NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY
& DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

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This work is dedicated to

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all who walk the pages of God's Word and
learn to deeply love and obey it.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second book of the Bible Survey and Discipleship Courses. In the first book, **Twelve-Week Bible Survey and Discipleship Course**, the teacher and student covered a brief overview of the entire Bible, understanding the general content of the Word of God and learning how the Bible fits together as a whole. Under each subject or division of the Bible, a brief historical account was given as well as a study of the lives of several Biblical characters important to that time. Through the lives of these men and women that God chose, through their human faithfulness and failures and their life experiences, we learned about the character of God and how to apply these lessons in our own lives as we grow as disciples of Christ.

In this second book, **New Testament Survey and Discipleship Course**, we will follow the same pattern, but we will focus on the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. The book is divided into three parts, with each part divided into three lessons. The lessons include the historical account, important Biblical teachings, and the study of Christ and the special individuals God chose to exemplify the new life in Christ and guide us in our walk with Him.

This book is no substitute for the Bible; it is a guide to lead us to understand the Word of God and apply it to our lives. It is our hope that, as we learn His Word, we will take steps to obey it and grow in our knowledge and relationship with our Heavenly Father. We encourage everyone to use these lessons to teach others who will go on to make disciples of others, continuing in obedience to Christ teaching and making disciples of all nations.

The objectives of this study are to:

1. Learn the stories of a select group of biblical figures;
2. Learn and find the books of the New Testament;
3. Learn the sections into which the New Testament is divided;
4. Understand how the books of the New Testament fit chronologically;
5. Understand the historical significance of the New Testament;
6. Understand where important biblical events and major characters are found in the New Testament and how they relate in the history of the early church;
7. Gain personal life application from the stories of these people;

8. Memorize selected verses from each section;
9. Learn to teach these lessons to others.

NOTE

This material can be used in various learning situations. It can be used by a teacher and student, an individual student on his/her own, two students, or perhaps the best option of all, a small group, which allows an opportunity for students to share what they are learning and hold each other accountable as they study.

Once again, as we journey through the wonderful Word of God, we will be overwhelmed by the vast history, people, and events which occurred in the Bible. But do not be overwhelmed! Learning about God and His Word is a lifelong journey. This study is only the beginning, the foundation for much further study. It is not just facts and information which fill the pages of Scripture—the Word of God is a living Word that indwells every believer and convicts his soul.

"For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)

OVERVIEW OF EACH LESSON'S TOPIC

PART ONE: LIFE OF CHRIST

	Beginning of the Life of Christ	Announcement & Birth
	Christ's Ministry	Preaching & Healing
	Last Days of Christ's Ministry	Death & Resurrection

PART TWO: THE CHURCH

	Beginning of the Church	Coming of the Holy Spirit
	Preaching in Jerusalem and Samaria	Suffering of the Church
	Preaching in the Ends of the Earth	Acceptance of the Gentiles

PART THREE: TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES

	Paul's Letters to the Church	Faith & Grace
	Peter's Letters to the Church	Trials & Growth
	John's Letters to the Church	Hope & Victory

BASIC COURSE GUIDELINES

Each week's lesson is divided into five parts, which should be taken in order. No matter what your learning situation is, these easy-to-follow sections will help you get the most out of the study.

PART ONE: REVIEW
After the first week, every week will have a section that reviews the last week's lesson. This is a good time to see how much you have learned.

PART TWO: LEARN
Learn the details of the books of the Bible. Learn the names of books, the sections the Bible has been divided into, the order of events in each division of the Bible, and basic geography.

PART THREE: READ
Read the verses pertaining to the week's lesson. Study the selected character of the Bible. Read the small introduction on each individual, the important events that happen in their lives, and study and discuss their lives as they demonstrated both faith and, at times, failure.

PART FOUR: DISCUSS
Discuss how the lives of these Bible characters can apply to you and your situation.

PART FIVE: MEMORIZE
Memorize one key verse each week and be ready to review each verse the following week.

PART ONE: LIFE OF CHRIST
LESSON ONE

THE BEGINNING OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY

REVIEW

This New Testament Course is divided into the three parts listed below. Each section will cover a unique area in the history and teaching of the New Testament.

	Part One	Life of Christ
	Part Two	The Church
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

In each part of the New Testament course, there are three lessons. The first part of our course is the **Life of Christ**. The first lesson of **Part One** is called **The Beginning of the Life of Christ**. Since we're just beginning the lessons, we don't have any review. However, let us read, discuss, and begin to memorize the three headings for Part One.

	Beginning of the Life of Christ	Announcement & Birth
	Christ's Ministry	Preaching & Healing
	Last Days of Christ's Ministry	Death & Resurrection

LEARN

The entire Bible is divided into two divisions: the Old Testament, that is all the books pertaining to events, poetry, and prophecy before the coming of Christ, and the New Testament, pertaining to all the events from the birth of Christ to His death and resurrection and the beginning of the church.

1. Numbers of Books in the Old and New Testament

- Old Testament 39
- New Testament 27
- Total Number of Books 66

2. We will divide the books of the New Testament into three parts. The first division is called the **Gospels**. The word *gospel* means "good news," speaking of the good news of the Kingdom of God and giving us an account of the life of Christ, both His works and teachings. The writers either had lived and served with Jesus or were closely connected with those who had.

Gospels
Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

3. Beginning of the Life of Christ

- **Date:**
  - Between 8-4 BC
- **Important Events:**
  - The land of Israel was ruled by King Herod and the Roman Empire who oppressed the people of the land.
  - The Jewish religious leaders were divided and very oppressive toward the Jewish people with their many religious rules and regulations.
  - The Jewish people were waiting for the promised Messiah, or Christ, who was coming to deliver them and establish the promised Kingdom of God.

- **Short Outline:**
  - The announcement by Gabriel to Mary that she was to have a child.
  - The birth of John the Baptist.
  - The birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.

READ

In Part One we will be studying the life of Christ. In this lesson, Lesson One, we will read the announcements as foretold by prophets over 700 years before the birth of Christ, the announcements made by the angels of God, and finally the miraculous birth of Christ the Savior.

READ ISAIAH 7:14 AND 9:6–7; MICAH 5:2; MATTHEW 1:18–2:12; LUKE 1:26–2:38.

ANNOUNCEMENT & BIRTH

1. Background

The promise of the coming of Christ as Savior and sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the world was promised by God from the beginning of man in Genesis when Adam and Eve first sinned in the garden. Abraham was promised that through his offspring the world would be blessed. King David was promised that his heir would rule forever. Christ's coming was foretold by prophets and finally announced by the angel Gabriel to Mary who, while she was a virgin, would conceive and give birth to a child. The angels also announced the coming of Christ to many others.

