FORTY GREAT TRUTHS

(THE PRINCIPAL DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE)

This course is an amplification of the chapter on "Doctrines" in the Portable Bible School book *Called to Shepherd God's People*.
It has been prepared specifically for Schools of Evangelism students, especially those who may be new to the Word of God, the Bible.

FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

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SECTION ONE – THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

Truth #1 – THERE IS A GOD WHO LOVES US PERSONALLY

1. **There are many evidences of God's existence**:
   a. **Proof from Scripture -** The Bible opens with the assertion that God exists (Gen. 1:1) and it plainly states that it is the fool who denies His existence. Psalm 14:1
   b. **Proof from creation -** The beauty and glory of the heavens testify that God exists (Psalm19:1), and creation teaches about the eternal glory of the Godhead. Romans 1:18-20
   c. **Proof from conscience -** Man is born with a universal belief in a supreme Being. Where did such a belief come from, if not from God Himself?
   d. **Other evidences -** There are many, such as:
      – The world is here. Somebody or something must have brought it into being.
      – Its design shows it is the result of a superior planning mind.
      – Man has an intellectual and moral nature, showing that the Creator must be a living, intelligent, moral being.
      – Life must have a beginning, and must have come from a Being having eternal life.

2. **The Bible is our one, fully-accurate, most-complete source of knowledge about God. It teaches us:**
   a. That God has a personality - Personality is characterized by possessing knowledge, feeling and will power. Our God is an individual that is living and has definite characteristics. Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:9
   b. About God's nature - God is a Spirit. A spirit has neither flesh, bones or blood. John. 4:24
   c. That God is Three-in-One - The Lord our God is ONE God, in contrast to the plurality of pagan gods. Deuteronomy 6:4; Isa.44:6
   d. That God created the world, the universe, and every created thing. Genesis 1:1-31
   e. That God loves man, and wants to live in wonderful fellowship with us:
      - John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*
      - Romans 5:8 *"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
      - Galatians 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God. who loved me and gave himself for me."*
      - Ephesians 2:4-5 *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—"*
      - 1 John 4:9-11 *"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."*

Conclusion: The more we learn about God, the more we realize that He is a great God!

Consider Heb. 11:6: "*He that comes to God must believe that He is*." Let us come as children in simple faith, based on the revelation of God in Scripture and nature, believing and trusting Him completely.

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Truth #2 – GOD IS UNIQUE; THERE IS NONE OTHER LIKE HIM

Introduction: Does the word attribute sound difficult? It simply means a quality, or a unique characteristic of something. In this lesson we will study some of the natural attributes of God (attributes that describe the nature of who God is and what He is like).

1. He is **eternal.** He has neither beginning nor ending.
   a. Psalm 90:2 says, *"Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God."*
   b. 1 Tim. 1:17 says *"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."*
   c. God is and was; He has always been and will always be. He existed before time began, and will continue forever and forever without end. 1 Timothy 6:15-16

2. He is **unchangeable.**
   a. *"He who is the glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for He is not a man, that He should change his mind."* 1 Sam. 15:29
   b. Psalm 102:26-27, Malachi 3:6 and James 1:17 also state that God never changes.
   c. *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."* Hebrews 13:8

3. He is **omnipotent.** That means He possesses all power. Jer. 32:27
   a. "Omni" means all; "potent" means power. God is omnipotent means that He has all power.
   b. Job 42: 2 says *"I know that You can do all things; no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."*
   c. There is nothing that God cannot do. He created the universe and all that is in it and is the source of all life and energy.

4. He is **omnipresent.** Again, "omni" means all; omnipresent means that He is present everywhere at one and the same time.
   a. Psalm 139:7-10 says *"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea. Even there Your hand will guide me …"*
   b. Other passages that teach us God is omnipresent: Jer. 23:23-24, Deut. 4:39

5. He is **omniscient.** He has all knowledge.
   a. "Omni" means all; "scient" refers to knowledge.
   b. Passages that teach us this truth:
      1 Chron. 28:9; 2 Chron. 16:9; Psalm94:11; Job 42:2; Isa. 40:28.
   c. Because God has all knowledge, He knows all about our situation, even our future.

Conclusion: Our God is the eternal, unchanging, all-powerful, ever-present, all-knowing God of the universe. He is the One and only true God, with absolute power over all other gods and spirits.

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Truth #3 – GOD IS GOOD; THERE IS NO LIMIT TO HIS GOODNESS

Introduction: In the last lesson we learned about the natural attributes of God – those attributes that describe the nature of His being. In this lesson we will learn about God's moral attributes. Let us notice some of them:

1. God is **holy.** Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:16
   To be "holy" is to be "set apart from." When we say that God is holy, we mean that He is not of this natural world and universe, but is totally set apart from it, particularly from the sins of this world.

2. God is **righteous.** Psalm 116:5; Ezra 9:15; Jer. 12:1
   God cannot lie. He cannot sin in any way. He is righteousness itself.

3. God is **merciful.** Psalm 103:8; Rom. 9:18
   Though we often fall into sin God's mercy endures forever.

4. God is **loving.** 1 Jn. 4:8-16; Jn. 3:16; Jn. 16:27
   While the man-made gods of this world are usually vindictive, mean-spirited and capricious, the one true living God is full of love and compassion.

5. God is **faithful.** 1 Cor.1:9; 2 Tim. 2:13
   The man-made gods of this world are unreliable and fickle. Only the God of the Bible is ever-faithful, ever-consistent.

6. Other moral attributes of our God: He is
   a. He is **glorious** Ex. 15:11; Psalm 145:5
   b. He is **gracious** Ex. 34:6; Psalm 116:5
   c. He is **good** Psalm 25:8; Psalm 119:68
   d. He is **longsuffering** Num. 14:18; Micah 7:18
   e. He is **jealous** Josh. 24:19; Nahum 1:2
   f. He is **great** 2 Chron. 2:5; Psalm 86:10
   g. He is **unsearchable** Job 11:7; Psalm 145:3
   h. He is **invisible** Job 23:8,9; 1 Tim. 1:17
   i. He is **upright** Psalm 25:8; Psalm 92:15
   j. He is **light** Isa. 60:19; 1 Jn. 1:5
   k. He is **true** Jer. 10:10
   l. He is **perfect** and **incorruptible** Matt. 5:48; Rom. 1:23
   m. He is **a consuming fire** Heb. 12:29
   n. and there is **none like Him** Ex. 9:14; Deut.33:26.

Conclusion - The holiness of God demanded punishment for sin. How can God be both loving and demand holiness at the same time? How can He be both merciful and just at the same time to a guilty sinner? The answer can be found only in Calvary, the expression of the wrath of God against sin and the mercy of God toward the guilty sinner.

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Truth #4 – GOD IS ONE – WITH THREE "PERSONS"

There is one God, eternally existing and manifesting Himself to us in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

1. Consider these Scripture references that present the truth that God is One while at the same time being plural (more than one) in His very nature:
   a. When Jesus was baptized in Matt. 3:13-17 - The Father spoke from heaven, the Son was baptized, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on the Savior.
   b. The baptismal formula in Matt. 28:19 - "*baptizing in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.*" Note that the word Name is in the singular form.
   c. The benediction of 2 Cor. 13:14 - "*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost.*"
   d. The record of the creation of man uses plural terms -Gen. 1:26: "*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*"

2. Theologians have given a term to this Three-in-One characteristic of the Godhead; they call it the Trinity ("tri" means three).
   a. The word Trinity never appears in the Bible, but the word suitably describes God's Three-in-One nature, of being One God with three "Persons."
   b. We can try to understand this Three-in-One characteristic of God, but He is too vast and great for us to be able to fully comprehend the grandeur and complexity of His nature.
   c. The three Persons of the Trinity are totally distinct from each other while at the same time totally One. John 10:30

3. Just as God the Father is united with God the Son and God the Spirit, and just as the Three are One and are in relationship with One another, so God has created us to be in healthy relationship with others.
   a. The perfect harmony of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit offers us a beautiful model of how we, His children, are to live in perfect harmony with all our brothers and sisters in Christ.
   b. When believers live in harmony, this presents to the world around us divine evidence that there is a loving God and that we are His children. John 13;35
   c. God's children are to live in perfect unity. We have His Spirit in our hearts, Who gives us the supernatural ability to love even our enemies. 1 Cor. 1:10

4. Man, too, is a tripartite (that means, having three parts) being—body, soul and spirit—for we are made in the image of God.

Assignment: Find and write down three passages that describe or talk about God the Father, three others about Jesus and three others about the Holy Spirit. Write three ways in which the Three are distinct from each other, and three ways in which they are similar.

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SECTION TWO – THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST

Truth #5 – JESUS WAS FORETOLD HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE HE CAME

Introduction: With each of the statements below about Jesus you will see the Old Testament prophecy, followed by the New Testament record of its fulfillment hundreds of years later. These are amazing facts!

		Prophecy:	**Fulfilled:**
1.	Christ would come out of Israel.	Num. 24:17-19;	Matt. 1:17
2.	Christ would be born of the family of David and of the tribe of Judah.	Gen.49:10 & Isa. 11:1	Luke 1:31-33
3.	He would be born in Bethlehem.	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:4-7
4.	He would be born of a virgin.	Isa. 7:14;	Matt. 1:18, 22, 23
5.	Christ's coming was announced by a forerunner.	Isa. 40:3	Matt. 3:3
6.	The Messiah would be God.	Isa. 9:6	John l:14
7.	He would spend part of His childhood in Egypt.	Hos. 11.1	Matt. 2:13-18
8.	He would suffer and make atonement for sin.	Isa.53:46	2 Cor. 5:21
9.	He would ride into Jerusalem on a colt.	Zech. 9:9	Matt. 21:2-5
10.	He would be given gall and vinegar in His agony on the cross.	Psalm 69:21	Matt. 27:34
11.	Not a bone would be broken, contrary to Roman crucifixion practices.	Psalm 34:20	John 19:33-36
12.	Men would cast lots for His garments.	Psalm 22:18	Matt. 27:36
13.	He would utter certain words in His dying agony.	Psalm22:1	Mark 15:34
14.	He would rise again from the dead.	Psalm16:10	Acts 2:3

Conclusion: These prophesies were made and recorded in writing hundreds of years before Jesus was born, yet they describe numerous specific details about His life and ministry. Each of these prophecies is another evidence of the power and omniscience of our God!

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Truth #6 – JESUS IS FULLY GOD

Introduction: We know that Jesus is God for He possesses the attributes that belong only to God. The following verses teach us that Jesus is fully God.

