

“KEYS TO THE KINGDOM”
A Series of Studies to Help Others Come to Christ
March, 2006

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Lesson One Seeking God

Jesus Studies (for those unsure of their belief):

1. **The *Character* of Jesus**
2. **The *Message* of Jesus**
3. **The *Claims* of Jesus**

Lesson Two	The Word of God
Lesson Three	Sin Study ("The Message of Jesus")
Lesson Four	The Cross of Christ
Lesson Five	Conversion
Lesson Six	Discipleship/Lordship
Lesson Seven	About the Church

A Note On a Teacher's Attitude:

James wrote that not many of us "should presume to be teachers" (James 3:1) and that teachers will be "judged more harshly." This is basically a warning to remain **humble** and this certainly applies to how we gently teach & share with non-christians.

In John 13, Jesus himself carefully taught his disciples, by washing their feet, that serving was a more true demonstration of love than teaching. In chapter 15, he went a step further, calling them to be friends, not just servants. **And this is exactly the point:** Jesus won the hearts of men by **servng** and by being a **friend**, not by being a legalistic teacher in the mold of the Pharisees.

If we are serious about helping seekers, we must do more than have a conviction about this—we *shouldt excel at being servants and friends to the lost*. Non-christians need trust in **Jesus**, but also in *our friendship* in order to have the courage & faith to make difficult spiritual decisions. May we commit ourselves to earning their trust, not to winning arguments; to giving *inspiration*, not just information.

Please keep in mind that people learn better by thinking and answering questions, and not by listening to a teacher explain. Make each study a time for good questions and do not feel the need to explain everything.

The following outlines are meant to be a teacher's aid, and are by no means the only sound list of scriptures to include in conveying gospel basics to unbelievers. They constitute a good way, however, to make sure seekers have enough knowledge to make informed decisions about the lordship of Jesus. Thank you for your service to God in helping to teach others!

—Scott Green, Senior Minister

STUDY OUTLINES:

Lesson One: About **Seeking God** (observations, blessings and costs)

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Mathew 11:28-30

Acts 17:22-28

Acts 8:26-39

JESUS SERIES PART I: The Character of Jesus (what was he like?)

John 2:12-17 Jesus clears the temple

John 8:1-11 How Jesus reacted to sin; his authority and mercy

Mathew 26:36-46 Jesus' humanity

Luke 5:1-11 Jesus' call to purpose

JESUS SERIES PART II: "The Message of Jesus" (Observations About Sin)

Mathew 1:18-21

Colosians 1:21

Romans 3:9-23

Romans 6:23

Revelation 20:11-15

Galatians 5:19-21

2 Timothy 3:1-5

James 4:17

JESUS SERIES PART III: Some of the Claims of Jesus

1. John 4:10-14 -giver of eternal life
2. John 4:25-6 -the Messiah (God's Son and King)
3. John 5:16-30 -judge of our lives
4. " -able to raise the dead (not figuratively here)
5. " -making himself = God
6. John 6:35-40 -the bread of life; that is, our source of strength
7. " -came down from heaven
8. John 7:17 -try Jesus' words and you'll see
9. John 8:54-59 -Jesus pre-existent; eternal
10. John 10:7-11 -giver of full life
11. John 10:31-3 -doer of miracles
12. " -is God
13. John 14:1-4 -making a place for us after death in heaven
14. John 14:5-9 -is the Father
15. John 18:36-7 -a King; the author of Truth

Observations:

- A. John 7:30-46 His claims were strange; extraordinary
- B. Some Logic: These amazing claims are either-
1. True-that is, Jesus really is God's Son and **Lord**
or
 2. False-that is, Jesus is *deliberately* telling lies (he's a **Liar**), or
Jesus is *sincerely* telling lies (he's **Crazy**)
- C. Each possibility-
1. **Jesus is a Liar:**
 - Jews did once call him a "deceiver" (John 7:7-11)
 - Liars have reasonable motives: what's Jesus'?
 - If Jesus was a liar, he was also the ultimate hypocrite-he said, "I tell you the truth," **eighty times** in the gospels.
 2. **Jesus is a Lunatic:**
 - Some said: "he's demon possessed & raving mad." (John 10:19-21)
 - John 8: are lunatics so clever?
 - John 3: Would Nicodemus take a lunatic seriously?
 3. **Jesus is Lord:** John 20:19-31—Thomas' struggle with reason & faith

Lesson Two: **About the Word of God**

2 Timothy 3:16-17
Mark 7:5-8
John 8:31-32
2 Peter 1:20-21
Hebrews 4:12
John 12:47-48
Galatians 1:6-9
Acts 17:10-11

Lesson Three: **Observations About Sin** (if you didn't do the Jesus series)

Lesson Four: **The Cross of Christ**

2 Corinthians 5:21
1 Peter 2:24-25
Mathew 26:36-46: *Emotional Suffering*
Mathew 26:57-68: *Physical Suffering*
Mathew 27:11-44
Mathew 27:45-50: *Spiritual Suffering*
Romans 5:6-8
Acts 2:29-41

Lesson Five: **Conversion**

1 Peter 2:9-10
John 3:1-5
Acts 2:36-41
Mathew 5:27-30
2 Corinthians 7:8-11
Romans 6:1-7
Acts 22:3-16
1 Peter 3:18-21
Acts 2:36-39

Lesson Six: **Discipleship/Lordship**

Acts 2:41-47	The First Christians/Disciples
Mark 1:14-17	A Call to Purpose
John 15:1-8	A Call to Relationship
Luke 9:23-25	A Call to Carry Your Cross
Luke 14:25-33	The Cost of Discipleship
Mathew 28:16-20	A Call to Mission and Maturity

A. Concept of Training:

Colossians 1:29-2:1
1 Cor 9:24-27
2 Tim 3:16-18
Romans 15:14
1 Timothy 4:7

B. The “One Another” Fellowship:

John 13:34	Love one another (10x)	Eph 4:32	Kind & compassionate
Ro 12:10	Devoted to; Honor	Eph 5:21	Submit to one another
Ro 12:16	Live in Harmony with	Col 3:16	Admonish one another
Ro 14:13	Don’t pass judgement	1 Thess 5:11	Encourage
Ro 15:7	Accept one another	Heb 3:13	Encourage Daily
Ro 15:14	Instruct one another	Heb 10:24	Spur one another
1 Cor 1:10	Agree with	James 4:11	Do not Slander
Gal 5:13	Serve one another	1 Pete 4:9	Hospitality
Eph 4:2	Bear with	1 Pete 5:5	Humility

C. A time and place for specific mentoring, imitation, submission, & mutual concern:

Hebrews 13:7 and 13:17
Hebrews 3:12-13 and 12:15
1 Corinthians 12:21-26

Lesson Seven: **About the Church**

Acts 2:42-47

Colossians 1:18

Ephesians 2:19-21

1 Corinthians 12:14-27

Hebrews 10:23-25

Ephesians 4:4-6

2 Peter 3:14-16

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 Timothy 4:16

John 17:23