2. Events of the Announcement and Birth of Christ

- The Announcement of the Birth of Jesus Christ
  - The announcement by Gabriel to Mary, Lk. 1:26–38
  - The affirmation by Elizabeth, Lk. 1:39–45
  - The reassurance by the angel to Joseph, Matt. 2:20–21
- The Birth of Jesus Christ
  - Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem, Lk. 2:1–7
  - The angels bring news to the shepherds, Lk. 2:8–18
  - The wise men visit the child Jesus, Matt. 2:1–12

3. **Important Points to Remember**
   - Jesus' coming was predicted in the beginning and throughout the Old Testament, Gen. 3:15, Gen. 12:1–3, Isaiah 7:14, 9:6–7, Mic. 5:2

- Jesus came to take away our sins and destroy the works of the Devil and through Him we can be saved and go to heaven, Matt. 1:21, Lk. 2:10-11, 2:29-32, Acts 4:12, 1 John 3:8
- Jesus Christ's birth was a miracle, Lk. 1:26-38, 2:2-12
- Jesus was worshipped, Matt. 2:11

4. **Examples and Lessons We can Follow**
   - Mary believed and had faith even though she did not understand everything.
   - Joseph obeyed God even though it was against what he thought was right.
   - The angels and people on earth worshipped Christ as Savior and King.
   - God's promises are always fulfilled, just as the promise of the coming of Christ was.

DISCUSS

POINTS TO DISCUSS

ANNOUNCEMENT & BIRTH

1. Jesus' coming and the purpose of His coming as Savior of the world was foretold by many in the Old Testament. What does this mean to us as believers and how can we explain this to those who do not yet believe in Christ as the promised Savior?
2. Why was it necessary for God to become man and come into the world?
3. Discuss how you think Mary really felt when the angel Gabriel told her that she was to have a child through the Holy Spirit and that He was to be the promised Messiah. What would you have done?
4. Discuss what Joseph's reaction was when he found out that Mary, his fiancée, was pregnant. What would you have done?
5. Jesus was not born to a wealthy and powerful family but to a poor and humble family. He was not born in a palace but in a place where animals were kept. What does this mean to you and how does this affect your life?

MEMORIZE

LESSON ONE BIBLE VERSE

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Isaiah 7:14

PART ONE: LIFE OF CHRIST
LESSON TWO

CHRIST'S MINISTRY

REVIEW

Review last week's lesson.
1. Name the first part in our study of the New Testament.

	Part One	
	Part Two	The Church
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. Name the first two main headings and descriptions in **Part One**.

	Last Days of Christ's Ministry	Death & Resurrection

3. How many books are in the Bible? How many in the Old Testament and in the New Testament?
4. What is the first section in the New Testament called?
5. Can you name the four books under the first section?
6. Discuss some of the events that took place before and soon after Jesus was born.

LEARN

1. Continue to memorize the three headings and their descriptions in Part One.

	Beginning of the Life of Christ	Announcement & Birth
	Christ's Ministry	Preaching & Healing
	Last Days of Christ's Ministry	Death & Resurrection

2. By now you have memorized the first division and names of the books of the **Gospels**. These give us an account of the life of Christ while here on earth. But each writer that God chose had a purpose for writing the account of the Life of Christ. These are called themes. As you read each gospel, you will see these themes emphasized.

Memorize these themes and be prepared to connect the theme with each gospel.

Gospels	Themes
Matthew	Jesus the Messiah
Mark	Jesus the Servant
Luke	Jesus the Man
John	Jesus the God

3. Christ's Ministry

- **Date:**
  - Between 26–30 AD
- **Important Events:**
  - The baptism and temptation of Christ.
  - Calling of His disciples.
  - Teaching of the Kingdom of God.

- **Short Outline:**
  - Calling and anointing by the Holy Spirit.
  - Teaching and healings in Galilee and surrounding areas.
  - Teaching and healings in Judea and the city of Jerusalem.

READ

In Part One we have been studying the life of Christ. In this lesson, Lesson Two, we start with the calling of Christ into ministry. We will also see His victory over temptation and His teaching of God's fulfillment of the promise of His Kingdom and its power, as seen through Christ's victory over illness and Satan's powers.

READ MATTHEW CHAPTER 3, 4:1-11 AND CHAPTERS 5-6; LUKE 9:1-2; MARK CHAPTERS 4-5.

PREACHING & HEALING

1. Background

After Jesus Christ's anointing by the Holy Spirit and His victory over temptation, He began His ministry of introducing the Kingdom of God through signs, demonstrating its power through healing the sick, casting out demons, and even raising the dead to life. Jesus also preached the truth of the Kingdom of God, how one enters it, and how those who are its citizens now live their lives. Though the coming of the Kingdom of God was revealed by the prophets before Christ, many, especially the religious leaders in the time of Christ, did not accept His message nor Jesus as the promised Messiah. However, many others did believe and began to live in obedience to the teachings of Christ.

2. Important Events in the Ministry of Christ

- Anointing and affirmation of Christ and His ministry, John 1:29-30, Matt. 3:13-17
- Victory over temptation and Satan, Matt. 4:1-11
- Calling of the first disciples, John 1:43-51
- First miracle, turns water into wine, John 2:1-10
- Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5-6
- Moses and Elijah visit Jesus, Matt. 17:1-8

3. **Important Points in the Ministry of Christ**

- Power over illness, Matt. 8:16-22
- Power over death, Matt. 9:18-26

- Power over sin, Mk. 2:2-10
- Power over Satan, Matt. 8:28-34

4. **Examples and Lessons We can Follow**
   - Jesus was called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the will of the Father.
   - Jesus overcame the temptations of this world and the power of Satan. This is a demonstration to us that through Him we also can have victory over temptation and Satan.
   - Jesus did not go and preach the Kingdom and minister to the people alone, but He chose and trained others to work with Him.
   - Jesus showed love and compassion to all in His works of healing and caring for the needs of those around Him.
   - Jesus forgave people of their sins and also taught us to forgive others.
   - Though many, especially the religious authorities, were against the teaching and miracles of Jesus, He continued to live and teach in truth and love.

DISCUSS

POINTS TO DISCUSS

PREACHING & HEALING

1. As followers of Jesus Christ, we have been called by God and filled with the Holy Spirit. How will that help us live and do the will of God here on earth?
2. Though we may not be tempted as Jesus was, we are still tempted in many areas of our lives. How are we tempted?
3. How can we overcome temptation? Study Matthew chapter 4 and see how Jesus overcame temptation.
4. Jesus picked all types of people, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, to follow Him and become His disciples. God has chosen you. In what ways can God use you in the work of His Kingdom?
5. As we have seen in the life and work of Jesus Christ, He had power over nature, illness, and even Satan, but one thing seems very important in His message and work: the forgiveness of sin. Why was this important and can He actually forgive all our sins?
6. How do you act and respond when others who do not believe in Christ and His message persecute you?

MEMORIZE

LESSON TWO BIBLE VERSE

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24

PART ONE: LIFE OF CHRIST
LESSON THREE

LAST DAYS OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY

REVIEW

Review last week's lesson.
1. Name the first part in our study of the New Testament.