1. He is **eternal.** — Micah 5:2, also John 8:58; Col. 1:17; Rev. 1:8
2. He is **unchangeable.** — Heb. 13:8
3. He is **omnipotent.** — Luke 8:24; also Matt. 28:18
4. He is **omnipresent.** — Matt. 18:20; John 1:48; John 3:13; Matt. 28:20
5. He is **omniscient.** — Mark 11:2-6; John 2:24,25; Luke 5:22; Matt. 24:3-31
6. He is **holy.** — Mark 1:24
7. He is **sinless.** — 1 Pet. 2:22; John 19:4
8. He is **just** (as demonstrated in the cleansing of the Temple)**.** — John 2:14-17
9. He will **judge** the world with justice. — Acts 17:31
10. He is **loving.** — John 15:13, also John 11:36
11. He is **merciful.** — Titus 3:5
12. He died for us. — Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:25
13. He is **faithful.** — 2 Tim. 2:13

The following five works of God are ascribed to Jesus:

1. **Creation** — John 1:3
2. **Preservation** — Heb. 1:3
3. **Forgiveness** — Luke 7:48
4. **Raising the dead** — John 6:39
5. **Judgment** — John 5:22

Conclusion: Jesus is fully God. He shares many characteristics (attributes) and functions with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Finally, Jesus proved His deity when he overcame death and rose from the tomb. His resurrection is yet another proof that He is God.

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Truth #7 – JESUS WAS FULLY HUMAN

Introduction: In order to be the Savior, Jesus had to be not only fully divine (God) and virgin born, but He must also be a true man (1 Tim.2:5).

Notice these evidences of Jesus' humanity:

1. He was given **human names.** The phrase "Son of man" occurs 77 times. Matt. 1:21
2. He had **human ancestry.** Matt. 1:1-16
3. He **hungered** and **thirsted**, as all men do. Matt. 4:2; John 4:7, 19:28
4. He **became weary**, as all men do. John 4:6
5. He **slept**, as all men do. Matt. 8:24
6. He **loved** and **had compassion.** Mark 10:21, John 11:36; Matt. 9:36
7. He **was angry** and **grieved.** Mark 3:4
8. He **groaned.** John 11:33
9. He **wept**. John 11:35, Luke 19:41
10. He possessed **body** (John 1:14), **soul** (Matt.26:38), and **spirit.** Luke 23:46
11. He **died.** Heb. 9:27 and Luke 23:33

Conclusion: God and man—Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Because Jesus is fully God, He is all-powerful and cannot be defeated.

- Because He is God, He is the only adequate Savior.
- Because He is God, believers are safe and can never perish; we have security.
- Because He is God, we can have confidence that He will empower us for the task that he commands us for.
- And because He is God, all people will be accountable to Him when He returns to judge the world.

Because Jesus is fully man, He has experienced the same things that we do.

- Because He is man, He can identify with us more intimately.
- Because He is man, He can come to our aid as our sympathetic High Priest when we reach the limits of our human weaknesses.
- Because He is man, we can relate to Him — He is not far off and uninvolved.
- Because He is man, we cannot complain that God does not know what we are going through. He experienced it firsthand.

Assignment: Write an explanation of why Jesus had to be fully God and fully man.

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Truth #8 – JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AMONG US

Introduction: Many details are recorded about the earthly years of our Lord:

1. As God, Jesus has always existed. He was before all things.
2. His birth of the Virgin Mary is recorded by Matthew and Luke.
3. He was circumcised at the age of eight days. Luke 2:21
4. He was taken to the Temple of Jerusalem when he was 12. Luke 2:41-48
5. He spent the early years of His life as a carpenter in Nazareth. Mark 6:3
6. The first six months of His ministry were in Judea, Samaria and Galilee.
7. The second stage covered six to eight months of preaching, healing the sick and performing miracles in Capernaum and Galilee.
8. The third stage, the later Galilean ministry, lasted about a year in and about Galilee. Crowds followed Him. He preached the Sermon on the Mount. Matt. 5, 6 and 7
9. In the next stage, the Pharisees hound Him to seek His life. Jesus travels to Capernaum, Phoenicia, Bethsaida, Caesarea and Philippi and finally re-enters Galilee.
10. The last six months were spent teaching, preaching and traveling.
11. The last week included Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Gethsemane, the trials and death by the cross.
12. Three days later, as prophesied, Jesus rose from the dead.
13. Forty days after the resurrection He ascended into heaven. Acts 1:10-11

Jesus had power to perform many kinds of miracles:

1. He had power to still the storm. Matt. 8:26,27
2. He had power over the devil and evil spirits.
   Mark 5:12-13, Matt. 8:28-32; 9:32,33; 15:22-28; 17:14-18; Mark 1:23-27
3. He had power over disease; Jesus healed at least ten different kinds of sicknesses: a paralyzed man (Matt.8:5-13; 9:6); a cripple (John 5:2-9); He cured a withered hand (Matt. 12:13); spirit of infirmity (Luke :12); He stopped a flow of blood, (Matt.9:22); He cured dropsy (Luke 14:2); healed fever (Matt.8:15); gave speech to the dumb (Matt. 9:33); sight to the blind (John 9:1:38); hearing to the deaf (Matt.11:5); He cured leprosy (Matt. 8:3, Luke 17:19).
4. Jesus brought the following back to life: Lazarus (John 11:43,44); Jairus' daughter (Matt. 9:18-26); the son of a widow in the town of Nain (Luke 7:12-15).
5. Miscellaneous; He turned water to wine (John 2:1-11); He fed 5,000 (John 6:1-14); He walked on the sea (John 6:15-21); He fed the 4,000 (Matt. 15:32-39); He cursed the fig tree (Matt. 21:18-22); He foretold the coin in the fish's mouth (Matt. 17:27), and the miraculous catch of fishes (Luke 5:1-11 and John 21:6).
6. His own resurrection was the greatest miracle of all. 1 Cor.15:4; Rom. 1:4

Discussion: What events in his earthly life show Christ's deity? What events demonstrated His humanity?

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Truth #9 – JESUS CHRIST CONQUORED DEATH AND CAME BACK TO LIFE

Introduction: The resurrection is mentioned 104 times in the New Testament and is the foundation doctrine of the Scriptures. Christianity is the only religion with a living originator!

1. **Evidences of the resurrection**
   a. The empty tomb — Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:3
   b. The testimony of angels — Matt. 28:46 and Luke 24:5-7
   c. People talked to Him after the resurrection: Peter, Mary, Cleopas and Thomas.
   d. Jesus ate and drank, and showed his wounds. — Luke 24:36-43
   e. Five hundred people saw Him at one time. — 1 Cor. 15:6
   f. He appeared to Stephen at his martyrdom. — Acts 7:56
   g. He appeared to Paul on the Damascus road. — Acts 9:5
   h. Millions have proved Him to be a living Savior.
   i. Many other infallible proofs. — Acts 1:3

2. **What His resurrection body was like:**
   a. It had flesh and bones. — Luke 24:39
   b. It was a glorious body. — Phil. 3:21
   c. It was an immortal body, one that will never die. — Rom. 6:9
   d. It was a body that evidently could go through walls or locked doors. — John 20:19
   e. It was a body that could fly up to heaven. — Acts 1:7-9

3. **Because Jesus defeated death and came back to life, we also have the promise of life after death.**
   a. Jesus promised, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."* John 11:25-26
   b. Because Jesus lives, we His children shall live also.
   c. In His resurrection, Jesus Christ conquered sin and death and is alive forevermore.

4. **All over the world, churches are filled with worshipers because there is an empty tomb in Jerusalem.**
   a. We worship a risen, living Savior, who has promised to give immortality to all who believe on His name.
   b. No longer do men and women need to stumble in the fog and the darkness of hopelessness. A Light shines brighter than the noonday sun, offering hope to everyone who has been born again.

Conclusion: In the world today the most feared conqueror is death. No man can escape this inevitable consequence, until the Lord's return. But Jesus destroyed death, and through His resurrection He completely broke the power of the grave. We know that when we die – we who are God's children – we will experience Christ's resurrection into life everlasting.

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SECTION THREE – THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Truth #10 – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY

The Holy Spirit is God Almighty, equal to the Father and the Son in every respect.

1. The Holy Spirit possesses divine attributes.

a. He is eternal.	Heb. 9:14
b. He is omnipresent	Psalm 139:7-10
c. He is omnipotent.	Luke 1:35; Gen.1:2-7
d. He is omniscient.	1 Cor.2:10-11
e. He is holy.	Luke 11:13
f. He is truth.	1 John 5:6
g. He is good, and He instructs us.	Neh. 9:20
h. In Him is fellowship (communion).	2 Cor. 13:14

2. The Holy Spirit does things that only God can do.

a. He was active in creation.	Job 33:4
b. He was active in our salvation, and seals our salvation.	Cor.6:11, Eph.1:13
c. He gives life.	John 6:63
d. He is the author of the new birth.	John 3:5-6
e. He is active in giving prophecy.	2 Pet.1:21
f. He convinces men of righteousness and of judgment to come.	Jn. 16:8-11

3 He possesses characteristics of a person.

a. In John 16:7-8 and 13-15 the Greek masculine pronoun "He" is used of the Holy Spirit.	
b. He has will power.	1 Cor. 12:11
c. He has intelligence.	Neh. 9:20, Rom.8:27
d. He has knowledge.	1 Cor. 2:10-12
e. He has power.	Act 1:8
f. He has a capacity for love and for grief.	Rom. 15:30, Eph. 4:30

4. He does things that only a person can do.

a. He searches the deep things of God.	1 Cor. 2:10
b. He speaks and cries out.	Rev. 2:7, Gal. 4:6
c. He intercedes.	Rom. 8:26
d. He testifies and teaches.	Jn.15:26, Jn.14:26,16:12-14
e. He leads and directs.	Rom. 8:14
f. He commands.	Acts 16:6-7
g. He calls men to work and gives them tasks.	Acts 13:2

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit is fully God, co-equal with God the Father and with Jesus, the Third Person of the Trinity.

Assignment: List three passages in the Old Testament, besides the ones given above, which speak of the Holy Spirit.

