tithing is not only a responsibility God gives, but it is also one of God's ways to bless His people.

**I. THE PRINCIPLES OF TITHING**

Tithing is based on the Biblical principle that everything belongs to God, who is the maker of all things, and we are only managers of His properties.

Tithing becomes a natural part of our life when we accept these principles:

- A. God is the owner of everything.

That means our money belongs to Him also.

Read **Psalm 24:1, Psalm 50:10-12** and **Haggai 2:8**.

It is clear from these verses that God owns the world and everything in it. That means He owns us and everything we have.

God not only owns the money of the world, but He is also the One who gives us the strength and ability to earn money.

- B. Christians are only managers of God's properties.

Read **1 Corinthians 4:2**.

Since we are only managers of God's properties, He expects us to be faithful to Him as His managers.

- C. Every Christian must be found faithful as God's manager.

Read **Matthew 25:14-28**.

We are accountable to God on how we spend the money He has provided.

We have to describe in detail and give a satisfactory reason for the way we spend every cent and dollar that He has allowed us to have in our hands.



## II. THE PROMISES OF GOD TO THOSE WHO PAY TITHES

Read Malachi 3:8-10, three things are clear from these verses:

- A. Those who don't pay tithes are robbing God.
- B. Those who don't pay tithes are cursed.
- C. God has promised blessings to those who pay tithes. These blessings could be good health, strength and finances etc.

## III. HOW TO TITHE?

- A. How much do we tithe?

A tithe is 10 cents of every dollar we earn or receive as a gift. Therefore, we tithe 10% of everything we earn or receive.

- B. What is the difference between 'tithes' and 'offerings'?

Tithes is a fixed percentage based on what we have but offerings can be any amount we give after we paid our tithes.

Nevertheless, the amount of the offering we give should be proportional to how much God has blessed us. It is said that 'God does not judge us by the amount we give, but by the amount we have left after we gave.' (**Mark 12:41-44**).

- C. Where should we bring our tithes to?

The Lord said that we are to bring our tithes to 'His house', read **Malachi 3:10**.

Tithes was brought to the temple in the Old Testament times. Christians today pay their tithes to the church they go to.

We do not have the right to give our tithes to anyone we want to 'bless', like our friends and relatives, or to charity. We may help these people with our money after we have paid our tithes. We must bring our tithes to the church to which we belong.

- D. When should we tithe and give our offerings?

Read **1 Corinthians 16:2**, Paul said, "On the first day of every week..."

For us, the first day of the week is Sunday. Christians come together to worship the Lord on Sunday and to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Paul said to bring on Sunday the money that the believers have put aside for the Lord. Because tithing and giving offerings are a part of the believers' worship.

- E. What should our attitude be when we pay our tithes and give our offerings?

God wants us to do it with a smile, read **2 Corinthians 9:7**.



#### IV. SOME PROBLEMS ON TITHING

A. Fear that people would not like it.

Tithing is not taught in some churches due to the fear that people might not like it. But it is better to speak the truth and let the person be angry rather than to take away God's blessings from him by not telling him the truth.

People who truly love and trust the Lord will not be angry when they are taught to pay tithes.

B. The law and grace issue

Some people think that Christians do not have to pay tithes because we are no longer under the law, but under grace.

1. However, the people of God in **Genesis 14:17-20** and **28:22** paid tithes before the law was given by Moses.

2. Jesus, through whom grace came, talked about tithing (**Matthew 23:23**).

Christians under grace should be happy to live by the principle of tithing, because Jesus will grant us the grace to tithe and to give.

C. Love of money

The love of money stops many believers from paying tithes. This is opposite to the giving spirit of Christ who gave up everything He had for us (**2 Corinthians 8:9**).

D. When a wife is Christian but her husband is not.

The wife (a homemaker) who receives an allowance from her husband, should tithe only on the personal allowance given to her. But if she works and earns an income, she should tithe on what she earns.

E. Borrowing one's tithes

It is not a good habit to borrow one's tithes. But when a person did, the Lord said in **Leviticus 27:30-31** that he had to pay interest if he borrowed his tithes.

#### CONCLUSION

Someone said, "Money is the 'acid test' of a man's character". It is a test to show what man will do to get it, it is also a test to show what he will do with it after he has it.

Paying tithes is one of the best ways to show our love to the Lord who died on the cross to save us.