

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 4

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Lesson 4: The Bible: It Tells Us How to Relate to God

Scriptures:

1 John 2:1-8; Genesis 1:26, 27; Mark 12:30; Romans 3-5

Lesson Goals:

To show that the Bible tells us about how we can relate to God
To lead students to search God's word for His will for their life
To emphasize the importance of having a personal relationship with God

Scripture Memory:

For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

The Lesson:

If you went to a book store, you would find many shelves of books that tell us how to relate to other people. Some books tell brothers and sisters how to better relate to one another. Some books tell husbands and wives how to relate to one another. Some books tell friends how to relate to friends.

Some people are satisfied with just getting along...not having disagreements and disappointments. However, most of us want to do more than just get along with our friends, sisters and brothers, parents, and partners. So, we may get advice from someone, or read a book, or just sit down together and talk it over.

Our relationship with God is the most important relationship that we can have. We should want to make that the best relationship that we have. It is good to get advice from someone who has a good relationship with God. It is good to read what other people have written about God. However, the best place to find out how to have a great relationship with God is in His word, the Bible.

Reading the Bible is getting the information personally. God inspired people to write about Him and those people had a good relationship with Him. **The Bible is the closest thing to hearing God speak out loud.**

The Bible says that God made humans, so He must know more about us than anyone. (Genesis 1:26-27) He knows our weaknesses, but He also knows our strengths. He knows best how we can get along with one another and with Him.

He gave the Hebrew people a covenant...an agreement...about how they were to behave and what would please Him. Moses wrote that down. (Exodus 34:27) The New Testament...or New Covenant... is God's agreement with us as to how we are to behave, and how we come to Him through Jesus. The Old Testament had laws that were very specific. The New Testament has instruction, but also tells us that our relationship with God is based on love. In the Old Testament God is more like a judge; where in the New Testament God is a loving Savior. Both are true. God is our savior, Jesus showed us that. He is also our judge telling us what is good and bad, and at the end of time He will decide where we will live after we die. (Matthew 25:31-46)

The New Testament has a lot of information about how we should live. One very important place to look is in Matthew where Jesus preached a message called "The Sermon on the Mount." (Matthew 5-7)

The Bible tells us to pray (Matthew 6:5-13), to tell others about Him (Matthew 5:16), to worship God, to

confess our sins to Him, to love God with all that we are and have (Mark 12:30), to serve Him, to hear His word (Luke 11:28), to love one another (Matthew 22:37-40), and many other things.

The Bible tells us that God has a plan for our lives. He invites us to depend on Him for leadership in living. Jeremiah, the prophet, tells us that God knows us even before we are born. (Jeremiah 1:5) In Jeremiah 29:11, we find that God has plans for us. If God knows us that well, and if He has a plan for our lives, we can trust Him to help us know the best things to do and the best things to say.

One of the most important things we learn from the Bible is how to know Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Romans 3:23 tells us that everyone has sinned, that is, disappointed God by doing the wrong thing. Romans 6:23 tells us that our sin, unforgiven, will lead to death...that is, eternal death. Romans 5:8 tells us that even though we are sinners, Christ died for us to provide forgiveness for our sins. Romans 5:9 tells us that the death of Jesus on the Cross made it possible for us to be forgiven of all our sin and we are clean before God. And 1 John 1:9 affirms that, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Romans 10:9 tells us that if we believe in our heart that Jesus is Lord, we will be saved. This means that we are saved from sin and saved from the punishment for our sin. John 3:16 says that when we believe in Jesus, as our Savior and Lord, we are given eternal life. In Ephesians 1:13, we find that when we become a child of God, through believing in Jesus, we are given the Holy Spirit who begins to live in us.

Reading the Bible regularly keeps us informed as to how God has related to others, how God wants us to relate to Him, and helps us be certain that we are in His will as we live our lives.