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Truth #11 – THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS MANY TITLES AND FUNCTIONS

Introduction:

1. Some of the names of the Holy Spirit:

a. The Holy Spirit — Luke 11:13
b. The Helper / Comforter / Counselor / Advocate (in Greek: *parakletos*) — Isaiah 11:2, John 14:16, John 15:26, 16:7
c. The Convicter of Sin — John 16:7-11
d. The Author of Scripture — 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16
e. Guide — John 16:13
f. Intercessor — Romans 8:26
g. Indweller of believers — Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Cor. 6:19
h. Teacher — John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13
i. The Spirit of Grace — Heb. 10:29
j. The Spirit of Burning — Matt. 3:11-12, Isaiah 4:4
k. The Spirit of Truth — John14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6
l. The Spirit of Life — Rom. 8:2
m. The Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge — Isa. 11:2; 61:1,2; Luke 4:18
n. The Spirit of Promise — Eph. 1:13
o. The Spirit of Glory — 1 Pet. 4:14
p. The Spirit of God and of Christ — 1 Cor. 3:16; Rom. 8:9

2. Emblems of the Holy Spirit:

a. Water. Water fertilizes, refreshes, cleanses, is freely given, is abundant. — John 3:5; 7:38-39
b. Fire. Fire illuminates, burns, purifies, searches. — Matt. 3:11
c. Wind. Wind is powerful, reviving, independent, invisible but effective. — John 3:8
d. Oil. Oil consecrates, comforts, illuminates, heals. — Psalm 45:7
e. Rain and dew. Rain is refreshing, cleansing, and it produces fruit. — Psalm72:6
f. Dove. The dove is gentle. — Matt. 3:16
g. Voice. The voice guides, speaks and warns. — Isa. 6:8
h. Seal. A seal authenticates and secures. — Rev. 7:2 and Eph. 4:30

Discussion:

1. How does the Holy Spirit reveal Himself to believers today through each of the emblems above?
2. How are the works of the Holy Spirit, shown in each of these emblems, important to the Christian?

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #12 – THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN GOD'S CHILDREN

1. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, the "*Parakletos*." John 14:16-17
   a. The Greek word "*parakletos*" means "one alongside." He is a personal companion.
   b. The word "*paraklete*" also means helper, comforter, advocate and/or friend.

2. God's Holy Spirit lives in us, His children. 1 Corinthians 3:16

3. The coming of the Holy Spirit was prophesied in the Old Testament. Joel 2:28-29

4. The Holy Spirit gives God's children power to be His witnesses. Acts 1:8

5. The Holy Spirit helps us resist sin. Galatians 5:16

6. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness and helps us pray. Romans 8:26

7. The Holy Spirit comforts us. Acts 9:31

8. The Holy Spirit leads and guides us. Acts 16:6

9. The Holy Spirit teaches us and reminds us of spiritual truth. John 14:26

10. The Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in God's children. Galatians 5:22-23

11. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to God's children. 1 Corinthians 12:1, 7-11

Conclusion: Have you asked God to fill you with His Holy Spirit? Acts 2:38

1. The Apostle Peter in Acts 2:38 said, *"If you repent and be baptized, you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
2. It is that simple: have you repented? Have you been baptized? If you have not yet repented and been baptized, then why should you wait any further? This is the time to obey God's Word.
3. If you have repented and been baptized, then God's Word is very simple: all we need to do is to ask God to give us the Holy Spirit.
4. Ask, by praying to God, using your voice to ask for the Holy Spirit.

Assignment: Write a description of the time you invited the Holy Spirit to live in you, and a second description of a time when you experienced the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #13 – THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES SPIRITUAL FRUIT IN GOD'S CHILDREN

Introduction: The Holy Spirit produces wonderful fruit in the lives of those whom He indwells.

1. **In Galatians 5:22-23 Paul used the word "fruit" to help us understand what the Holy Spirit, who lives inside every believer, produces in us.**
   a. The Greek word is singular, showing that "fruit" is a unified whole, not independent characteristics.
   b. As we grow in our faith and in our walk with God, all the characteristics of Christ grow and are increasingly manifested in our lives.

2. **Just as physical fruit needs time to grow, the fruit of the Spirit takes time to grow.**
   a. It takes time for fruit to grow and ripen and become fully developed.
   b. And just as a good gardener must battle against weeds that would hinder the health of fruit, we also must constantly work to rid our lives of the "weeds" of our old sin natures that want to choke out the work of the Spirit.

3. **Galatians 5:22-23 lists nine "fruit of the Spirit:"**
   a. Love – true biblical love is a choice, not a feeling. Love chooses to set aside one's own preferences, desires, and even puts others first. Philippians 2:1-3
   b. Joy – The word here means "gladness and delight." As we cling to Jesus, abiding daily in Him, we will experience the fullness of joy He promised. John 15:4-11
   c. Peace - We can reject the chaos of the world and embrace God's peace. First, choose to rejoice in God and who He is. Second, bring all your worries, fears, and concerns to God in prayer. Philippians 4:4-9
   d. Forbearance (patience) - Christians have everything we need to be patient because we have the Holy Spirit living in us, displaying His character to those around us.
   e. Kindness and Goodness - Together they present the picture of those who not only possess moral goodness and integrity, but also generously express it in the way they act toward others.
   f. Faithfulness - To be "faithful" is to be reliable or trustworthy. It also describes someone willing to suffer persecution and even death for Christ's sake. 2 Thess. 1:4
   g. Gentleness (meekness) - Closely linked to humility, gentleness is grace of the soul. It is not weakness, but instead it is strength under control.
   h. Self-control - Those of us with the indwelling Holy Spirit have the strength to say "no" to our flesh and "yes" to the Spirit, fostering a beautiful, bountiful harvest of spiritual fruit!

4. **Another "fruit of the Spirit" is the bearing of new souls brought into the kingdom of God.** John 15:5

5. **There is also the "fruit in every good work** …" Colossians 1:10

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #14 – THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES GOD'S CHILDREN SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Introduction: The Holy Spirit comes and lives in us and gives to each of us spiritual gifts with which to serve the body of believers.

1. **There are three passages in the Bible that list the spiritual gifts:**
   a. Romans 12:4-8
   b. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
   c. Ephesians 4:11-13

2. **Spiritual gifts are like parts of a body because:**
   a. every part belongs and has a reason for being in the body.
   b. every part needs the other parts.
   c. every part serves the rest of the body. Romans 12:4-5

3. **How can we discover the gift(s) God has given to us through faith?**
   a. Spend time praying to the One who gave you the gift(s), seeking His leading.
   b. Study the Bible.
   c. Ask other mature believers who know you well. They will likely have noticed certain spiritual gifts in you.
   d. Serve others in the church! The gifts are given to us by the Holy Spirit to serve one another. By serving others we can discern what forms of service God blesses and uses to encourage others. Also, we will experience joy in using the gifts God has given us.

4. **Are there certain gifts that all believers should have?** No Romans 12:4-5

5. **Do all believers have all the gifts?** No Romans 12:6

Discussion: How many different spiritual gifts are listed in the three passages above? Do you believe these three lists are exhaustive, or might there be other spiritual gifts that are not included in these three lists? (Hint – read 1 Peter 4:9-10 to find an answer to this question.)

Conclusion: As we walk in the Holy Spirit He gives us spiritual gifts – special abilities and talents – that enable us to serve others in the Body (in the Church) with special effectiveness.

Assignment: Meet with a fellow believer or two (men with men, women with women) and discuss together what you believe are your spiritual gifts. Pray together, thanking God for these gifts, and committing to serve other believers – the Body Christ – with these spiritual gifts.

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SECTION 4 – THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

Truth #15 – GOD CREATED THE FIRST MAN WITHOUT SIN, BUT MAN CHOSE TO SIN

Introduction: Man was made in the image and likeness of God. Gen. 1:26 and 9:6

- Image means the shadow or outline of a figure.
- Likeness denotes the resemblance of that shadow to the figure.
- The image of God does not denote physical likeness, for God is spirit.
- "In the image of God" refers to the fact that God gave man a soul that reflects His spiritual nature. No other life form in the world has such a soul.

1. **The first man (Adam)** was created to be intelligent and perfectly innocent.
   a. He had the power of speech, of reasoning and thought, and was given authority over all plants and animals, giving names to the animals. Gen. 2:19-20
   b. He felt no shame for his nakedness. Gen. 2:25
   c. Genesis 3 gives a full account of how sin entered the human race, resulting in all mankind becoming sinners.
   d. (This story does not tell us how sin entered into the universe, for Satan had already sinned and been cast out of heaven.) Ezek.28:12-15 and Isa. 14:9-14

2. **The agent in the fall** Gen. 3:1
   a. Satan appeared to Eve not as himself, but as a beautiful serpent.
   b. He made the attack through an honest appeal to normal appetites—the desire for food and knowledge—but he inserted a lie. This is often Satan's strategy: he deceives (tricks) us with a destructive lie by hiding it in some statements that are otherwise true.

3. **Steps leading to the fall:**
   a. Why was Eve close to the tree? She should not have been near the place of temptation. 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Corinthians 6:18
   b. Eve invited trouble by admiring the forbidden thing and by conversing with the devil.
   d. Eve responded to the devil by misquoting the Word of God. She added *"neither shall you touch it,"* she subtracted *"freely,"* and she toned down the Word of God by changing *"You shall surely die"* to *"lest you die."* Genesis 3:2

Discussion:

1. How was life different for men before the fall from life as we know it today?
2. What are the tactics of Satan in tempting people today? Have they changed greatly, or stayed largely the same?

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #16 – DEATH AND DECAY ENTERED THE WORLD WHEN MAN SINNED

Introduction: God created the world and man and put Adam in a beautiful garden with plentiful food and water. He gave to Adam a wonderful companion, Eve. It was an idyllic life. But then Satan fooled Eve (and Adam, for he was there with her) with a lie, and sin entered the world.

1. **Immediate results of sin:**
   a. When Adam and Eve sinned death entered the world. Eph.2:1
   b. Their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked. Genesis 3:6-10
   c. They hid from the presence of God; guilt follows sin and sin separates man from God.
   d. After the fall of man, God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden and placed a cherub to guard the entrance. This was so that Adam and Eve could not return and possibly eat from the tree of life and live forever in their cursed state. Genesis 3:23–24
   e. They were forced to find their own food and shelter. Adam had to fight weeds and thistles to eke out an existence from the ground, while Eve had to suffer in childbirth.

2. **God pronounces curses.** Gen. 3:14-19
   a. On the serpent: Cursed above every beast of the field. Genesis 3:14-15
   b. On the woman: Pain and sorrow in childbirth. Genesis 3:16
   c. On the man: The ground was cursed to bring forth thorns and thistles. Man's life became one of sorrow; to make a living with perspiration. Suffering and toil are part of the curse God put upon this world because of sin. Genesis 3:17-19

3. **Eventual results:**
   a. All men are now sinners before God. Rom. 5:12
   b. The whole world rests under condemnation. Rom. 3:19
   c. Unregenerate men are regarded as children of the devil, not sons of God. John 8:44
   d. The whole human race has become captive to Satan. 2 Cor. 4:4
   e. The entire nature of man mentally, morally, spiritually and physically, has been affected by sin. Eph. 4:18; Rom. 7:18

4. **God provided a remedy:**
   a. Sin had brought upon them the judgment of God, and the only just punishment for such high treason is eternal death. Romans 6:23
   b. But God then put into play a system by which human beings could find pardon for sin. God killed an animal and made garments for the man and woman to cover the nakedness that now brought them shame. Genesis 3:21
   c. In doing so, God painted a picture of what He would do thousands of years later when the Perfect Lamb was slain to take away our sin. John 1:29; Revelation 13:8

Conclusion - With the fall of man God promised a Redeemer and the plan of salvation. God fulfilled this promise about 4,000 years later at Calvary. Gen.3:15

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #17 – GOD CALLS MAN TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH

Introduction: Death entered the world when man sinned. But Jesus Christ came and lived among us and defeated sin by overcoming the grave in His resurrection, thereby establishing His kingdom on Earth. And He has commissioned His children to announce His kingdom to the world.

