**1. Motivate**

When have you wished you had a different option than what was available?

* when traffic comes to a standstill on the interstate
* you needed a new pair of shoes, but they didn’t have your size
* your car quit working and you didn’t have the time or money for something else
* you had a coupon for a good price on something you needed, and the store was out
* you had to be at another city for an important meeting and all the flights got cancelled
* you had planned a family vacation and one of the kids gets very ill

**2. Transition**

When it comes to spiritual options, we do have the right choice available.

* Because Jesus is the Son of God, He is the only one who can bring us to God.

**3. Bible Study**

A video introduction to the Bible Study is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_7uxads9v> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/d8vvp3np>

3.1 God’s Child by Believing in Jesus

Listen for showing love for God.

1 John 5:1-5 (NIV) Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

What does it mean to be born of God?

* you become a child of God
* you realize and confess to the fact that you have not been His child, you are a sinner
* you tell God you desire to turn away from that sin
* you declare your belief in the forgiveness Jesus offers
* you surrender to Jesus’ lordship in your life

How are being born of God, believing in Jesus as the Christ, loving others, and loving God related?

* born of God by belief in the saving work of Jesus, the Messiah
* like James said, this will be demonstrated by obedience, by works
* you are not saved for obeying God’s commands
* you will obey God’s commands as the *result* of your new relationship of faith in God

How do believers demonstrate their love for God?

* love the children of God … fellow believers
* obey His commands, surrender to His lordship in your life
* overcoming the world’s influence

Verse 3 says loving God will be displayed by obedience of God’s commands. What are some commands of God with which you struggle with obeying?

* some people are hard to love … they are just not nice people
* some destructive habits are hard to break
* some worldly activities are pleasurable (at least at first) and we don’t like to give them up
* materialism … we love our “stuff”
* some people are stuck on popularity or on the power they hold over others
* tithing
* coveting
* worry

How then can John say that God’s commands are not burdensome?

* we don’t have to struggle with these issues on our own
* God’s presence within our lives in the person of the Holy Spirit will empower us to do the right things
* He empowers us to give up the wrong things
* we overcome the world’s influence in our lives by trusting in the saving power of Jesus
* we are saved not only from the penalty of sin, we are being saved from the power of sin over us

What makes a person willing to give to or to love sacrificially the *people they know*?

* you have a sense of how they will respond
* it’s less of a risk
* you anticipate they will receive your kindness, your actions of love
* you like them, it’s easy to demonstrate that

What makes a person willing to love sacrificially someone you *don’t* *know personally*?

* God’s love is at work within you
* you are empowered by God’s indwelling Holy Spirit
* God gives you the love for that person who needs it
* you cannot conjure up this love or grit your teeth and make it happen

3.2 God Testifies, Jesus Is His Son

Listen for testimony that Jesus is the Son of God

1 John 5:6-10 (NIV) This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 10 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.

What do you think John meant in v.6 when he said Jesus came "by water and blood?"

* physical birth?
* Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist
* came to die, to shed His blood – His substitutionary death in our place

If we believe human witnesses, what does that say about how we are to respond to God’s testimony?

* God’s testimony is greater
* God speaks to us through the ministry of Jesus, the Son
* His ministry was His substitutionary death and victorious resurrection
* we are set free from the penalty of sin AND the power of sin

If we reject the witness of God, what are we saying about Him?

* you make God a liar

Through Jesus preaching and teaching ministry

Through Jesus death and resurrection

* you reject what God has communicated

How does a person become *convinced* that Jesus is the Son of God?

* one must be exposed to the truth of their own sinful condition
* the Truth of the Gospel message is communicated
* become aware of Jesus’ substitutionary death
* proof of Who Jesus is and what He has accomplished by His being raised from the dead
* God’s Holy Spirit speaks to one’s mind and conscience, convincing you of “sin, righteousness, and judgment”
	+ your sinful condition
	+ the forgiveness that is available through what Christ has done
	+ the power to live a life of righteousness through the presence of the Holy Spirit within your life – Satan has been judged, condemned

What three things are in agreement?

* The Spirit
* Jesus’ baptism
* Jesus shed blood, His death

How does each testify to Truth?

* God’s Spirit testifies to or reveals to us Truth about God, about Jesus
* His baptism was evidence or confirmation of His divinity
* His crucifixion and resurrection were the culmination of His ministry here on earth … redeeming us from sin’s penalty and power
* Christ’s resurrection from death is proof, testimony to the Truth of Who Jesus is and what He claimed

3.3 Eternal Life Only through Jesus

Listen for how to be sure of eternal life.

1 John 5:11-13 (NIV) And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Consider what it means to believe on the name of the Son of God.

* People’s names in many cultures carry meaning
* They express the traits parents might hope for this new life
* Jesus (Greek version of Joshua) means “God delivers”
* Names also carry authority – our signature on a check or credit card charge
* Belief in the name of Jesus, means we claim the offer of salvation on the authority of who Jesus is – the Son of God, Himself

How would describe the life one has through Jesus?

* we are no longer condemned to death for our sinful existence
* we are no longer guilty of sin … Christ’s death and resurrection has justified us … made us “just as if” we had never sinned
* we are at peace with God, we are no longer enemies with God because of our sin

How does this life contrast with the life a non-believer has?

* the unbeliever stands condemned for his sinful condition, he/she is on “death row”
* such a person is an enemy with God … Who cannot tolerate the existence of sin
* no Jesus, no peace … know Jesus, know peace

We often limit our concept of “eternal life” as being life after death or after Jesus returns. How does having eternal life affect your life now?

* eternal life is *union with God* … **now** and through eternity
* contrast with spiritual *death* … *separation* from God
* I belong to God … He belongs to me
* He can guide my thoughts, actions, decisions
* He empowers us for service, ministry
* He convinces/convicts us of the Truth in God’s Word
* Knowing that there is a life after death, means that our lives now are infinitely more important.
* What we do now can have an impact on others’ eternal destiny.

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Trust.

* Trust God for the miracle of a changed life.
* If you want to know how to become a follower of Christ, talk with your group leader.
* You can also read the inside front cover of this book.

Identify.

* Identify exclusive beliefs: Do a study of the beliefs of Naturalism, Animism, Pantheism, and Non-Christian Theism.
* As you study, make a chart that identifies specifically what points their beliefs are exclusive.

Defend.

* If you know someone who complains about the exclusive nature of Christianity, discover what faith system they believe.
* Engage the person in a discussion about the exclusivity of his or her beliefs, then compare that with the exclusive claims of Christianity.



Double Puzzle



BEEP BOOP … Spiros spy sends regrets. asks you decrypt msg. clue words in Bible passage. use numbers, place letters, read msg. tech help, other fun found at <https://tinyurl.com/d8vvp3np>
 boop beep.