	Part One	
	Part Two	The Church
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. Name all the main headings and descriptions in **Part One**.

3. How many books are in the Bible? How many in the Old Testament and in the New Testament?
4. What is the first section in the New Testament called?
5. Can you name the four books under the first section?
6. Can you name the theme for each Gospel?

7. Discuss some of the main events you learned from Lessons One and Two.

- Beginning of the Life of Christ
- Christ's Ministry

LEARN

1. Continue to memorize the three parts of the New Testament. The next part we study will be **Part Two, The Church.**

	Part One	Life of Christ
	Part Two	The Church
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. These are the three lessons in **Part Two, The Church**. Begin to learn these for the next lesson.

	Beginning of the Church	Coming of the Holy Spirit
	Preaching in Jerusalem and Samaria	Suffering of the Church
	Preaching in the Ends of the Earth	Acceptance of the Gentiles

3. You have memorized the names of the books in the first division of the New Testament, the **Gospels.** Now learn the second division. It is called **History,** and the one book is Acts.

Gospels	History
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts

4. The Last Day's of Christ's Ministry
   - **Date:**
     - Between 27-30/31 AD
   - **Important Events:**
     - Jesus predicts His death and resurrection.
     - Jesus enters Jerusalem.
     - Jesus shares the Passover meal with His disciples.
     - Jesus is crucified.
     - Jesus is raised from the dead.
     - Jesus meets with many of His disciples and ascends into heaven.
   - **Short Outline:**
     - Jesus predicts His death and resurrection.
     - Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
     - Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension.

READ

In Part One we have been studying the life of Christ. In this lesson, Lesson Three, we learn about the final days of Jesus' ministry on earth. All four gospels have an account of the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus' final days are filled with His powerful teaching of the Kingdom of God, both present and future, and the victory over Satan and sin.

READ ISAIAH CHAPTER 53; MATTHEW 16:21-22, 20:18-19 AND 21:1-11; LUKE 22:47-71 AND CHAPTER 23; JOHN CHAPTERS 20-21.

DEATH & RESURRECTION

1. Background

Jesus is busy doing the work which the Father gave Him to do while on

earth. As we saw in Lesson Two, Jesus is preaching about the Kingdom of God and demonstrating its power through healing the sick and overcoming the power of Satan. It is later in His ministry that Jesus begins to teach His disciples about the need for the Messiah to be put to death. Jesus' last days are found in and around Jerusalem where He confronts opposition from the Jewish religious leaders. It is here that Jesus is betrayed by one of His disciples, tried by the Jewish leaders, and finally crucified by Roman soldiers. Jesus is buried, but while His disciples are overwhelmed with the grief of the loss of their beloved teacher, on the third day Jesus is resurrected and appears before them to testify of the fulfillment of prophecy and God's power over death and sin.

2. Important Events That Took Place in the Last Days of Jesus' Ministry on Earth

- Jesus' ministry leading to His final days
  - Prediction of His death and resurrection, Matt. 16:21-22
  - Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem as the triumphal King, Matt. 21:1-10
  - Jesus teaches, performs miracles, and opposes the religious leaders, Matt. 21 and 25
- Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension
  - Betrayed by His disciple and tried before the Jewish religious leaders, Matt. 26:36-67
  - Crucified and buried, Matt. 27
  - Risen from the dead after three days and ascended into heaven, Matt. 28:1-15, Acts 1:9

3. **Important Points to Remember**
   - Jesus is the Passover lamb that takes away the sin of the world, Ex. 12:27, John 2:29, Matt. 26:20-25
   - Jesus' death and resurrection were a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, Isaiah 53
   - Jesus ascended into heaven where He now rules, Acts 1:9-11

4. **Examples and Lessons We can Follow**
   - Jesus walked closely with God, understanding the will of His Father.
   - Jesus demonstrated His love to all, but especially to those who obey and choose to follow Him.
   - Jesus was not afraid to speak the truth, even to those who opposed the truth of God.
   - Jesus was obedient to the will of God, even if it meant giving up His life.
   - Jesus was willing to suffer for those He loved.
   - Jesus demonstrated His love for others by laying down His life for them.

- Jesus' obedience and suffering gave way to victory and blessing.

DISCUSS

POINTS TO DISCUSS

DEATH & RESURRECTION

1. Why did Jesus Christ have to suffer and die on a cross? Couldn't God have still saved us without the death of Christ?
2. In the Old Testament we read prophecies concerning the death of Christ, such as in Isaiah 53. Later we see these prophecies fulfilled in the life of Christ. What does this mean for us and the world today?
3. In Roman 5:8 we learn that Christ demonstrated His love for us by dying on the cross for our sins. How can we show God that we love Him? How can we show others that we love them?
4. Jesus obeyed God even if it meant suffering and death. How much are we willing to obey God?
5. Jesus paid for all our sin; we have been cleansed and given a new life. How should we now live?

MEMORIZE

LESSON THREE BIBLE VERSE

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Rom. 5:8-11

PART TWO: THE CHURCH
LESSON ONE

BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

REVIEW

Review last week's lesson.

1. Name the first two parts in our study of the New Testament.

	Part One	
	Part Two	
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. Name the first main heading of **Part Two** and its description.

	Preaching in Jerusalem and Samaria	Suffering of the Church
	Preaching in the Ends of the Earth	Acceptance of the Gentiles

3. How many books are there in the Old Testament and in the New Testament?
4. What is the first section in the New Testament called?
5. Can you name the four books in the first section, the Gospels?

LEARN

1. These are the three lessons for **Part Two, The Church**. Continue to learn these.

	Beginning of the Church	Coming of the Holy Spirit
	Preaching in Jerusalem and Samaria	Suffering of the Church
	Preaching in the Ends of the Earth	Acceptance of the Gentiles

2. You have memorized the books in the first division of the New Testament, the **Gospels**. Now learn the second division, **History**, and its one book, Acts.

Gospels	History
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts

3. Beginning of the Church

- **Date:**
  - 30 AD
- **Important Events:**
  - Jesus ascends into heaven.
  - The Holy Spirit is poured out on the disciples on the feast of Pentecost.
  - Peter testifies of Jesus in front of many people.
  - Many people believe and are baptized.
  - The believers assemble together and begin the church.
- **Short Outline:**
  - Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit.

- The coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples as they gathered in Jerusalem.
- The beginning of the church.

READ

In Part One we studied the life of Christ, His birth, ministry, and last days. In Part Two we are studying the beginning and growth of the church in Israel and in the Roman world and how, through the power of the Holy Spirit, God used ordinary people to carry His gospel. In Lesson One of Part Two, we see the exciting period when the Spirit of God came and filled the disciples and later all those who believed. In the first chapters of Acts, we see these exciting events take place.

READ JOEL 2:28-29; JOHN 14:25-26 AND 16:13; ACTS 1:1-5, CHAPTER 2; EPHESIANS 1:13-14.

COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Background

In the book of Matthew, John the Baptist declares that he baptizes with water but the Messiah, Christ, will baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Later in Jesus' ministry, Jesus tells His disciples that though He had to leave them, He would not leave them alone but give them the Spirit of God to teach and guide them. This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when Jesus' disciples were gathered in a room praying in Jerusalem. The outpouring of God's Spirit filled the hearts of all the disciples. After Peter preached, those who heard the words of Peter and believed were also filled with the Spirit. Later, these believers gathered together to become the church.

2. Important Events of the Coming of the Holy Spirit

- Jesus ascended into heaven, Acts 1:9
- On the day of Pentecost, the disciples gathered in Jerusalem and received the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:1-4
- Peter proclaimed the gospel to those gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the day of Pentecost and 3,000 are saved, Acts 2:1-41
- The believers gathered together to form the church, Acts 2:43-47

3. **Important Points to Remember**

- The Holy Spirit was promised by the prophets in the Old Testament and Jesus, Joel 2:28
- Jesus' death and resurrection was a fulfillment of Old Testament

prophecy, Isaiah 53
- Jesus ascended into heaven where He now rules, Acts 1:9-11

4. **Examples and Lessons We can Follow**
   - God is faithful and will fulfill all His promises. We see this by the coming of His Spirit.
   - We will never be alone as we have God's Spirit in our hearts.
   - We will always have the power and ability to do God's work because we have His Spirit to help us.
   - The disciples prayed and waited on the Holy Spirit to be empowered and guided.
   - After coming to faith, the believers gathered together in what is called the church to learn and work together.

DISCUSS

POINTS TO DISCUSS

COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. In Acts chapter two, the disciples received the Holy Spirit. Can we also receive the Holy Spirit? How?
2. If God asked you to do something that seemed difficult or even impossible, do you think you could do it? If yes, why?
3. In Acts chapter two, we see God use Peter. Remember Peter was a fisherman. He had little education and was not rich. Can God also use you? How?
4. In Acts 2:42-47, we see all those who believed come and fellowship together. This was the beginning of the church. Should we gather with other believers? If yes, what should we do and where should we meet?

MEMORIZE

LESSON ONE BIBLE VERSE

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witness both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

PART TWO: THE CHURCH
LESSON TWO

PREACHING IN JERUSALEM AND SAMARIA

REVIEW

Review last week's lesson.
1. Name the two first parts in our study of the New Testament.

	Part One	
	Part Two	
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. Name the first and second headings of **Part Two** and their descriptions.

	Preaching in the Ends of the Earth	Acceptance of the Gentiles

3. How many books are in the New Testament?
4. The first section in the New Testament is called the Gospels. What is the second section called?
5. What were some of the important events in the last lesson, The Beginning of the Church?

LEARN

1. These are the three lessons for **Part Two, The Church**. Continue to learn these.

	Beginning of the Church	Coming of the Holy Spirit
	Preaching in Jerusalem and Samaria	Suffering of the Church
	Preaching in the Ends of the Earth	Acceptance of the Gentiles

2. These are the first two divisions of the New Testament. The first is called **Gospels** and the second is called **History**.

Gospels	History
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts

3. Preaching in Jerusalem and Samaria

- **Date:**
  - 30–34 AD
- **Important Events:**
  - Many believe and are added to the church in Jerusalem as the disciples, through the power of the Holy Spirit, continue to preach the gospel.
  - The disciples Peter and John are arrested for preaching the gospel.
  - Believers serve one another and share the gospel with boldness, even under persecution.
  - Stephen, a servant of the church, is arrested and killed by those against the gospel.
  - Believers are scattered throughout Judea and Samaria because of persecution. They continue to stand firm and preach the

gospel.
- Many come to Christ in Samaria with the preaching of Philip, a servant of God.

- **Short Outline:**
  - The church continues to grow in Jerusalem.
  - The persecution of the church begins.
  - Believers flee but continue to preach the gospel in other regions.

READ

In the last lesson, Lesson One of Part Two, we learned that the Holy Spirit came as promised by God upon the lives of the disciples and later all those who believed. We also saw the beginning of the church as the believers gathered together. In this lesson, we see the continual growth of the church as God's people continue to serve and share the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit. However, with faith in Christ, persecution may also come.

READ MATT. 10:16-39, JOHN 15:18-27, ACTS CHAPTERS 3-4, CHAPTERS 6-7:54-60, AND 8:1-25.

THE SUFFERING OF THE CHURCH

1. Background

The apostles and the many believers are in Jerusalem meeting together for teaching, fellowship, prayer, and the breaking of the bread. Many are daily added into the church as the apostles and believers perform great miracles and share the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit. However, the religious authorities are angered by their message and begin to persecute the believers, putting them in prison. Yet, even under persecution, the church stands firm, continuing to meet and share with all. As persecution comes, believers are forced to flee Jerusalem. However, they share the gospel everywhere they go.

2. Important Events of the Growth and Suffering of the Church

- The Holy Spirit continues to work in the lives of the apostles, Acts 3:1-11
- The apostles Peter and John are arrested for preaching the gospel, but are later released by the power of God, Acts 4
- Stephen is arrested and becomes the first martyr of the church, Acts 6-7
- Persecution of the church forces many believers to flee Jerusalem,

Acts 8:1-3
- Believers go throughout Judea and Samaria preaching the gospel. Many Samaritans become believers in Christ, Acts 8:4-25

3. **Important Points to Remember**
   - The apostles continued to preach in obedience to Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8.
   - While great demonstrations of God's power were being seen, the believers still suffered for their faith, Acts 4-7.
   - The believers stand firm under great persecution, Acts 4 and 5.
4. **Examples and Lessons We can Follow**
   - It is through the power of the Holy Spirit and our obedience that we can do great things.
   - Even though we are doing God's will and even witnessing great things, we are not excluded from suffering for Christ.
   - We see that even under persecution the believers continued to pray, share the gospel, and rejoice together.
   - God will always be with us, even if we may be put in prison.
   - The gospel is not only for the Jewish people but for all peoples.

DISCUSS

POINTS TO DISCUSS

THE SUFFERING OF THE CHURCH

1. Early in the ministry of the church, we see believers being persecuted for following Christ. Actually, this has been the whole history of the church. Why does God allow His church to suffer?
2. When the apostles and believers were persecuted and even put in jail or faced death, they trusted God, continued to believe, and even showed no fear. Have you ever suffered or been persecuted for your faith in Christ? What happened and how did you react?
3. What can we do when other believers suffer for their faith?
4. We see the church continued to grow and fellowship together. In Acts 4:32 it says that they "were of one heart and soul." What does that mean? How can we also be like the early church?
5. The Jewish people hated the Samaritans. Now God was sending His servants to preach and save those people. How do you think the Jews felt about this? Are there people we do not like but still need to hear the gospel from us?

MEMORIZE

LESSON TWO BIBLE VERSE

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." John 15:19

PART TWO: THE CHURCH
LESSON THREE

PREACHING TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

REVIEW

Review last week's lesson.
1. Name the two first parts in our study of the New Testament.