1. **We are called to announce the arrival of God's kingdom here on earth.**
   a. Jesus often proclaimed, *"The kingdom of God is at hand."* Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:15
   b. When Jesus sent the twelve out in Luke 9, and again when He sent the 71 out in Luke 10, He told them to announce the coming of the kingdom of God. Luke 9:1-2; Luke 10:9
   c. The Apostles also proclaimed the arrival of the kingdom of God. Romans 14:17

2. **We are called to be ambassadors of God's kingdom:** 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
   a. An ambassador is usually a highly respected official acting as a representative of a nation. Sent to a foreign land, the ambassador's role is to reflect the official position of the sovereign body that gave him authority.
   b. Writing to the Corinthians, Paul likens our calling to that of an ambassador – living in a foreign land – and he urges all Christians to consider themselves ambassadors for Christ's kingdom.

3. **We are called to be the salt of the world.** Matthew 5:13
   a. Salt has two roles: to give flavor and to serve as a preservative.
   b. In the same way, God's Spirit in us gives His flavor to those around us.
   c. And His Spirit within us helps us to offer a preservative against sin to those around us.

4. **We are called to be the light of the world**. Matthew 5:14-16
   a. Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus as "light" refers to the light of His Truth, the light of His Word, the light of eternal Life. John 8:12
   b. The Light of Jesus Christ is to be taken into the darkness of this sinful world that engulfs the hearts and lives of those who do not know Him or aren't following Him.
   c. Just as the moon has no light of its own but merely reflects the light of the sun to us, in the same way we, God's children, reflect Jesus' light to everyone around us.

5. **We are called to pray for the coming of God's kingdom**. Matthew 6:10

6. **We are to establish God's kingdom in our lives and in our world.**
   a. Jesus wants – and deserves – to be the king and lord of our hearts. Luke 6:46
   b. We are to do this by making disciples of Jesus. Matthew 28:19-20
   c. We do it also by preaching His good news. Mark 16:15
   d. We are to be witnesses of this kingdom throughout the whole world. Acts 1:8
   e. We are to bear the fruit of God's kingdom throughout the world. John 15:16

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SECTION FIVE – THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

Truth #18 – GOD CALLS US TO REPENTANCE

Introduction: Repentance is a very prominent subject in the Scriptures, being mentioned over 100 times.

1. **Definition of repentance:**
   a. It is not merely sorrow for sin. Many weep over sin, but immediately return to it. Judas Iscariot and Esau (Heb.12:17) showed sorrow for sin, but they did not repent.
   b. It is a complete change of mind that leads to a change of conduct. Acts 3:19
   c. John Piper writes: "Repenting means experiencing a change of mind that now sees God as true and beautiful and worthy of all our praise and all our obedience."

2. **Importance of repentance:**
   a. Repentance was the preaching theme of John the Baptist. Matt. 3:1-2
   b. Jesus preached repentance. Matt. 4:17
   c. He commanded His disciples to preach repentance. Mark 6:12
   d. After Pentecost, the disciples preached repentance. Acts 2:38; Acts 20:21
   e. It is God's wish that all repent. 2 Pet. 3:9
   f. Failure to obey God will lead to eternal damnation. Luke 13:3

3. **The results of repentance:**
   a. All heaven is made glad. Luke 15:7,10
   b. It brings pardon and forgiveness of sin. Isa.55:7; Acts 3:19
   c. The Holy Spirit is poured out upon the penitent. Acts 2:38

4. **In the Bible, repentance results in a change in behavior.**
   a. That is why John the Baptist called people to *"produce fruit in keeping with repentance."* Matthew 3:8
   b. A person who has truly repented of his sin and exercised faith in Christ will give evidence of a changed life 2 Cor. 5:17; Galatians 5:19–23; James 2:14–26
   c. The account of Zacchaeus gives us an example of the effect of repentance on a person. Zacchaeus had been a thieving tax collector, but when he repented and gave his heart to Jesus, he was willing to give half of all his possessions to the poor and pay back four times the people he'd stolen from. Luke 19:8-9

Discussion: Share with the class about the day you repented, and how your thinking about sin and about the things of God changed that day.

Assignment: Prepare a sermon outline on repentance, using one of the texts listed above.

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #19 – WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH

Introduction: Faith is fundamental to Christian belief and conduct, for we are saved by faith (Eph.2:8). As Christ conversed with people and healed them, He looked for the characteristics of faith in each one.

Do you remember these incidents?

- The Syrophoenician woman had persevering faith. Mark 7:26
- The centurion manifested a humble faith. Matt. 8:8-10
- The blind man showed an earnest faith. Mark 10:51

1. Definition of faith:

a. Faith is belief, trust, fidelity and loyalty. Heb. 11:1
b. The faith that saves is a personal trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 2:8-9
c. There are two kinds of faith in regard to salvation:
   – Knowledge (or head) belief—a knowledge of the historical Christ and a general acceptance of the Bible. But this is not enough; neither knowledge nor assent is true faith. Even the demons believe. James 2:19
   – True faith in Christ is believing to the extent of repenting and receiving Him as our Lord and Master. This faith from the heart motivates us to turn from our sinful ways and to live according to Christ's ways and will. John 1:12; Col. 2:6

2. Some results of faith:

a. We are saved by faith. Gen. 15:6; Rom.5:1; Gal.3:26
b. We are sanctified by faith. Acts 26:18
c. Rest, peace, assurance and joy come through faith. Isa.26:3; Phil.4:6; Heb.4:1-3;1 Pet.1:5
d. We do exploits for God through faith. Heb.11:32-40; Matt.21:21; John 14:12

3. Where does faith come from, and how can we increase our faith?

a. The Bible tells us that faith comes from <u>hearing</u> the Word of God. Our faith grows when we hear and read the Word of God. Romans 10:17
b. A second way to increase our faith is to <u>do</u> the will of God. James 1:22-24
c. A third way for our faith to grow is to believe God and <u>live according to His promises</u>. As we act upon the promises of God, He blesses us and increases our faith. Malachi 3:9-11; James 1:2-3

Discussion:

- Give examples of head and heart faith that you have observed.
- Tell the rest of the class about a man or woman who demonstrated great faith.

Assignment: Read Hebrews 11:1-6. Pray and ask God to increase your faith, then identify three needs in your life for which you will believe His promises. Write these down and be prepared to share at least one of these steps of faith with the class tomorrow.

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #20 – GOD GIVES NEW LIFE TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM

Introduction: All life comes from God, both physical life and spiritual life. One of the great mysteries of life is that those who are born only once (only physically) will die twice (both physically and spiritually), but those who are born twice (both physically and spiritually) will die only once (physically). Their spirits will live forever with God in heaven.

1. **What is regeneration?**
   a. Another word for regeneration is rebirth. Jesus said we must be born again. In other words, we must be born both physically and spiritually. John 3:5-6
   b. Regeneration is not baptism. Baptism is an ordinance signifying and testifying that one has decided to be a Christian.
   c. It is not reformation. Reformation is a human act of turning away from some sins, while regeneration is spiritual quickening, a new birth, a new creation, the supernatural act of God. 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:1

2. **The necessity of the new birth:**
   a. Everyone must be born again—there are no exceptions. John 3:3-7; Gal. 6:15
   b. The sinful condition of man demands it. Jn. 3:6; Jer.13:23; Rom.7:18; Rom. 8:8
   c. The holiness of God demands it. Heb. 12:14

3. **The means of regeneration:**
   a. Regeneration is a divine work. It is the work of God. John 1:13; Tit. 3:5; John 3:5
   b. There is also a human element in regeneration. John 1:2 and 13
   c. These two elements, the divine and the human, are combined in regeneration. *"But to <u>all who</u> <u>received</u> Him* (that's the human element) *... <u>He gave</u>* (that's the divine element) *them the right to become children of God."* John 1:12

4. **The nature of the regenerated life:**
   a. When we are regenerated, we become the children of God. John 1:12
   b. When we are regenerated, God's Spirit lives in us and gives us the strength to resist temptations and to have victory over sin. 1 John 3:9; 1 John 5:18
   c. When we are regenerated (born of God) He helps us love others. 1 John 4:7
   d. When we are regenerated, God gives us victory over the world. 1 John 5:4

Discussion: Have you been born again? Share with others about the day you received new life in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: Man is regenerated by accepting the message of the gospel and by personally accepting Jesus Christ. 1 Cor.4:15; James 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:23; John 1:12-13; Gal. 3:26

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Truth #21 – GOD MAKES US PERFECTLY GUILTLESS WHEN WE BELIEVE

Introduction: When we decide to put our trust in God, to believe in Him, and ask Him to forgive us of all our sins, God makes us perfectly guiltless before Him. Psalm 51:7

This state of perfect guiltlessness before God is called JUSTIFICATION and is accomplished by the blotting out of our sin through the ATONEMENT.

1. **What does it mean to be justified?**
   a. It means we have perfect and complete peace with God. Romans 5:1
   b. While *regeneration* has to do with the change of our nature, *justification* is about the change of our standing before God.
   c. Justification is more than pardon; to justify someone means to declare him or her to be righteous.
   d. Justification is the judicial act of God whereby those who put faith in Christ are declared righteous in His eyes, and free from guilt and sin.

2. **Justification consists of two elements:**
   a. The first element is the forgiveness of our sin, and the removal of all its guilt and punishment. Micah 7:18,19; Acts 13:38; Rom. 8:1,33,34
   b. The second element is the imputation (giving) of Christ's righteousness, and restoration to God's favor. 2 Chron. 20:7, James 2:23; Rom. 5:17-21

3. **How do we receive justification?**
   a. It is not by what we do. There is nothing we can do to attain or merit justification. Rom. 3:20 and 28; Gal. 2:16 and 3:10
   b. Justification is given as a free gift of grace from God. Rom. 3:24
   c. The Atonement, or at-one-ment, in the Old Testament shows us the need for sin to be blotted out through the sprinkling of blood on the Ark of the Covenant in order to have fellowship with God restored. For the ancient Hebrews, blood represented life, and the Covenant represented the promises shared between God and His people.
   d. Our justification is paid for with the Life and Blood of Jesus Christ, who became the Atonement; this is the <u>grace</u> of justification. Rom. 5:9, 2 Cor.5:21; Heb.9:22
   e. We receive justification by believing in Jesus Christ; this is the <u>condition</u> of justification. Gal.2:16; Rom.3:26; Gal.3:10; Acts 13:39

4. **What is the difference between justification and sanctification?**
   a. This justification is a one-time act whereby God declares a sinner to be righteous before His divine justice.
   b. **Sanctification,** on the other hand, is the continual process of being made more holy.
   c. It is the progressive conformity of the one who has been justified into the image of their Savior through the work of the Holy Spirit.
   d. Like justification, sanctification is a work of grace through faith. And, sanctification is possible because of the finished work of Christ on our behalf. 1 Thess. 4:3

Assignment: Write an explanation of what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:21 *"For our sake He (God the Father) made Him (Jesus the Son) to be sin, Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."*

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #22 – GOD ADOPTS US AS HIS CHILDREN WHEN WE BELIEVE

Introduction: When we believe in Christ and ask Him to forgive our sins and live in our hearts, God adopts us into His divine family. Amazingly, we become His adopted children and He becomes our heavenly, eternal Father.

