

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 6

Lesson 6: Search and Rescue at Ground-Zero

The master of disaster, Satan and sin has devastated our planet earth leaving a pile of debris of pain, heartache, misery, tragedy and death. And we are all victims in the grips this, “ground-zone”, planet earth. The debris of sin and death is all around us. Many have no hope. But friends, there is hope; there is a successful search and rescue plan that is all ready in place. All you have to do is call out to the heroic rescuer, Jesus Christ and He will rescue you from the devastation of sin. Do you want be a survivor who is pulled from the debris of sin and pain? 1 Timothy 2:4 indicates that God wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of His truth.

1. What is our inherited condition and what kind of fatal danger are we all really in? And why do we need to be rescued?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Romans 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Psalm 58:3; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 3:4; Ezekiel 18:4; James 1:15

Write Bible Answer:

Sin is part of all of us, inherited from our first parents Adam and Eve (Also read Genesis 1:27 and 5:3). They passed on the disease of sin to all generations on this earth. We are all affected by sin. **Romans 3:23** says that ²³For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. We are all sinful. Now what are the results of sin? According the Bible we are ALL on death row waiting for death, because we have all sinned. We all deserve death. No matter, who you are and where you come from, it does not matter how much money and education you have. Believe it or not we all need to be rescued in order to escape eternal death. Sin is our inherited condition. And eternal death is our fate if we are not rescued.

2. After our first parents, Adam and Eve, chose to sin against God, what was God’s first promise to all humanity that gave Adam and Eve hope, and gives us hope today? What are some lessons we need to learn here?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Genesis 3:15; Revelation 12:9; Jeremiah 6:2; Isaiah 54:5, 6; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25; 1 John 3:8

Write Bible Answer:

Revelation 12:9 reveals that Satan is that “old serpent” that deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3:15, God is talking directly to Satan. God tells Satan as a result of his sinful decisions that he and all who chose to follow him will one day be totally destroyed. But God also give a promise of a rescue plan from eternal death. Let's take a closer look at Genesis 3:15. In the first half of Genesis 3:15, God promises to put enmity which is hatred between Satan and the woman. And the woman here represents God’s true church according to Isaiah 54:5.6 and 2 Corinthians 11:2. Now in the second half of Genesis 3:15 the seed of Satan are those who reject God and fellow Satan. The seed of the woman is the Savior born from the

woman who will fatally crush or bruise Satan’s head. The Savior is Jesus Christ who fulfilled the promise on Genesis 3:15. ***First John 3:8***, summarizes the promise of Genesis 3:15 beautifully. It says, “⁸He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” Jesus fulfilled that promise to bruise Satan’s head with a fatal blow when Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross and rose again.

3. What are some other promises of rescue that give us clear a picture of the purpose of Jesus Christ? There are many promises, but let’s just look at a few.

Read ALL the following Bible texts: John 3:16 – 17; 1 John 4:9 – 10; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19 – 21; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:19; Matthew 1:21; Luke 4:18

Write Bible Answer:

John 3:16 and 17 is the core of the search and rescue mission for all humanity to be saved from the doom of eternal death through Jesus Christ the Son of God. Remember sin is the disobedience of God's law 1 John 3:4, but through Jesus we have hope. In ***Matthew 1:21*** it says that His purpose is to save us from our sinful condition. Jesus is the rescuer that will deliver us from the penalty of sin which is eternal death. You don’t have to wait to be rescued. Jesus is ready to rescue you right now. There is help from our dreadful condition if we CHOOSE the gift that God gives us and that is eternal life through Jesus Christ. God is love and He has provided a means to deliver you from the penalty of sin through Jesus Christ.

4. How does Jesus Christ deliver us from the penalty of sin?

Contemplate on the provision that had to be made in order for us to receive the gift of eternal life.

