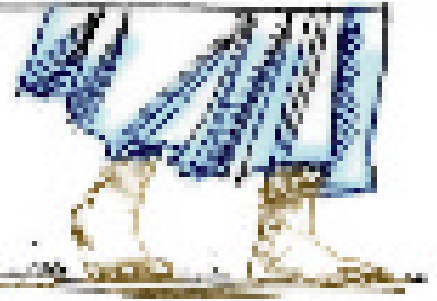


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Lesson 2 / Page 1

Loving Our Lord

Jesus says in Matthew 11:25 that He will reveal the Father to us. We see this happening all throughout God's Word. One of the first and most apparent attributes of God the Father is that He is love. 1 John 4:8 and 16 say "God is love."

1. How did God reveal His love to us according to 1 John 4:9? _____

2. What is the ultimate definition of love according to 1 John 4:9? _____

3. What does verse 18 of 1 John 4 say about love? _____

4. God sent Jesus to save us. What did we do to deserve this love according to 2 Timothy 1:9? _____

5. What does Romans 5:8 say? _____

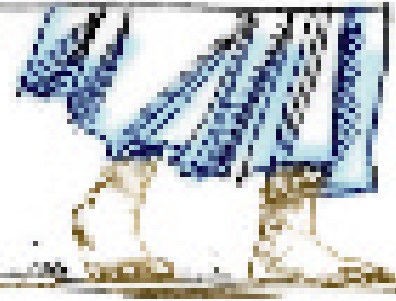
6. How long will God's love last according to Jeremiah 31:3? _____

7. These may not be new thoughts to you, but when is the last time you meditated on the love God has for you? Turn to another very familiar passage, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. These verses describe the characteristics of God's love for us. Read these verses out loud beginning each new aspect of love with this phrase, *God's love for me is...*
For example: *God's love for me is patient*
God's love for me is _____

Did you say them all out loud? Did you say them all out loud and really listen to what you said? The final phrase states boldly *God's love for me never fails!* This is truth that will set you free. Do you doubt God's love? Do you feel like He has failed you in some way? Romans 8:31 says that God is for us! In spite of how we *feel* or what our circumstances may be, the truth tells us that God's love has not, and will not, fail us.

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Lesson 2 / Page 2

8. A disciple of Jesus Christ must stand firm in the truth of God's love. Take just a few moments to meditate on the way God shows us love each day. What do the following verses say?

Psalm 68:19 _____

Romans 5:5 _____

Ephesians 1:3 _____

Colossians 1:13 _____

End this portion of the lesson in prayer using Psalm 107:8-9 to guide you to give thanks to the Lord for His unconditional love. You may want to write out some verses on 3x5 cards to remind you of God's love.

9. If you've never personally embraced God's love for you and have questions about it or how to pray using a Bible verse, please talk to your small group leader or someone you respect as a Christian. Just ask God Himself to help you receive His love. You may want to read the following verses asking yourself "what does this verse say to me?"

Romans 3:23 _____

Romans 6:23 _____

John 3:3 _____

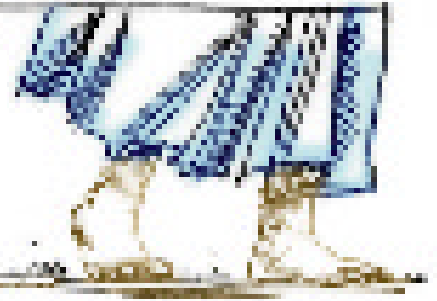
John 14:6 _____

Romans 10:9-11 _____

Revelation 3:20 _____

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Lesson 2 / Page 3

Learning His Word

Did you know that Jesus shared His personal testimony with the Pharisees, the Jewish religious leaders of His day? Read it in John 8:12-30. If you have trouble concentrating as you read, read it aloud.

1. Write out some of the claims Jesus Christ makes about Himself from this passage: _____

2. What happened as He spoke according to verse 30 of John 8? _____

3. Read John 8:31-32. What did Jesus say to the Jews who believed Him? _____

4. What proof will be in your life that you truly are a disciple of Jesus Christ? _____

5. What will the truth do for those who obey it? _____

6. Some of Jesus' listeners didn't understand why they needed freedom; they weren't slaves, or so they thought. What did they ask Jesus in John 8:33? _____