1. **The meaning of adoption**
   a. "Adoption" means "the placing of a son." It was a legal term used by the ruling Romans in Jesus' day.
   b. It means the taking by one man of the son of another to be his son, so that that son has the same position and all the advantages of a son by birth. Gal.4:5; Rom. 8:15,23; 9:4; Eph. 1:5.
   c. Exodus 2:10 and Heb.11:24 furnish two splendid illustrations of the Scriptural sense and use of adoption.

2. **Some of the blessings of adoption by God the Father:**
   a. We become the objects of God's unlimited love and fatherly care. John 17:23; Luke 12:27-33
   b. We receive the family name. 1 John 3:1; Eph.3:14,15
   c. We receive the family likeness. Rom.8:29
   d. We receive the Father's family love. John 13:35; 1 John 3:14
   e. We receive the Holy Spirit. Galatians 4:6
   f. We receive fatherly chastisement. Heb.12:5-11
   g. We receive fatherly comfort. Isa.66:13; 2 Cor.1:4
   h. We receive an inheritance. 1 Pet.1:3-5; Rom. 8:17

3. **The evidence of sonship;** those who are adopted into God's family:
   a. Are led by the Spirit. Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:18
   b. Have a childlike confidence in God. Gal. 4:5-6
   c. Have liberty of access to God. Eph. 3:12
   d. Have love for the brethren. 1 John 2:9-11, 5:2
   e. Are obedient. 1 John 5:1-3

4. **Does being a child of God, the King of the Universe, mean that we will live like kings here on earth?**
   a. God's kingdom is not of this world; it is a spiritual kingdom. John 18:36
   b. Our benefits as children of the King begin when we are born into His kingdom, for this is when we receive the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13
   c. Another benefit is that God's children receive never-ending life. John 6:58
   d. But Jesus does not promise His children a life of ease and comfort. Matthew 24:9
   e. There will be suffering here on earth for God's children. 2 Timothy 3:12
   f. God's children will be hated by the world because of our faith, so we must love one another. John 15:17-18

Discussion: What does it mean to be a child of God, as compared with being a servant of God?

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #23 – GOD INVITES US TO CONVERSE WITH HIM

Introduction: God gives to His children an amazing, wonderful privilege: He allows us – no, He INVITES us – to talk with Him in ceaseless conversation and fellowship.
The Christian life cannot be sustained without prayer; it is the Christian's vital breath.

1. **The Importance of Prayer**
   a. To continue in prayer is a positive command. Col.4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17
   b. Prayer is God's method for us to receive His gifts. Dan. 9:3; Matt. 7:17-11, 9:24-29; Luke 11:13
   c. The Apostles regarded prayer as their most important activity. Acts 6:4; Rom.1:9
   d. The neglect of prayer is grievous to the Lord. Isa. 43:21,22; Isa. 64:6,7
   e. Many evils come because of the lack of prayer. Zeph. 1:4-6; Dan. 9:13,14
   f. It is a sin to neglect prayer. 1 Sam. 12:23

2. **What can we learn from when Jesus taught His disciples to pray?** Matthew 6:9-13
   When we pray, we should:
   a. **Address** God's rightful place as the Father.
   b. **Worship** and praise God for who He is and all that He has done
   c. **Acknowledge** that God's will and plans come first in our hearts and lives, and not our own.
   d. **Ask** God for the things that we need
   e. **Confess** our sins and repent
   f. **Request** protection and help in overcoming sin and Satan's attacks on us.

3. **Prayer should consist of at least four parts—remember the word <u>ACTS</u>.**
   a. **<u>A</u>**doration - praise and worship of God Psalm 95:6
   b. **<u>C</u>**onfession - repentance from every known sin Psalm32:5
   c. **<u>T</u>**hanksgiving Phil. 4:6
   d. **<u>S</u>**upplication - intercession, requests, petitions, desires 1 Tim. 2:1

4. **Hindrances to Prayer**
   a. Unbelief James 1:6-7
   b. An unforgiving spirit Mark 11:25
   c. Iniquity Psalm 66:18
   d. Asking amiss James 4:3

Discussion:
- What are some recent answers to prayer you have received from God?
- What important request are you praying for this week?

Assignment: Read each of the passages below, then write on a piece of paper the promise(s) of God to us in each passage.

Mark 11:24;	John 15:7;	1 John 5:14-15;
Eph. 3:12, 20;	Phil. 4:19;	Phil. 4:6;
Matt. 7:7-8;	Luke 11:9-13;	Heb. 4:16.

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #24 – GOD CALLS US TO SANCTIFICATION

Introduction: While justification is what God does for us, sanctification is what God does in us. Sanctification has to do with our character and conduct.

1. **The Meaning of Sanctification:** Just as a coin has two different sides that each face in a different direction, there are two faces – or sides – in sanctification:
   a. The first side is separation from evil. Sanctification has to do with the turning away from all that is sinful and that is defiling to soul and body. 2 Chron. 29:5, 15-18; 1 Thess. 4:3
   b. The second element is dedication unto God. Whatever is devoted exclusively to the service of God is sanctified. Lev. 27:14,16; Num. 8:17, John 10:36).

2. **The three aspects of Sanctification:** Sanctification may be viewed as past, present and future; or instantaneous, progressive and complete.
   a. Instantaneous 1 Cor. 6:11; Heb. 10:10,14
   By a simple act of faith in Christ the believer becomes sanctified that very instant.
   b. Progressive 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Thess. 3:12
   We are being progressively transformed into the likeness and character of Christ.
   c. Complete and final sanctification 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 Thess. 3:13
   When we meet God, either in death or when we meet Him in the sky, God will sanctify us completely.

3. **The Means of Sanctification:** The means are both divine and human: both God and man cooperate towards the desired end of total sanctification.
   a. From the divine side, it is the work of the Triune God
      - God the Father 1 Thess. 5:23-24; John 17:17
      - Jesus Christ the Son Heb.10:10; Eph.5:25, 27; 1 Cor.1:30
      - The Holy Spirit 1 Pet.1:2; 2 Thess.2:13
   b. From the human side, sanctification is given to those who have faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and present themselves to God. Romans 12:1-2
   Herein lies the secret of a holy life – continuous appropriation of Jesus Christ in all the riches of His grace for every need as it arises.

4. **God is made known through our sanctification:**
   a. God's holiness in the lives of His children are evidence to the godless that there is a holy God. Ezekiel 36:23
   b. For example, when we resist the temptations of this sinful world around us, or when we love dirty, unlovable people with God's godly love, or when we truly forgive someone who has sinned against us, all of these manifestations of sanctified hearts are demonstrations of God's presence in our lives. John 13:35

Discussion: Tell the others in your class about someone you know who is fully sanctified, and explain why you think this.

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #25 – GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN AND WANTS TO BLESS US

Introduction: God loves to bless His children, whom He dearly loves. Psalm 37:4

1. **God loves all people and wants all to be saved:** 1 Timothy 2:4
   a. God loves people so much that He came and died for our sins so that we could receive forgiveness and eternal life with Him. John 3:16
   b. God is reluctant to punish those who continue in sin, for He loves all His children and wants all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

2. **God's children have the greatest blessings the world has ever known:**
   a. We have the gospel – the amazing, great news of God's wonderful gift of salvation.
   b. We have God's Word, which contains the most blessed mysteries of the universe.
   c. We who are His children have the fruit of the Spirit: God's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Gal. 5:22-23
   d. We have the gifts of the Spirit, equipping us to edify and serve one another.
   e. We have the amazing privilege of speaking directly with God! We are allowed – nay, we are invited -- to come before God with our praise and requests.
   f. We have the right, as His children, to invoke His power to heal the sick, to free those who are under bondage to the enemy, and to comfort the afflicted.

3. **God loves all people and wants to see us prosper:** Jeremiah 29:11
   a. God takes pleasure in the prosperity of those who seek righteousness. Psalm 35:27
   b. God loves us and doesn't want to keep any good thing from those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11
   c. God wants His children to enjoy life. John 10:10
   d. Jesus came to earth and suffered and lived a simple, poor life so that those who believe in Him could have fullness of life. 2 Corinthians 8:9

4. **How can we receive the blessing of God?**
   a. By being a person who studies the will of God and lives according to God's perfect will. James 1:25
   b. By being a person who has clean hands and a pure heart. Psalm 24:3-6
   c. By being a person who fears the Lord (in other words, a person who recognizes the awesome almighty power of God) and who finds delight in walking uprightly, according to God's perfect ways. Psalm 112:1-3
   d. By seeking God first and His righteousness. Matthew 6:33

5. **All four of these passages – and many, many other verses in the Bible that tell of God's desire to bless His own – all say essentially the same thing:**
   a. They say that when we recognize who God is (the awesome, all-powerful Creator of this whole universe, the source of all life and of everything that is good),
   b. and when we accept Him as Lord of our lives and live as He designed for us to live (in holiness and righteousness),
   c. <u>then</u> He can bless us as He desires. His blessings come flowing down upon us.

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #26 – GOD BLESSES HIS CHILDREN SO WE CAN BLESS OTHERS

Introduction: God loves to bless His children, both because He loves us and delights in giving us the desires of our hears, and because He wants His children to share His blessing with others!

1. **Why does God bless us?**
   a. Because He loves us and takes pleasure in giving us the desires of our hearts! Deuteronomy 30:9; Psalm 35:27
   b. He blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. 1 Timothy 6:17-19
   c. He blesses us with His power so that we might demonstrate His glory and power to the world. (Peter heals the lame man.) Acts 3:6

2. **In Genesis 12:1-3 we read the story of when the Lord called Abram:**
   a. God said to Abram, *"I will make you a great nation and <u>I will bless you</u>; I will make your name great, and <u>you will be a blessing</u>. (3) I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; <u>and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you</u>."*
   b. We are the children of Abram, and God blesses us so that all peoples on earth will be blessed through us!
   c. God blesses us – not so we can live with more ease and comfort; -- not so we can purchase a bigger home and a more expensive automobile;
   d. But rather, God blesses us so that we, in turn, may bless others!
   e. On this great day of celebration, we commission the graduates of the 20th anniversary of the School of Evangelism, to go into all the world taking this wonderful blessing to the nations.