	Part One	
	Part Two	
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. Name all the main headings of **Part Two** and their descriptions.

3. How many books are in the Bible? How many in the Old Testament and in the New Testament?
4. The first section in the New Testament is called the Gospels. What is the second section called?
5. Can you name the theme from each book of the Gospels?

6. Discuss some of the main events you learned from Lessons One and Two.
- Beginning of the Church
- Preaching in Jerusalem and Samaria

LEARN

1. Continue to memorize the three parts of the New Testament. The next part we study will be **Part Three, Teaching of the Apostles.**

	Part One	Life of Christ
	Part Two	The Church
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. These are the three lessons in **Part Three, The Teaching of the Apostles**. Begin to learn these for the next lesson.

	Paul's Letters to the Church	Faith & Grace
	Peter's Letters to the Church	Trials & Growth
	John's Letters to the Church	Hope & Victory

3. You have memorized the first two divisions of the New Testament, **Gospels** and **History**, as well as names of each of the books in each division. Now learn the third division. It is called **Letters**, and there are 22 letters or books in this division. Begin to memorize each letter in this division.

Gospels	History	Letters
Matthew	Acts	Romans
Mark		1 & 2 Corinthians
Luke		Galatians
John		Ephesians
		Philippians
		Colossians
		1 & 2 Thessalonians

4. Preaching to the Ends of the Earth
   - **Date:**
     - 32-63 AD
   - **Important Events:**
     - Saul, who persecuted the churches, becomes a believer. His name is changed to Paul, and he begins preaching the gospel.
     - God sends Peter to the Gentiles.
     - The church of Antioch sends out Paul and Barnabas to Asia to preach the gospel to the Jews and the Gentiles, the first missionary journey.
     - Paul goes out again. This time he enters Europe, preaching and starting churches among the Gentiles, the second and third missionary journeys.
     - Paul is arrested in Jerusalem and sent to Rome, but the gospel continues to be preached throughout the world by the disciples of Christ.
   - **Short Outline:**
     - Paul converts and begins his preaching ministry.
     - Peter preaches to the Gentiles, and many believe and enter the church.
     - Paul and other disciples go to preach the gospel to all the world.

READ

In Part Two we have studied the coming of the promised Spirit of God which has come to dwell in all who believe in Christ. This was the beginning of the church. However, soon after the church was established, believers began to suffer for their new faith. Yet, under great suffering they remained

faithful. In this lesson we will see the expanse of the gospel and the growth of the church throughout the world.

READ MATT. 28:18-20; ACTS 1:8, CHAPTERS 9-11, 13, 16:6-10, AND CHAPTERS 19-20.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENTILES

1. Background

The church in Jerusalem is being persecuted by the Jewish religious leaders. Under the persecution, believers are scattered through Judea and Samaria, preaching the gospel to everyone. God was working in changing hearts, first, converting Paul, who was arresting the believers, and second, moving Peter and the church leaders' hearts, showing them that the gospel was also for the non-Jews or Gentiles. In obedience to the Holy Spirit, the church sends out Paul and Barnabas as messengers of the gospel to the world. The gospel spreads among Jews and Gentiles, and many believe in Christ.

2. Important Events in the Acceptance of the Gentiles

- Jesus appears to Saul, who is persecuting the church. He is converted, and his name is changed to Paul. He begins to preach the gospel, Acts 9:1-31
- God gives a vision to Peter, telling him to go and preach the gospel to Cornelius, an officer in the Roman army. He and other non-Jews or Gentiles believe and are baptized, Acts 9:32- chapter 10
- Gentiles are accepted in the church by the church leaders, Acts 11:1-18
- The persecution of the church continues. James the apostle is put to death, Acts 12
- In obedience to the Holy Spirit, the church in Antioch sends out Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel throughout Asia, Acts 13-16:5
- Paul and his disciples are sent out again to Asia and Europe preaching, teaching, and establishing the church, Acts 16-19
- Paul is arrested in Jerusalem and sent to Rome to face trial before the Roman government. He continues to preach and write letters to all the churches, Acts 20-28

3. **Important Points to Remember**

- The Holy Spirit continues to guide and empower the church.
- The church continues to grow despite persecution.
- The gospel is to be preached to all peoples and all nations.

4. **Examples and Lessons we can Follow**

- Trust in God and continue to serve Him, even when times are difficult.
- God can change the hearts of all people, even those who are enemies

of the church and Christ.

- We must learn to listen and wait for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- It is God's desire to preach the gospel and include all peoples in His family.
- As in the early church, it is still God's plan for us to spread the gospel and make disciples of all the world.

DISCUSS

POINTS TO DISCUSS

ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENTILES

1. Paul was an evil man who was out to kill all believers and destroy the church, but Jesus appeared and changed his heart. Do you know people who are evil or trying to destroy the church? Can God change them?
2. Jesus commanded his disciples to go to all nations, preach the gospel, and make disciples. Is this command for us today as well? If yes, how can we carry it out?
3. What is our Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria?
4. Throughout the book of Acts, we not only read that the apostles and the church were busy preaching the gospel but also teaching all the new believers how to live in Christ. Jesus told us to "make disciples" (Matt. 28:19). What is a disciple? How can we "make disciples"?
5. In the book of Acts we see that the apostles and disciples of Christ are busy preaching the gospel, but we also see the new believers in the church ministering to the needs of those in their communities. What are the needs of those in your community? How can the church help them?

MEMORIZE

LESSON THREE BIBLE VERSE

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matt. 28:19

PART THREE: TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES
LESSON ONE

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES

REVIEW

Review last week's lesson.
1. Name the three parts in our study of the New Testament.

	Part One	
	Part Two	
	Part Three	

2. Name the first main headings of **Part Two** and their descriptions.

	Peter's Letters to the Church	Trials & Growth
	John's Letters to the Church	Hope & Victory

3. The first section in the New Testament is called the Gospels and the second is History. What is the third section called?
4. Can you name the first six books found in the Letters?

5. Discuss some of the main events you learned from Lesson Three of Part Two.
   - Preaching to the Ends of the Earth

LEARN

1. By now you have learned all three parts in our study of the New Testament. Continue to review and summarize each lesson you learned under each part.

	Part One	Life of Christ
	Part Two	The Church
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. These are the three lessons in **Part Three, The Teaching of the Apostles**. Continue to learn these.

	Paul's Letters to the Church	Faith & Grace
	Peter's Letters to the Church	Trials & Growth
	John's Letters to the Church	Hope & Victory

3. You have memorized the three divisions of the New Testament, **Gospels, History,** and **Letters**, as well as the names of the books in the first two divisions. Now learn the names of the first 15 books in Letters.