7. What truth does Jesus reveal to us in John 8:34-35? _____

8. What has the Son come to do according to verse 36? _____

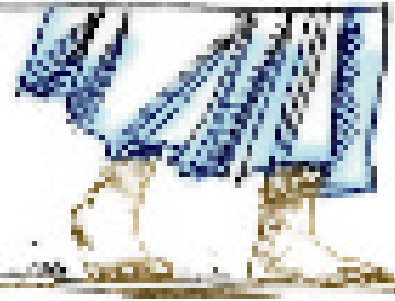
9. Read the rest of John 8. Jesus makes more bold claims about Himself. Remember, Jesus is speaking to very powerful men. As Jesus' disciples, or students, we need to be very familiar with Whom it is we follow. As you read His words, what stands out to you? _____

10. Some people ignorantly picture Jesus as a weak, mild-mannered man. How does this passage obliterate that view? _____

11. What astounding question does Jesus ask in John 8:46? _____

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Lesson 2 / Page 4

12. What amazing claim does He make about Himself in verses 58-59, and how do the listeners respond?

13. Why don't they believe Him according to verse 47?

14. What must we do to be saved from death in our sins according to John 8:24?

15. Can you imagine if Jesus hid this truth from us? Depending on your point of view, these words of Jesus bring freedom or fear. He came to tell the truth and make a way for us to belong to Him and become His disciples. Have you gained any new insights into who Jesus is from John 8? What have you learned, or been reminded of?

16. Skim back over John 8. What promises are made to Jesus' disciples in this chapter? See if you can find at least three and make them personal. Example: from verse 12, "I have the light of life and will never walk in darkness."

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

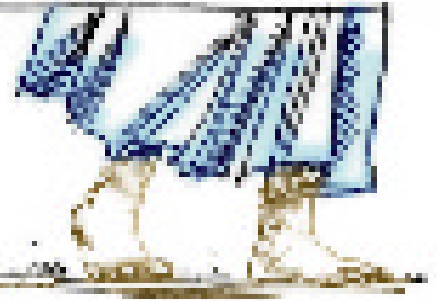
17. Write out John 8:31-32 in the space provided:

Core Belief

One of the core beliefs of a disciple is about the authority of God's Word. If we don't trust that it is His inerrant Word, there's no point in following its teachings. We must believe that it doesn't just teach words that are true, but that the Bible itself is truth. Jesus Himself says in John 17:17 that God's Word is truth. The word Jesus uses in that verse for truth is not an adjective, but a noun (aletheia). As a noun it is a stated fact, not a description of something.

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Lesson 2 / Page 5

1. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say? _____

2. What does Peter say about the Old Testament prophecies in 2 Peter 1:19-20? _____

3. How does 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 enlighten you? _____

4. If *all* Scripture is God's Word, can we trust it *all* according to Titus 1:2? Why? _____

5. What do the following verses say about God's Word?

Psalm 12:6 _____

Proverbs 30:5 _____

Psalm 119:89 _____

Matthew 24:35 _____

The bottom line is this: the Bible itself claims to be the very Word of God. In all of history there has never been anything shown to be false that is written in the Bible. Can any other writing claim that?

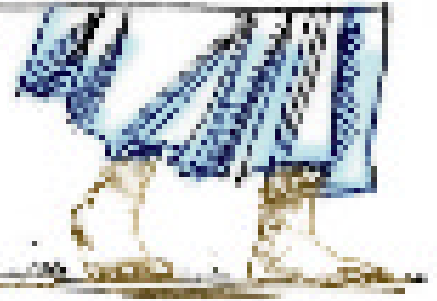
Living His Way

Jesus says in John 8:31, "If you hold to my teaching....." The Revised Standard Version says, "If you continue in my Word...." The New Living Translation puts it this way: "You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings."

1. What is the obvious mandate for those who call themselves disciples of Jesus Christ? _____

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Lesson 2 / Page 6

2. We are called to learn continually and apply daily God's Word to our lives. Will we ever exhaust this treasure according to Hebrews 4:12? _____

3. Do you desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What will that mean for you as far as God's Word is concerned?

4. What does 2 Timothy 4:3 say? _____

5. Do you believe they are talking about our world today? _____

6. How can you avoid being sucked into that mentality? _____

As you conclude this lesson, think about what you have learned about your Teacher, Jesus Christ.

Look back over your lesson and talk to God about what you are learning. Do you need to make the teachings of Christ a higher priority in your life? Have you neglected His Word lately?

Write out simple changes that you can make in your schedule to make sure you have time to listen to your gentle, humble Teacher.

Summary Statement:

If you could sum up in one sentence what you want to remember from this lesson, what would that statement be?

Memory verse challenge:

John 8:12 — Jesus said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."