3. **Are you being a blessing to those around you?**
   a. Are you shining the light of God's salvation, goodness and grace to your neighbors, your family and associates?
   b. Are you living to bring God's love and blessing to others, or are you preoccupied with the selfish pursuits of this temporal world?
   c. The School of Evangelism is dedicated to the mission of raising up torches of God who will brightly shine the love of God to all around, to bless the world.
   d. The Apostle Paul said that we are God's ambassadors; we represent His kingdom and are charged with the Great Commission of making followers / disciples of Him, and with bringing His kingdom here to earth (2 Cor. 5:20 / Matt. 28:19 / Luke 9:2).

Discussion:
- How can we students be a blessing to one another in this School of Evangelism class?
- How can we students share God's blessings in our lives with others in this city?

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

SECTION SIX – THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

Truth #27 – THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THIS WORLD

Introduction: The Church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head. Eph. 1:22-23

1. **Definition of the Church**
   a. The Christian Church is a New Testament institution that began on the day of Pentecost.
   b. The word "Church" comes from the Greek word "*ecclesia*" meaning "to call out from." Christians are called out from the world system to be "in Christ." 1 Cor. 1:2
   c. The word "church" can refer to a local group of believers. Col.4:15
   d. It can also mean the universal Church. This term includes all Christians everywhere. This meaning is usually written with a capital "C," as in "the Church." 1 Cor. 15:9
   e. Churches consist of those who attend worship services and whose names are on local church rolls, whether saved or not. The invisible Church is made up of those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Rev. 21:27

2. **The founding of the Church**
   a. The Church was founded by Jesus Christ on Peter's confession that Jesus was— and is—the Son of God, the Messiah. Our Savior did not build the church on Peter, but on the truth declared in Peter's words. Matt.16:16-18
   b. Historically, the Church was founded at Pentecost when the Spirit descended. See Acts 2:47, Acts 1:13; 5:12; 2:46; 12:12.

3. **Biblical symbols of the Church**
   a. The Church is like a body — of which Christ is the Head and we are members. Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 2:19
   b. The Church is like a temple; it is the building or dwelling place for God's Spirit. Similarly, Christ is the chief cornerstone, and we are different parts of the building. Eph. 2:20-21
   c. The Church is the Bride of Christ. Christ is the bridegroom. 2 Cor. 11:2; John 3:29
   d. The Church is like the branches of a vine. Jesus is the vine; we, the children of God, are the branches. We are to bear much fruit. John 15:5

Discussion: What are several different meanings of the word "church"?

Assignment:

- Choose one of the biblical symbols of the Church (in #3 above) and write how the Church is like that symbol. Use as much scripture as you can to explain your thinking.
- Develop a sermon outline from the thoughts above, with a challenge to be in the Church.

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Truth #28 – THE CHURCH HAS A GREAT MISSION

Introduction: The day will come when Christ will return to Earth and God's children will meet Him in the air to enjoy the rest of eternity in His presence. But in the meantime, we, God's children, all have a great mission from God to complete. We call this mission the Great Commission.

1. **Conditions of membership in the Church**
   a. Repentance — Acts 2:38
   b. Faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord and Son of God — Matt. 16:16-18
   c. Salvation, regeneration, the new birth — Acts 2:47

2. **The ordinances of the Church –** There are two of them:
   a. Baptism — Matt. 28:19,20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41; Acts 8:36-40
   b. The Lord's Supper — Acts 2:42-46; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34

3. **What is the purpose of the Church here on earth? What is its main mission?**
   a. To worship and glorify Christ on the earth — Eph.1:6
   b. To evangelize the world with the gospel and to make disciples in all nations — Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15
   c. To teach and instruct Christians — Eph. 4:11-15; 1 Thess. 5:11; 1 Cor. 12:1-31
   d. To witness constantly — Acts 1:8

4. **Ever since the Garden of Eden God has tried to live in fellowship with His children.**
   a. He visited Adam and Even in the Garden and, evidently, would converse and spend time with them. — Genesis 3:8
   b. He commissioned Abram (who later became Abraham) to go to a new land where God would bless him and through whom God would bless all nations. — Gen. 12:1-3
   c. He had His children build the Tabernacle so He could live among them. — Exod. 25:8
   d. All through the Old Testament God spoke to His people, encouraging them to live in righteousness according to His design for mankind, so that He could bless them and live in harmony with them.
   e. Jesus came to pay the penalty for our sins, making a way for us to be abide (live) with Him and Him with us. — John 15:4-5

5. **God wants His children to take His salvation to all the nations.**
   a. This is the primary purpose of the Church here on earth.
   b. When we have completed this mission, Christ will return to take the Church into His presence. — Matthew 24:14

Discussion: Describe to others in the class a local church you know about that is effectively involved in taking God's salvation to the nations.

Assignment: Pray about what your response should be to Christ's Great Commission of taking His salvation to the nations and making disciples, and write your response.

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #29 – GOD APPOINTS SOME TO BE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH

Introduction: Some in the family of God are called to positions of responsibility and authority. Ephesians 4:11

1. The New Testament does not teach a distinction between "clergy" and "laity." Every believer is a priest with full access to God. 1 Peter 2:9

2. But the Bible does teach a distinction between leaders and followers in the local church. Different names or titles are used to refer to church leaders. They are called:
   a. *Elders*, which refers to maturity in the faith. Acts 20:17
   b. *Overseers*, which refers to their function of superintending. 1 Tim. 3:1, 2
   c. The two terms are sometimes used of the same office. Titus 1:5, 7; Acts 20:17, 28
   d. They are called *pastors*, which means *shepherds*. Eph. 4:11
   e. Peter uses all three of these terms when he exhorts the *elders* to *shepherd* [pastor] the flock of God among you, exercising *oversight*. 1 Peter 5:1-2
   f. He goes on (in verse 4) to refer to Christ as "the Chief Shepherd" (or, Pastor).

3. Another word for church leaders is the Greek verb, *prohistemi* (literally, *"to stand before"*). which is translated "have charge over." 1 Thess. 5:12
   a. It refers to the function of elders "who rule well." 1 Tim. 5:17
   b. It also refers to one's responsibility to "manage" his own household. 1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12

4. The word "deacon" is derived from the Greek "*diakoneo"*or "*diakonos,"* meaning "servant" or "one who serves."
   a. Deacons are written about – at least in most English-language Bibles – in two passages: Phil. 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13
   b. Nevertheless, the Greek term, "*diakonos*," is used many times throughout the New Testament and is usually translated as "helper" or "minister" (which, in fact, means "helper").

5. One more word simply means, *leaders*. Heb. 13:7, 17, 24
   a. Paul used it, to distinguish him from Barnabas as "the chief speaker." Acts 14:12
   b. It is also used of Judas Barsabbas and Silas, who are called "leading men among the brethren." Acts 15:22

6. The qualifications of a spiritual leader are found in several passages:
   a. First Timothy 3:1-13 tells us that an overseer must be above reproach.
   b. Titus 1:6-9 presents a similar message.
   c. Malachi 2:1-9 insists that spiritual leaders must honor God by walking with Him.

Discussion:
- What does the Bible say are the qualifications for church leadership?
- Name at least five titles found in the Bible for leaders in the church?
- What can we conclude from the fact that in many passages the word "servant" is used for spiritual leaders?

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Truth #30 – GOD GAVE US A WAY TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE HIS GREAT SACRIFICE FOR OUR SALVATION

Introduction: Jesus gave us a simple, inexpensive way to remember and celebrate His wonderful gift of salvation, a ceremony that is observed by God's children around the world.

1. **Jesus provided us with the most amazing, generous gift in the history of the world:**
   a. He gave us the opportunity to receive forgiveness from our sins and to live with Him for the rest of eternity.
   b. But this gift cost Him dearly. It required His excruciatingly painful death; He was nailed to a tree and left hanging until He died. His pain was both physical and spiritual, for He took on Himself the sins of everyone in all history. 1 Peter 2:24
   c. But then He came back to life. He conquered death. And through His resurrection we also have the promise of victory over death forever. John 11:25026

2. **Jesus gave us a way to celebrate this wonderful gift.** Matthew 26:26-28
   a. The bread represents His body which was broken as a sacrifice for our salvation.
   b. The cup represents His blood that was poured out for our salvation.
   c.

3. **What is Communion?**
   a. The Lord's Supper is primarily (but not exclusively) designed to elicit or to stimulate *remembrance* of the person and work of Jesus in our hearts. This remembrance is *commanded*. 1 Cor. 11:25
   b. The elements of bread and wine are given to stir our minds and hearts. The physical action of eating and drinking is designed to remind us that we spiritually "ingest" and depend upon Jesus and the saving benefits of his life, death, and resurrection.
   c. It is a *personal* remembrance. We are to remember Jesus. The focus isn't on Abraham or Moses or Isaiah or the Jewish Passover or anything else. Only Jesus.
   d. In this remembering there is also *confession*. In partaking of the elements we declare: "Christ gave his body and blood for me. He died for me." If one cannot and does not personally and consciously confess that the bread and wine symbolize the body and blood of Jesus sacrificed for sinners, he/she should not, indeed must not, partake of them.
   e. In this remembering we also *proclaim* the Lord's death till he comes. This, then, is not merely an ordinance that looks to the past. It is an ordinance of hope that points to the future – to Christ's return.
   f. To partake of the Lord's Table in an *unworthy* manner is to take it without regard to its true worth. To partake unworthily is to come complacently, light-heartedly, giving no thought to that which the elements signify. 1 Cor. 11:27
   g. Hence, we are to *"examine ourselves."* We are to test our motives and attitudes as we approach the table to be certain we are partaking for the right reasons and with the right understanding of what the elements represent. 1 Cor. 11:27

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #31 – GOD GAVE US A WAY TO SAY TO THE WORLD THAT WE ARE HIS

Introduction: Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world making disciples, teaching and baptizing. Baptism is a way to tell everyone that the person being baptized has become a child of God.

1. **Baptism is a symbol of the new life we have in Christ through God's grace.**
   a. Repentance means being sorry for and turning away from our sin. The Bible makes a clear connection between repentance and baptism. Acts 2:38
   b. Baptism is a way to say to the world, "I was a sinner, but that sinful nature is now dead and buried. And now I am a new person in Christ." Acts 8:36-38
   c. When we are immersed in the water this symbolizes our old sinful nature being buried. When we come up out of the water this symbolizes that we are now reborn in Christ because of His wonderful grace. Colossians 2:12

2. **Being baptized shows our loyalty to Christ.**
   a. Jesus was baptized, and He told His followers to go out and baptize people. In the same way, when we are baptized, we show our loyalty to Christ.
   b. In many cultures married people wear a ring to show that they are married. The ring doesn't make them married, but it symbolizes to others that they are married. In a similar way, being baptized says to everyone that the person has determined to be a child of God.