Gospels	History	Letters	
Matthew	Acts	Romans	1 & 2 Timothy
Mark		1 & 2 Corinthians	Titus
Luke		Galatians	Philemon
John		Ephesians	Hebrews
		Philippians	James
		Colossians	
		1 & 2 Thessalonians	

4. Paul's Letters to the Church
   - **Date:**
     - 33-65 AD
   - **Important Events:**
     - Jesus the Messiah appears to Paul, and Paul accepts the grace of Jesus through faith.
     - Paul begins to preach to the Jews and the Gentiles that salvation is through faith and not the works of the Law.
     - Paul meets with the Council of Jerusalem over the issue of imposing the Jewish ceremonial law on the Gentile believers; salvation is by faith and the grace of God.
     - Paul is persecuted by the Jews who want to impose the Jewish ceremonial law on all believers.
     - Paul, now an older man, is in prison in Rome. He continues writing to the churches, explaining that salvation is through faith and not works.
   - **Short Outline:**
     - Paul teaches salvation through grace without the works of the Law.
     - Paul meets with the Council of Jerusalem over freedom from the ceremonial law.
     - Paul encourages and instructs the churches through his letters, teaching them about grace and faith.

READ

In Part Three we come to the teachings of the apostles to all believers. These apostles, or messengers, were men chosen by Jesus Christ or by the

churches while other were chosen through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The early task of the apostles was to build and guide the newly established church. They did this by testifying of the work and teachings of Jesus, instructing the church on faith and how Christians should live and serve God. We have seen in our study of the book of Acts how the apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit to do great miracles as proof of the message and power of God. In Part Three we will begin to study the main teachings of three of these apostles, Paul, Peter, and John, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write letters instructing the church. We will now begin our study with the teachings of the apostle Paul.

READ PHIL. 3:4-8; GAL. 3:11; RM. 5:1-2, 6:23; EPH. 2:8-10.

FAITH & GRACE

1. Background

Jesus Christ chose Paul to be His apostle to the Gentile world, but before he was converted, Paul was a Pharisee, a strong observer and teacher of the Jewish Law. Paul as a Pharisee believed that salvation came through following the Law given to the people of Israel through Moses. However, after Paul was saved he understood that, while the Law was good and showed us God's righteousness, it did not have the power to save us and make us righteous. Only through faith in Christ, His death on the cross, and His resurrection could we be saved. This, Paul taught, was the grace or gift of God given to all who believe.

2. Important Events

- Jesus appears to Saul, a member of the Jewish religious order and teacher of the Law. Paul believes in Christ as the Messiah and is saved, Acts 9:1-19.
- Paul begins preaching in Antioch and Jerusalem that salvation is in Christ. The message of the gospel is the death of Christ on the cross, His burial, and His resurrection, Acts 9:20-31.
- Paul and Barnabas are sent out by the church to preach this gospel, and Jews and Gentiles receive salvation by believing in the work of Christ and receive the Holy Spirit, Acts 13:1-3.
- Paul returns to Jerusalem to report how God is leading the Gentiles to faith in Christ and argues that Gentiles do not need to keep the Jewish Law to be saved, Acts 15:1-35.
- Paul writes a strong letter to the churches in Galatia after the Christians fall back and follow the works of the Law for their salvation. He argues that it is through the promise and grace of God that we receive salvation through faith, Gal. 3:10-29.

- Paul is put in prison where he writes to many of the churches, instructing them in Christian life. During this time, he writes a letter to the Roman church, explaining to them that salvation comes through faith and not the works of the Law.

3. Important Points to Remember

- Paul is saved through faith in Christ and belief in the message of the gospel.
- Paul teaches that salvation comes through faith alone in Christ and not through the works of the Law.
- Paul teaches that it is through God's grace that our sins are forgiven and we are saved through faith.

4. Examples and Lessons

- God showed Paul that all humans are sinners, all have broken the Law and sinned against God, Rom. 3:16.
- Our sins separate us from our perfect and Holy God, now and for eternity. Paul calls it death, Rom. 6:23.
- God, because of His love for all humanity, came in Christ and paid the penalty of our sins, Rom. 5:8.
- We can now be saved from our sins, separation of God, and eternal death if we believe Christ came to die for our sins on the cross, rose again, and is living, Rom. 10:9.
- It is by faith that we receive salvation and the grace of God that forgives us and restores our relationship with Him, Eph. 2:8-9.

DISCUSS

POINTS TO DISCUSS

FAITH & GRACE

1. What does sin mean to you? What do you think the Bible means by the word "sin?"
2. How would you explain salvation to someone who has never heard it before?
3. How can you explain the words "faith" and "grace" to someone?
4. If we are not saved by good works and the Law but by faith in Christ, should we do any good works?
5. What do we do when we sin now as believers? Does God forgive us? Read 1 John 1:8-9.

MEMORIZE

LESSON ONE BIBLE VERSE

"…that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." Rom. 10:9-12

PART THREE: TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES
LESSON TWO

PETER'S LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES

REVIEW

Review last week's lesson.
1. Name the three parts in our study of the New Testament.

	Part One	
	Part Two	
	Part Three	

2. Name the first and second headings of **Part Three** and their descriptions.

	John's Letters to the Church	Hope & Victory

3. What are the names of the books under the division called Gospels?
4. Name the books under the division Letters that you learned in the last lesson.
5. Discuss some of the main events you learned from Lesson One of Part Three.

LEARN

1. Continue to review the three parts of the New Testament.

	Part One	Life of Christ
	Part Two	The Church
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. Again, these are the three lessons in **Part Three, The Teaching of the Apostles**. Continue to memorize each lesson and their headings.

	Paul's Letters to the Church	Faith & Grace
	Peter's Letters to the Church	Trials & Growth
	John's Letters to the Church	Hope & Victory

3. You have memorized the three divisions of the New Testament, **Gospels**, **History**, and **Letters.** By now you have also learned 15 of the names of the Letters. Now learn the rest of the 22 books under this division.

Gospels	History	Letters		
Matthew	Acts	Romans	1 & 2 Timothy	Jude
Mark		1 & 2 Corinthians	Titus	Revelation
Luke		Galatians	Philemon	
John		Ephesians	Hebrews	
		Philippians	James	
		Colossians	1 & 2 Peter	
		1 & 2 Thessalonians	1, 2, & 3 John	

4. Peter's Letters to the Church
   - **Date:**
     - 26-67 AD
   - **Important Events:**
     - Jesus calls Peter to follow him to become a fisher of men.
     - Peter confesses that Jesus is the Messiah.
     - Peter denies knowing Jesus three times during Jesus' trial.
     - After Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus restores Peter.
     - Peter is baptized by the Holy Spirit at the day of Pentecost. He preaches, and 3,000 are saved.
     - Peter, with the other apostles, begins his ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.
     - Peter is a leading member of the Council in Jerusalem. He travels throughout the region teaching the new churches and writes the letters to the churches there.
   - **Short Outline:**
     - Peter is called by Jesus to follow him and become one of His twelve disciples.
     - Peter is baptized by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and begins his ministry.
     - Peter becomes a leader of the church and continues ministering to the churches until he is put to death.