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 2:14 – 15; Hebrews 9:22; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:7; Matthew 26:28

Write Bible Answer:

Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, was sent from heaven to dwell among us. ***Second Corinthians 5:21***, says, “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” ***Hebrews 2:14 -15*** reveals that the death of Jesus on the cross destroyed the power of eternal death. ***Romans 6:23***, says the wages or payment for sin is death. So in other words if we disobey God’s law the payment for that disobedience is eternal death. ***James 1:15 says***, “Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” ***Romans 5:12*** remind us of our sinful condition. We have all sinned. In to escape the penalty of eternal death we need someone to pay to penalty of “death” for our sins. If we receive the penalty of death due to our sinfulness, we would be eternally dead. Why? Because we are all subject to death. We do not have the power to raise ourselves back to life. We do not have the power over death. None of us can not take on sin and live. Remember ultimately sin equals death. We are NOT immortal

beings. Only God has the power of over death. Only God has the power of life. He is the creator. He is not subject to death. He can never die. ***First Timothy 6:16*** reveal that only God is immortal. So in order to be saved from the penalty of sin, only a divine immortal being, God, can save us from death because he has the power of life. In other words, only Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, the Son of God, the divine who wrapped his divinity with humanity can save us. God in the form of Jesus became one of us to save us. And only the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us hope.

Hebrews 9:22 reveals that without shedding of blood there is no payment for sin. When Jesus Christ died He shed His blood as payment for our sins. ***Ephesians 1:7*** says that “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.” ***1 John 1:7*** says that the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us for all sin.

It is clear what Jesus has done for you. This is real. This is God rescuing plan. And you had to do nothing to earn it. Jesus Christ was the ONLY one who spilled His blood on the cross as payment for the sins of every man, women, boy, and girl. Jesus died for you friend, yes you.

5. Is there salvation or the payment of sins through any other person or thing?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Acts 4:12; Romans 5:19; Hebrews 10:14

Write Bible Answer:

The Bible is clear. You can not be find eternal salvation and life in your money, education, job or career. No thing or no one else can save you from the penalty of sin, only Jesus can. ***Hebrews 10:14*** tells us that Jesus is the only perfect and acceptable sacrifice for the sins of the world.

6. What must you do in order to obtain this gift of salvation and be rescued from eternal death? What is its eternal reward?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:5; Psalm 38:18; Proverbs 28:13; Leviticus 5:5; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 3:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Write Bible Answer:

In order to be free from sin, you must repent of your sins to God. In the Greek, the word “repent” is reveals an attitude of humble reflection and acknowledgment of you sins that you do not want to repeat and offend God. You have a strong desire to change your old sinful habits by the power of Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit. ***Psalms 38:18*** says “I will declared mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.” A truly repentant sinner will be so very truly sorry for sinning against God His Creator.

Even though you repent of our sins realizing your sinful condition you must then confess your specific sins to God according to ***Leviticus 5:5***. You must admit to God in prayerful and humble attitude that you have sinned against God. We must ask God to forgive for our sins. And promises He will. Only God can forgive you and cleanse you from your sins, not man. Since you are repentant and confessed your sins, God says in

Proverbs 28:13 to forsake or turn away from sin. If you turn away from sin, it shows the sincerely and humility of you confession.

Ephesians 2:8 reveals that it is God's grace through our active and genuine belief in God that saves us. You must have faith in God's word that He has cleansed you and forgiven you. When God forgives you from your sins through Jesus Christ you are cleansed from your sins. **Romans 3:24** says that you are justified or made blameless as if you have never sinned. So we are at that point free from the chains of eternal death and have stepped into eternal life. When you are in Christ, forgiven and free from sin, **Second Corinthians 5:17** says that you are a "new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." In other words, God gives you the power over old sinful habits. **Philippians 2:13** says that it is God will work in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. So all of your desires would be to only please and glorify God and not yourself. If you have a hard time believing that remember the promise that God give to all people in **Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Remember planet earth is "ground zone" and the only survivors are those who accept the God's plan of salvation and live for Jesus Christ. Jesus is holding His rescuing hand to save you right now. All you need to do is reach up and grab His hand and He will pull you out of the wreckage of sin. He does not care what condition you are in or how much sin as a hold on you. Come NOW as you are. **Luke 1:79** reveals that the plan of salvation is "to give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." The reward of salvation and accepting Jesus Christ is eternal life, free from eternal death. Will you accept Him into your life today? Jesus is holding his hand out to you with the gift of salvation ready to delivery you from misery, pain, chaos, and eternal death. This gift gives hope to the hopeless, comfort to the fearful, strength for the weary, relief for the stressed, peace in chaos, and freedom from the bondage of sin. Accept Jesus TODAY! Now is the time.