3. **According to Romans 6:1-10, baptism pictures at least three things:**
   a. First, baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. As we stand in the water we are representing Christ on the cross. As we are dipped underwater we illustrate the burial of Christ. As we come out of the water we demonstrate the resurrection of Christ.
   b. Second, baptism is a personal testimony to us of the washing away of our sins. As we go under the water we reconfirm that our sins are forgiven and as we come out of the water we are resurrected to live a new life in Christ.
   c. Third, baptism represents our personal identification with Christ. Paul declared in Romans 6:3-4 *"We were buried with Christ in baptism and we are raised to walk in a new life"* as forgiven followers of Christ empowered by the Spirit of God.

4. Some further passages about baptism:
   a. *"and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* 1 Peter 3:21
   b. *"having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead."* Col. 2:21
   c. *"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'"* Acts 22:16

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SECTION SEVEN – DOCTRINE OF THE SCRIPTURES

Truth #32 – THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

Introduction: The Bible is unlike any other book in the whole world. The Bible is for all people, for all time. It's a book like no other, in a class by itself

1. **Some facts about the Bible:**
   a. The Bible is a library of 66 books; the Old Testament contains 39, the New Testament 27.
   b. It was written by 36 to 40 authors of different types of people in different parts of the world, over a period of 1,600 years.
   c. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, with parts of Daniel and Ezra in Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.
   d. The Bible required 16 centuries to write it; the first writer died 1,450 years before the last writer was born.

2. **The Bible is the inspired Word of God. What does that mean?**
   a. The Greek word for inspiration is *theopneustos* meaning "God breathed;" *theo* = God; *pneustos* = breathed. 2 Tim. 3:16
   b. Holy men of God, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, wrote at His command and were kept from all error.

3. **The Bible claims inspiration:**
   a. For the writers 2 Pet. 1:21
   b. For the writings 2 Tim. 3:16
   c. For the words 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:2

4. **Six crowning wonders of the Bible:**
   a. The wonder of its unification; it is a library of 66 books, yet is all one book, for it has only one author, the Holy Spirit. There are no contradictions.
   b. The wonder of its age; no other book has as many ancient manuscripts.
   c. The wonder of its sale; no other book has sold as many copies in as many languages.
   d. The wonder of its interest; it is the only book that is read by all ages—by sages and children alike, in all nations.
   e. The wonder of its language; written largely by uneducated men, it is considered a literary masterpiece.
   f. The wonder of its preservation. Time and again kings and governments have sought to burn and abolish it. Yet God has preserved it for us today.

5. **Seven symbols used to illustrate the Word of God:**
   a. A sword that convicts the hearer Heb.4:12
   b. A hammer that breaks the resistance of the hearer Jer. 23:29
   c. A seed, a living Word that gives birth to the hearer 1 Pet. 1:23
   d. A mirror, revealing the individual to himself James 1:23, 25
   e. A fire, consuming the dross in the hearer Jer. 20:9; and 23:29
   f. A lamp, guiding the believer step by step Psalm119:105
   g. Food, feeding the soul 1 Pet. 2:2; 1 Cor. 3.2; Rom. 10:17

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Truth #33 – THE BIBLE GIVES US GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE

Introduction: The Bible contains God's Word to His children, teaching us how to live righteously and victoriously in this world of sin and death. God's Word never grows old. It doesn't change. It is full of advice about how we are to live our lives!

1. **Five important lessons from the Bible that we should heed daily:**
   a. We should glorify God in everything we do. What does this mean? It means that no matter what you say or do, you do it in a way that reveal's God's glory. 1 Cor. 10:31
   b. We should pray. Scripture doesn't just tell us to pray, it tells us how to pray, how powerful prayer is and how your prayers will come to be. 1 John 5:14-15
   c. We should give thanks. This is not always easy. But no matter what the circumstance, Christians should always give thanks. Even in times of pain, suffering and loss, we are called to focus on our blessings. 1 Thess. 5:18
   d. We should be cautious. Be cautious and question -"test"- everything. This is discernment, when we judge well. In order to recognize the difference between good and bad, we must make a wise judgement. 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22
   e. We should not conform to the ways of the world. When we are tempted by the ways of the world and conform to it, we can get lost in it. And when we get lost and distracted, we lose sight of Christ. Romans 12:2

2. **More practical advice from the Word for God's children:**
   a. The Bible teaches us to be generous. Luke 6:39
   b. The Bible helps us understand genuine love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
   c. The Bible teaches us that we can put our trust in God. Philippians 4:6-7
   d. The Bible teaches us about the dangers of pride. Proverbs 16:18
   e. The Bible teaches us to pray persistently. Matthew 7:7
   f. The Bible tells us how to argue wisely. Proverbs 15:1
   g. The Bible teaches us to honor our parents. Ephesians 6:2-3
   h. The Bible teaches us that there is a time for everything. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
   i. The Bible teaches us to not grow weary in doing good. Galatians 6:9
   j. The Bible teaches us that everything is possible for those who believe. Mark 9:23

3. **God gives us the following blessings through His Word, the Bible:**
   a. He gives us faith by His Word. Romans 10:17
   b. He cleanses us from the Word. 2 Cor. 7:1
   c. Assurance comes from the Word of God. 1 John 5:13
   d. Comfort comes from the Word. 1 Thess. 4:18
   e. Truth comes from the Word of God. Acts 17:11
   f. Conviction of sin comes through preaching the Word of God. Acts 2:14:37

Discussion: Besides the advice listed above, what other counsel can we find in the Bible for our daily lives?

Assignment: Write a report about a time you followed the Bible's teaching in a particularly difficult situation. Write about what happened.

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SECTION EIGHT – THE DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUAL BEINGS: ANGELS, DEMONS, AND SATAN

Truth #34 – GOD SENDS HIS ANGELS TO HELP US

Introduction: We don't usually see them, but God has many angels who watch over His children and carry out God's commands.

1. **We know angels exist and read about them in the following passages:**
   a. The word "angel" first occurs in Gen. 16:7 when the angel of the Lord ministered to Hagar after Sarah mistreated her.
   b. There are many other references to angels in the Old Testament: Psalm 104:4; Dan. 10:12-13; 2 Sam. 14:20; Psalm 103:20; 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Sam. 24:15,16
   c. Jesus believed in angels. Matt. 18:10; Mark 13:32 and 8:38; Matt. 13:41 and 26:53
   d. Paul and other Apostles believed in them.
   2 Thess. 1:7; Col. 2:18; John 1:51; Rev. 12:7; 22:9; 1 Pet. 3:22; Jude 9

2. **What are angels like?**
   a. They are created beings; they are not the spirits of dead people. Col. 1:16
   b. They are spirits, but sometimes they appear in visible form.
   Psalm 104:4; Gen. 19; Judges 2:1; 6:11-22; Matt. 1:20; John 20:12
   c. They are strong. Psalm 103:20; 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Sam. 24:15-16
   d. They are immortal. Luke 20:35-36
   e. They are innumerable. Rev.5:11; Heb.12:22; Matt.26:53

3. **The fall of some angels:**
   a. Originally all angels were good, but some rebelled against God. 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6
   b. We do not know why they rebelled. It was perhaps because of pride and disobedience, the sins that caused Satan's downfall. Ezek. 28
   c. There is no hope for their redemption. Their final doom will be in the eternal fire.
   Jude 6:2; 2 Pet. 2:4; Matt. 25:41

4. **What do the fallen angels do?**
   a. They oppose God's purposes. Dan. 10:10-14
   b. They afflict and deceive God's people. 1 Sam. 28:7-20; Luke 13:16; Matt. 17:15-18
   c. They execute Satan's purposes. Matt.25:41; 12:26-27
   d. They hinder the spiritual life of God's people. Eph.6:12

5. **What do God's angels do?**
   a. In heaven—they honor, worship and serve the Lord God. Rev. 5:11-12, 8:3-4
   b. On earth—they run errands for the Lord, appearing before Joshua with a drawn sword; releasing Peter's chains; opening prison doors, defending God's people, etc.
   c. They exercise God's judgments and purposes. Num. 22:22; Acts 12:23; Matt. 13:41
   d. They guide believers. Acts 8:26
   e. They assist, protect and strengthen saints. 1 Kings 19; Dan. 6:22; Matt. 4:11
   f. They will accompany our Lord when He returns. Matt. 25:31 and 1 Thess. 1:7-8

Discussion: Have you experienced the help of angels in your life?

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Truth #35 – THE GREATEST ENEMY OF GOD AND MAN IS SATAN

Introduction: God has an enemy who tirelessly tries to destroy everything that God loves – especially His children. Satan's goal is to usurp God's Lordship in the universe and to dethrone God.

1. **Where did Satan, the devil, come from?** Ezekiel 28:12-19
   a. Satan was perfect in beauty, perhaps the highest-ranking angel. Then sin and iniquity entered into him because of his pride and he was cast out of heaven.
   b. In Isaiah we learn that he was called Lucifer, Son of the Morning. His pride led him to want to be like the Most High God, so he was cast out. Isa. 14:12-17
   c. Satan is a real being. He possesses life, intelligence, will power and feelings.

2. **What is Satan like?**
   a. He is a liar. John 8:44
   b. He is a thief, stealing the Word of God from hearts. Matt. 13:19
   c. He is subtle. 2 Cor. 11:3
   d. He is a murderer. John 8:44
   e. He is a deceiver. Rev. 12:9

3. **What are Satan's titles?**
   a. Angel of light 2 Cor. 2:13-15
   b. Roaring lion 1 Pet. 5:8
   c. Prince of the power of the air Eph. 2:2
   d. Power of darkness Col. 1:13
   e. Great dragon, serpent, the devil, Satan Rev. 12:9
   f. Prince of this world John 14:30
   g. God of this world 2 Cor. 4:4
   h. King of the bottomless pit, whose Hebrew name is Abaddon Rev. 9:11

4. **What is Satan's destiny?**
   a. As far as the Christian is concerned, he is a conquered enemy. John 12:31; 16:9,10; 1 John 3:8; Col. 2:15
   b. He is under a perpetual curse. Gen. 3:14; Isa. 65:25
   c. He will be cast alive into the lake of fire, there to be tormented forever and ever. Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10

Discussion: Do you feel that Satan is becoming more active in the world in these days? Why or why not, in your opinion?