READ

In our last lesson, we studied some of Paul's ministry and his inspired teaching on the saving grace of God through the work of Christ on the cross. In this lesson we will learn about the ministry of Peter, his inspired teaching and leadership to the church, and his teaching on suffering and growing as a

Christian. Unlike Paul who was chosen later by Jesus, Peter was one of the first disciples who lived and ministered with Jesus. He witnessed the great miracles of Jesus and listened to His teaching. However, Peter's desire to do great things for Christ usually failed as he tried to do God's work through his own strength. It was not until he was empowered by God's Holy Spirit and began to grow in his faith that Peter began to do great things for the Lord. Peter served during a time when the church saw great miracles and growth but also great persecution. Peter, as a leader of the church, encouraged the early church to remain strong even under persecution and trials and to grow in their faith in Christ.

READ MATT. 4:18, 26:69-75; ACTS 2:1-41; 1 PETER 1:3-9, 13-16; 2 PETER 1:3-11.

TRIALS & GROWTH

1. Background

Peter was one of the first disciples called by Jesus, having witnessed Jesus' life and teaching first hand. Having seen the resurrected Jesus, Peter is again called by Christ to care for Jesus' followers, John 21:15. After learning from his failures and filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Peter preaches, and 3,000 people are saved that day. Peter and the other disciples continued their preaching and teaching ministry, now to all of Judea and Samaria. Peter, as a leader of the church in Jerusalem, also travels to Asia Minor, preaching the gospel and teaching the newly formed churches. As the church grows throughout the world, great persecution and problems develop. Believers are persecuted, not only by religious leaders but their families and society. They have become outcasts; Peter calls them "sojourners," no longer belonging to the things of this world. As these new believers faced many trials and problems, Peter encourages them in his letters to remain faithful and continue to grow in their faith, knowledge, and walk with Christ.

2. Important Events in Peter's Ministry

- Peter is called by Jesus to follow Him to become a fisher of men as well as care for Jesus' followers, Matt. 4:18, John 21:15.
- Peter's failures during his days with Jesus, his lack of faith, and denying he knew Jesus teaches him about forgiveness, restoration, and the empowering one can receive through Christ. Matt. 26:69-75, John 21:15-19.
- Peter and the other apostles begin to face great opposition from the religious leaders and government, Acts 4 and 12.
- While the Christians face difficulties, they continue to grow and serve

one another, Acts 4 and 12.

- As persecution continues, many of the believers are dispersed throughout the world. Peter writes to the churches scattered throughout Asia Minor, encouraging them to continue to grow and trust in God, even under persecution and trials, 1 and 2 Peter.
- Church history teaches that Peter was put to death in Rome in AD 67. However, the believers remained faithful, and the church continued to grow.

3. Important Points to Remember

- Peter understands failure under trials. He learned how one can be forgiven, restored, and strengthened by Christ.
- Peter and the early church continued to boldly serve and trust God, even under persecution by the authorities and other difficulties of life.
- Peter teaches that our suffering on earth is meant to strengthen our faith and growth in our character in Christ.

4. Examples and Lessons

- As Christians, our faith grows weak at times, and we are troubled by difficulties in life. God brings us forgiveness and strength to overcome our weakness and trials.
- We learn that the early believers, while facing great trials and persecution, continue to act boldly preaching, praying, and serving one another, Acts 4
- Peter teaches us that trials are a testing of our faith, and through them we grow stronger and more like our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Pet. 2:17–21
- Peter reminds us that, though we may suffer and lose many things here on earth because of our faith in Christ, our reward and inheritance is not of this earth but in heaven, 1 Pet. 1:4
- Peter also teaches us that we are but travelers and strangers in this earth, and the suffering is very small when we compare it to our glory in eternity, I Pet. 2:11

DISCUSS

POINTS TO DISCUSS

TRIALS & GROWTH

1. Like Peter, have you ever failed to trust in Christ? Do you believe God has forgiven you?
2. What are some of the trials and difficulties Christians usually go through? What are some of the difficulties you have gone through and how has God helped you?
3. Have you ever been persecuted because of your faith in Christ? What did you learn or how did it change you?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. What does the word "testing" mean to you? Many think that this kind of test is to see if the person is a believer or not, but the word really means to test the strength of our faith like we would test the strength of a rope. How strong is your faith in Christ?
5. How and what would you share with a brother or sister in Christ who is going through many difficulties and trails?

MEMORIZE

LESSON TWO BIBLE VERSE

"After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you." I Pet. 5:10

PART THREE: TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES
LESSON THREE

JOHN'S LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES

REVIEW

Review last week's lesson.
1. Name the three parts in our study of the New Testament.

	Part One	
	Part Two	
	Part Three	

2. Name all the main headings of **Part Three** and their descriptions.

3. Name all three of the divisions we learned in the New Testament.
4. Name all 27 books of the New Testament.
5. Give a small overview of the main themes of each Part and Lesson we have studied.

LEARN

1. You have learned all of this in your study of the New Testament. Continue reviewing the three parts of the New Testament.

	Part One	Life of Christ
	Part Two	The Church
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

2. These are the three lessons in **Part Three, The Teaching of the Apostles**. The last lesson is on John's letters to the church, and the theme is Hope and Victory.

	Paul's Letters to the Church	Faith & Grace
	Peter's Letters to the Church	Trials & Growth
	John's Letters to the Church	Hope & Victory

3. You have memorized the three divisions of the New Testament, **Gospels**, **History**, and **Letters.** By now you are able to name all the books of the New Testament and have a basic understanding of the theme of each book.

Gospels	History	Letters		
Matthew	Acts	Romans	1 & 2 Timothy	Jude
Mark		1 & 2 Corinthians	Titus	Revelation
Luke		Galatians	Philemon	
John		Ephesians	Hebrews	
		Philippians	James	
		Colossians	1 & 2 Peter	
		1 & 2 Thessalonians	1, 2, & 3 John	

4. John's Letters to the Church
   - **Date:**
     - 26-100 AD
   - **Important Events:**
     - Jesus calls John to follow and minister with Him.
     - John is witness to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.
     - John leads in the growth and ministry of the early church.
     - John travels and instructs the early church throughout Asia Minor.
     - John writes the Gospel of John, 1, 2, & 3 John, and Revelation.
     - John may have died in exile on the island of Patmos.
   - **Short Outline:**
     - John is called by Jesus to be His disciple.
     - John helps establish the new churches through Israel and Asia Minor.
     - John writes the gospel, three letters to the churches, and Revelation, an account of the end times.

READ

We have studied the lives and teachings of the apostles Paul and Peter, messengers chosen by God who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to teach and lead the church. Their letters to the churches have always been accepted by Christians as scripture, words directly inspired by the Holy Spirit, 2 Peter 1:20-21. In this section, we will study the life and teachings of John, a disciple and apostle of Christ. John teaches hope and victory over sin and evil in this world and helps us understand the last days and eternity with Christ in heaven.