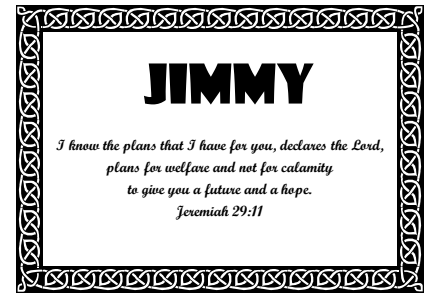
Life Application:

How about you? What have you done with the most important thing you can learn from the Bible? Do you realize you are a sinner? We all are, you know. What do you deserve for your sin? Sin deserves eternal death. It's not pretty; in fact, it is very serious. So, if we are all sinners and if that sin deserves that we die, how can we ever relate to God? God's Son, Jesus, is the Way to God. Jesus died for you and He died for me. He actually took the punishment that we deserve. By doing this, Jesus has given us hope. If we agree with God that our sin is sin, if we believe in our hearts that Jesus is Lord of all, including our lives, we will be saved from eternal separation from God. We will not only be assured of a place in heaven, but life here will be full and satisfying as we love God and follow Him.

So, how about you? Are you following God, living a life of obedience to Him? If you are, help others know how they can know God the way you do. If you have never entrusted your life to God, will you take that step today? God loves you more than you'll ever know!



Planning for Lesson 5
The Bible: It Tells Us What
We Should Believe



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Make certificates or scrolls. Print the student's name in large letters at the top of the page. Then, print the verse. Encourage your students to display these in their homes as a reminder that God has plans for them.
- ◆ Make an acrostic of the word "relate." Encourage your students to think of words that begin with each of the letters in the word "r-e-l-a-t-e," that explain or describe how we can relate to God.
- ◆ Continue to encourage your students to read their Bibles daily, whether they adopt a plan to read the Bible through in a year or not. Quiz them, when you get a chance, on exciting information from what they have read.
- ◆ Continue Bible Drills. Consider entering your students in local Bible drills. They will be challenged and encouraged by the process.
- ◆ Discuss the divisions of the Bible. Begin with Old and New Testament, stressing the covenant, or agreement, of the Old Testament and the instruction and new covenant found in the New Testament. Also begin to teach your students about the books of law, wisdom, prophecy, etc.
- ◆ Read through Psalm 139. Make a list of the things God knows about you.
- ◆ Dig Deeper: Read "The Sermon on the Mount" paragraph by paragraph (Matthew 5-7) and discuss how what it teaches can help us to strengthen our relationship with God.
- ◆ Dig Deeper Still: Read John 3:16-21 and Matthew 25:31-46. Discuss God as savior and judge. How can He be both?

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,

declares the Lord,

SONNEN

JEREMIAH 29:11

for welfare and
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Word Search



P	L	A	N	O	S	A	V	I	I	T	C
L	I	R	E	G	O	D	O	I	R	O	J
N	B	H	E	A	L	H	L	E	O	G	D
S	I	V	S	L	E	P	O	H	I	S	T
I	L	T	C	N	V	E	V	L	V	V	A
L	B	H	O	C	O	V	E	N	A	N	T
E	P	I	H	S	C	I	L	Q	S	R	E
J	O	D	B	T	A	N	T	V	I	O	R
U	D	N	E	L	T	P	L	A	T	H	O
G	J	U	D	G	E	R	E	L	L	A	S
E	T	A	N	C	V	O	L	S	I	E	O
I	M	H	D	T	E	O	M	Y	T	R	R

relationship

love

plan

covenant

Savior

hope

Bible

God

Judge

Word Search



P	L	A	N	O	S	A	V	I	I	T	C
L	I	R	E	G	O	D	O	I	R	O	J
N	B	H	E	A	L	H	L	E	O	G	D
S	I	V	S	L	E	P	O	H	I	S	T
I	L	T	C	N	V	E	V	L	V	V	A
L	B	H	O	C	O	V	E	N	A	N	T
E	P	I	H	S	C	I	L	Q	S	R	E
J	O	D	B	T	A	N	T	V	I	O	R
U	D	N	E	L	T	P	L	A	T	H	O
G	J	U	D	G	E	R	E	L	L	A	S
E	T	A	N	C	V	O	L	S	I	E	O
I	M	H	D	T	E	O	M	Y	T	R	R

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