Conclusion:

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FORTY GREAT TRUTHS (The Principal Doctrines of the Bible)

Truth #36 – GOD HAS DEFEATED SATAN

Introduction: Satan was forever defeated when Jesus was crucified on the cross and conquered death through His resurrection from the grave. Let us constantly claim victory over him through the Blood of Calvary. Rev. 12:11

1. **Satan is mighty, but God is *Al*mighty.**
   a. Don't ever doubt that God is far, far stronger than Satan.
   b. Satan's power is limited; God's power is limitless.
   c. Satan's power is temporary; God's power is eternal.
   d. Satan's power is entirely evil; God's power is entirely good.
   e. Furthermore, Satan is part of the creation—but God is the Creator.
   f. In fact, the Bible repeatedly calls God the "Sovereign Lord"—because that is what He is. Acts 4:24

2. **Satan has a certain measure of power, and we often see his power at work today.**
   a. How else can we explain some of the terrible things that happen?
   b. Never forget that Satan has one goal: to destroy God's people and work wherever he can. 1 Peter 5:8
   c. To do this he will use every trick he can to deceive us and turn us away from Christ.

3. **Nevertheless, Jesus defeated Satan on the cross.** Revelation 12:9-12
   a. At first, Satan thought he had won. But the truth is that the cross destroyed Satan, sin, death, and all of Satan's kingdom.
   b. Through the cross Jesus drove Satan out of the world. John 12:31-33
   c. Through the cross Jesus disarmed the powers and authorities. Colossians 2:15
   d. Through the cross Satan and his unclean spirits were destroyed. Hebrews 2:14
   e. Through the cross and resurrection, Christ is enthroned. Ephesians 1:21-22

4. **Through Christ's victory at Calvary we also have victory over Satan.**
   a. We have victory because Jesus paid the price for our redemption. He took our place, bearing our sin on the cross. On the cross He paid it all!
   b. Jesus said to His disciples, *"I have given you authority...to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."* Luke 10:19
   c. Unworthy though we are, we should humbly but confidently accept this authority, acting upon Christ's glorious victory at Calvary as we defeat and bind Satan's power in His name.

Conclusion: Because Jesus overcame the enemy by dying for our sins on the cross and overcoming death through the resurrection, we – His children – also have victory over sin and death. Nothing Satan does can destroy us when we remain in Christ.

Assignment: Write about a time you experienced an attack by Satan or his unclean spirits. How did you overcome this attack?

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SECTION NINE – DOCTRINE OF THE LAST DAYS

Truth #37 – CHRIST WILL RETURN VICTORIOUSLY TO EARTH

Introduction: The Second Coming of Christ is said to be mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters of the New Testament, the subject of one in every 25 verses. To every mention of the Lord's first coming, the second coming is mentioned eight times.

1. **How is Christ coming?**
   a. He will come unexpectedly, "like a thief in the night." 1 Thess. 5:2; Matt. 24:44
   b. He will come in such a way that the whole world will know it. Rev. 1:7
   c. He will come from heaven and we will meet Him in the air. 1 Thess.4:16-17

2. **Signs of His Coming:**
   a. 2 Tim.3:17 lists 23 signs of His coming, most of which are very evident today.
   b. Matt. 24:5-7 and 12-38 list ten signs.

3. **This doctrine – that Christ will return – is clearly taught in the Old Testament.**
   a. Even the Patriarch Job, who lived before the time of Abraham, knew that God would return to rule the earth and restore His children to Himself. Job 19:25-27
   b. The Psalmist anticipated a day when he would see God face to face. Psalm 17:15
   c. Daniel prophesized the day when *"everyone whose name is found written in the book-will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep … will awake."* Dan. 12:1-3

4. **This doctrine – that Christ will return – is clearly taught by Jesus.**
   a. Jesus taught His disciples about the signs that would precede His return to earth. Matthew 24:4-44
   b. Jesus was sent by the Father to raise up His own. John 5:25-29; 6:38-40
   c. Jesus told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place (home) for them (in heaven) and that He would then return to take them there. John 14:1-3

5. **This doctrine – that Christ will return – is clearly taught by the Apostles.**
   a. The Apostle Paul wrote often about Christ's return. 1 Cor. 15:51-58; Philippians 3:11, 1 Thess. 4:14-16
   b. Simon Peter encouraged us to prepare for Jesus' coming. 2 Peter 3:10-14
   c. John, the writer of The Revelation, gives a detailed description of the events surrounding the return of Christ in Revelation chapters 19 to 22.

Discussion: How will our resurrection bodies be different from the bodies we have today?

Assignment: Make a list of ten signs that Christ's return is nearing, and explain whether those ten signs are fulfilled today.

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Truth #38 – GOD WILL JUDGE THE WORLD

Introduction: A day of judgment is appointed for the world, in which the wicked will be judged and the righteous rewarded. Acts 17:31; Heb. 9:27

1. **A day of judgement is approaching.**
   a. There are 162 texts in the New Testament alone which speak of the judgement that awaits those who never received God into their hearts, 70 of which were uttered by Jesus Himself.
   b. Jesus will be the judge who will judge all people. John 5:22-23
   c. Jesus will judge the living and the dead. 2 Tim. 4:1
   d. Every person will be judged for their actions, whether good or bad. 2 Cor. 5:10

2. **The Great White Throne Judgement** Rev. 20:11
   a. The Judgment of the wicked dead, those who have never been born again, who did not rise at the first resurrection or had not been raptured. Rev. 20:12
   b. It will take place at, after the thousand-year millennial period. Rev. 20:5
   c. The ungodly will be cast into the lake of fire. Rev. 20:15

3. **Definition—What is hell?**
   a. Banishment from the presence of God (2 Thess. 1:9).
   b. A place of torment and punishment (Luke 16:23).

4. **Description of hell**
   a. It was originally prepared for the devil and his wicked angels. But men who reject heaven through the Savior must accompany Satan there. Matt. 25:41
   b. It is a place of punishment. Matt. 25:46
   c. It is a place of torment. Luke 16:23
   d. A place of fire. Matt.13:42, 50; Rev. 20:15; Rev. 14:10; Matt. 3:12; Isa. 33:14
   e. A place of worms. Mark 9:44, 46, 48
   f. In Luke 16 man had the ability to recognize others (vs.23); to pray, though the prayer was denied (vs.27), and he desired water and a messenger to warn his brothers not to come. Luke 16:24-27
   g. Hell is eternal, everlasting.

Conclusion - The facts about eternal punishment should spur us on to greater efforts to win the lost!

Discussion - What are the judgments that concern you?

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Truth #39 – THE RIGHTEOUS WILL RECEIVE A WONDERFUL FINAL REWARD

Introduction: Death to the believer is just falling asleep in Jesus Christ, then the person suddenly awakes in the Lord's presence. 1 Thess. 4:14; Phil. 1:23

1. **The future glory of believers**
   a. To be with Christ — John 14:3
   b. To behold His face — Psalm 17:15; 2 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:4
   c. To behold the glory of Christ — John 17:24
   d. To be glorified with Christ — Rom. 8:17,18
   e. To reign with Christ — 2 Tim. 2:12
   f. To inherit all things — Rev. 21:7
   g. To shine as the stars — Dan. 12:3

2. **What is Heaven?**
   a. It is the home of the Lord God. — Matt. 6:9
   b. The "Third heaven" is the home of God. (The "first heaven" is thought to be the atmosphere above us, where birds fly, and the "second heaven" to be space, where astronauts go.) — 2 Cor. 12:2
   c. It is where God has an eternal house for us, made by Him, not by man. — 2 Cor. 5:1
   d. It is the "kingdom of God and of Christ." — Eph. 5:5
   e. The Father's house. — John 14:2
   f. A place without death, tears, sorrow, crying or pain (Rev. 21:4). Without night or darkness (Rev. 22:3-5). Without hunger, thirst or excessive heat (Rev. 7:16).
   g. A place with new created things—the river of life, the tree of life, new service, new relationships, new light. — Rev. 22:4
3. **The nature of the resurrection body of God's children**
   a. Not flesh and blood — 1 Cor.15:50-51
   b. We can learn something about what our resurrected bodies will be like by the descriptions we read of Jesus's resurrected body:
      - It was a real body, but also a spiritual body. — Luke 24:39 & 44
      - Incorruptible (vs. 42). No decay, sickness, pain.
      - Glorious and powerful (vs.43, also the Transfiguration in Matt.17, Rev.1:13-17).
      - Heavenly (vs. 47-49).
4. **Crowns that believers may win**
   a. Incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:24-25); crown for runners (Heb. 12:1).
   b. Crown of rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19); the crown for soul winners.
   c. Crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8); for those who love His appearing. Everyone ought to win this crown.
   d. Crown of life (James 1:12); for faithful ones, even unto death (Rev. 2:10); the Martyr's crown.
   e. Crown of glory (1 Pet. 5:4); for under-shepherds, pastors, missionaries, teachers.

Conclusion - Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people. Our goal must be to arrive there, and to be accompanied by a host of others redeemed because of our labors for Him!

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CONCLUSION

Truth #40 – WE ARE CREATED TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS

Introduction: Knowing good doctrine is important, but having a righteous, loving heart for God and for people is far more important.

1. What is the greatest commandment, according to God?

When Jesus was asked which was the most important commandment, His response was very clear: *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."* Mark 12:30-31

2. How do God's children show our love for God? We show our love:

a. By living in relationship with Him. *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God <u>and knows God</u>."* 1 John 4:7-8
b. By obeying His commands. *"If you love me, keep my command.".* John 14:15
c. By loving our brothers. 1 John 4:20
d. By loving God more than we love money. Matthew 6:24
e. By loving God more than the things of this world. 1 John 2:15
f. By putting that love into our actions. 1 John 3:17-18
g. By demonstrating God's character in our lives and actions. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

3. Jesus said people will recognize who God's children are by our love. John 13:35

a. Jesus modeled putting others first when He washed His disciples' feet. John 13:1-17
b. Jesus also demonstrated putting others first when he died for the sins of the world, to pay our penalty and make a way for our salvation. John 3:16
c. Jesus told us to love even our enemies. Luke 6:27
d. We are to demonstrate our love for others by helping them carry their burdens. Galatians 6:1

4. God is love, therefore we, His children, are to walk in His love. Ephesians 5:1-3

a. We are to love others as God has loved us. John 13:34
b. Love binds God's children in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14
c. We are to be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Romans 12:10
d. Love covers a multitude of sins and offenses. 1 Peter 4:8
e. Love is the message we have heard from the beginning. John 3:11, 23

5. God is love, therefore we, His image-bearers, are created to reflect His love.

a. Humans were created in the image of God. Genesis 1:26-29
b. Sin distorted the image. Genesis 3 & Romans 3:23
c. Jesus is the perfect image of the invisible God. Colossians 1:15 & Hebrews 1:3
d. The redeemed people of God have been joined to Christ, as His Body, through the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:15-16 & 2 Cor. 5:17-21
e. The Spirit enables God's people to love like Christ. John 15:9-17 & 1 John 4:17

Conclusion: Read 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 and receive God's blessing in these verses to conclude this study of these Forty Great Truths.

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