READ MATT. 4:21-23; 1 JOHN 1:5-10; 3:1-3, 7-8; 4:4; REV. CHAPTERS 19-21.

HOPE & VICTORY

1. Background

The apostle John, like Peter, was a fisherman before Jesus called him to become His disciple. Both John and his brother James dropped their nets to follow and learn from Christ, the Messiah. The gospels show us that it was John who was the closest to Jesus, sat next to Him in the Last Supper, and even remained with Jesus and Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the crucifixion when the other disciples fled and went into hiding. Later, John, with Peter, became a leader of the newly established church in Jerusalem and was arrested and suffered under the persecution of the church. He even lost his brother James, who was martyred for his faith. However, it is John who writes to us of the hope and victory we have in our Christian faith. We have been forgiven for our sins and overcome the devil and his works. He gives us detailed teachings of Jesus in the Gospel of John, and in his letters to the churches, 1, 2, and 3 John, he teaches us of the victory we now have as believers. In the book of Revelation, John writes about our hope of eternal life in heaven, the final victory Christ has over evil, and the victory we will all share with Christ in heaven.

2. Important Events in John's Ministry

- Jesus calls John and his brother James to leave their work and follow Him, Matt. 4:21-22.
- John is with Christ at the crucifixion when all the other disciples had fled and gone into hiding, John 19:26-27.
- After witnessing Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven, John and the other apostles receive the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:1-4.
- John and Peter preach the gospel and lead the new church in Jerusalem, Acts 3.
- John, Peter, and James become the pillars of the Council in Jerusalem, Gal. 2.
- In AD 70, Jerusalem is destroyed by the Roman Empire. John and the believers continue to live in hope and victory, teaching and preaching the gospel.
- John is exiled to the island of Patmos in Asia Minor where he receives a vision and writes the book of Revelation. In this last book of the Bible, God reveals to John the final victory over evil and Satan. All who believe will live in the new earth with Christ.

3. Important Points to Remember

- John is one of the most faithful apostles. After Jesus called John to follow Him, John never left His side and remained with Him even until His death.
- John lived and taught a life in which we are victorious over the power of sin and this evil world.
- John instructs and encourages the church in his letters of the present and future hope and victory in Christ. Note that John writes to the churches during a period of great oppression of the church and while he is in prison far away on an island.

4. Examples and Lessons

- We now have fellowship with God our Father and have been cleansed from all sin through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, 1 John 1:5-10
- Jesus has come to destroy the works of the devil and give us victory in overcoming his power as children of God, 1 John 3:8, 4:4
- In the last days, God will judge and punish all those in the world who refuse to believe in him, Rev. 6-18
- Christ will return, and Satan and the world will be destroyed, Rev. 19-20
- God will make a new heaven and earth, and we will finally dwell with Him forever, Rev. 21-22

DISCUSS

POINTS TO DISCUSS

HOPE & VICTORY

1. John records some of Jesus' words in which Jesus calls Himself the bread of life, the light of the world, the good shepherd, and the way, the truth, and the life. What do these mean to you and how can you apply them in your life?
2. John found hope in believing in and serving Christ in very difficult times. How would you define hope? Do you have hope?
3. John not only teaches that we have hope, but that we already have victory in this world. What do we have victory over? Do you feel you have this victory?
4. How does John's description of Jesus' second coming, victory over Satan, and heaven in Revelation encourage you today?
5. What do you think heaven will be like?

MEMORIZE

LESSON THREE BIBLE VERSE

"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." I John 4:4

APPENDICES

APPENDIX: 1

DIVISIONS AND NAMES OF THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels	History	Letters		
Matthew	Acts	Romans	1 & 2 Timothy	Jude
Mark		1 & 2 Corinthians	Titus	Revelation
Luke		Galatians	Philemon	
John		Ephesians	Hebrews	
		Philippians	James	
		Colossians	1 & 2 Peter	
		1 & 2 Thessalonians	1, 2, & 3 John	

APPENDIX: 2

OVERVIEW OF THE THREE PARTS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

	Part One	Life of Christ
	Part Two	The Church
	Part Three	Teaching of the Apostles

APPENDIX: 3

OVERVIEW OF THE LESSONS UNDER EACH CHAPTER

Part One, Life of Christ

	Beginning of the Life of Christ	Announcement & Birth
	Christ's Ministry	Preaching & Healing
	Last Days of Christ's Ministry	Death & Resurrection

Part Two, The Church

	Beginning of the Church	Coming of the Holy Spirit
	Preaching in Jerusalem and Samaria	Suffering of the Church
	Preaching in the Ends of the Earth	Acceptance of the Gentiles

Part Three, Teaching of the Apostles

	Paul's Letters to the Church	Faith & Grace
	Peter's Letters to the Church	Trials & Growth
	John's Letters to the Church	Hope & Victory

APPENDIX: 4

BIBLE VERSUS TO LEARN

PART ONE

Lesson One

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us." Isaiah 7:14

Lesson Two

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24

Lesson Three

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Rom. 5:8-11

PART TWO

Lesson One

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witness both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Lesson Two

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." John 15:19

Lesson Three

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matt. 28:19

PART THREE

Lesson One

"…that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. Rom. 10:9-12

Lesson Two

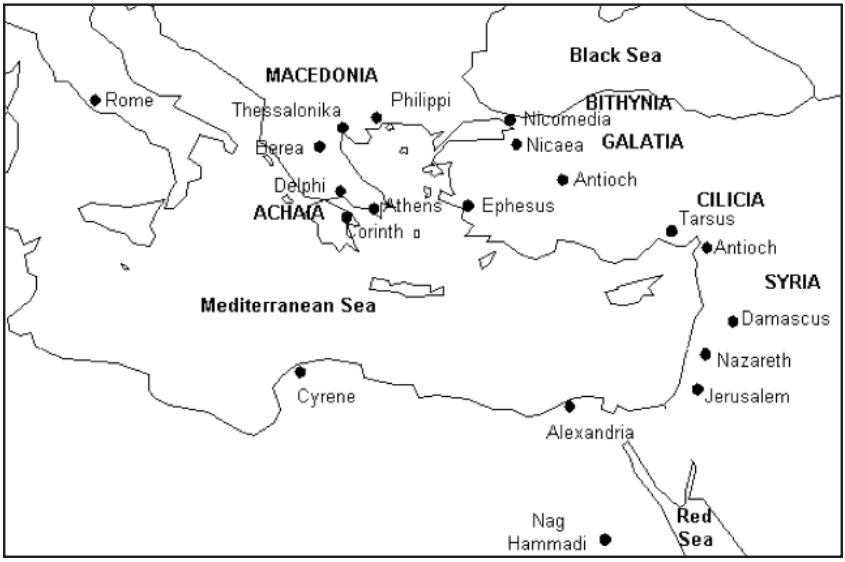
"After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you." I Pet. 5:10

Lesson Three

"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." I John 4:4

APPENDIX: 5

MAPS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Palestine

Asia Minor and Europe