

Study 1. Jesus is Lord

READ: John 13: 12-17



KEY VERSE: John 14: 15
"If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Yes! Jesus is Lord. That is what Jesus should be to us, now that we are Christians. He should be our Lord and Master, which basically means that we are to obey Him, by putting into practice what the Bible says and honouring Jesus as our Lord, not just as our Saviour.

As Christians, we are to be:

1. BELIEVERS

This is perhaps obvious, because we became Christians by believing on the Lord Jesus. (**Acts 16: 31**) But the first step of faith is to be followed by many others! Believing the Word of God, and putting it into practice was so important for the first Christians that they became known as 'believers'. Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy and encouraged him to **"be an example to the believers . . ."**. (**1 Timothy 4: 12**)

2. FOLLOWERS

This means 'imitators', or 'copiers'. In other words, believers are to imitate (or copy) God, in order to become more like Him. Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, **"Therefore be followers of God as dear children"**. (**Ephesians 5: 1**) Believers are also to copy other Christians. Paul also reminded the Christians in Thessalonica that **"You became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit"**. (**1 Thessalonians 1: 6**)

3. DISCIPLES

The word 'disciple' means 'a learner'. In New Testament times a teacher had a band of followers who learned the things he taught and did, and then put them into practice. Disciples didn't just follow the teacher literally, by walking behind him! A disciple was one who followed the teacher by putting into practice the things the teacher taught. The idea was that the teacher taught disciples, who then went out and taught others to be disciples. As a disciple you listen to, look at, learn from, and live like your Master!

Jesus had many disciples, and from them He chose twelve to be His special companions. These twelve spent all their time with Jesus. They were chosen for

two purposes:

- i) **"that they might be with Him"** and
- ii) **"that He might send them out to preach"**.
 (**Mark 3: 14**)

The 'being with Him' was the learning part - the 'sending forth' was the practising part. They were to go and preach His message. Later, just before the Lord Jesus went back into Heaven, He commanded His disciples to **"Go . . . and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"**. (**Matthew 28: 19 & 20**)

4. SERVANTS

As servants, we are to obey our Master. Before we became believers we were the servants of sin and Satan. Although the Lord Jesus makes us free, it is not to do our own thing and live the way we want. We are freed in order to become the servants of the Lord Jesus. **"You are not your own. For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."** (**1 Corinthians 6: 19 & 20**)

One of the things Jesus said to people was, **"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord', and do not do the things which I say?"**. (**Luke 6: 46**) He once called Himself the **"Lord and Teacher"** of believers. (**John 13: 14**) The Lord Jesus was the Perfect Servant of His Father in Heaven and did the things that pleased His Father. He Himself set us an example. We are to be His servants and servants of God. The servant is not greater than the master. We are expected to obey Him. **"If you love Me, keep My commandments"**, said the Lord Jesus. (**John 14: 15**) As servants, we are answerable to the Lord for what we do. As servants, we must serve God faithfully and selflessly, hoping one day to hear Him say, when we reach Heaven, **"Well done, good and faithful servant . . . Enter into the joy of your Lord"**. (**Matthew 25: 23**)

The Apostle Paul summed up a true believer's relationship to God when, in speaking of Him, he said, **"to Whom I belong and Whom I serve"**. (**Acts 27: 23**) He recognized that, now that he was saved, he belonged to God, body and soul. He wanted to serve and obey Him. He was 'saved to serve'. So are you!

Study 1. Jesus is Lord

1 WHY ARE CHRISTIANS REFERRED TO IN THE BIBLE AS "BELIEVERS"?

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2 A) ACCORDING TO ACTS 11: 25 & 26, IN WHAT CITY WERE BELIEVERS FIRST CALLED "CHRISTIANS"?

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B) WHAT DOES THE WORD 'CHRISTIAN' IMPLY?

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3 EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THE WORD 'FOLLOWER' AND SUGGEST ONE WAY IN WHICH A CHRISTIAN MAY FULFIL THIS DESCRIPTION.

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4 A) FOR WHAT TWO PURPOSES DID THE LORD JESUS CHOOSE HIS TWELVE DISCIPLES?

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B) NAME FOUR OF THE TWELVE DISCIPLES. (MARK 3: 16-19)

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5 A DISCIPLE IS 'A LEARNER'.

i. Explain clearly how he learns.

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ii. When he has learned, what is he then expected to do?

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iii. How can this be applied to Christians living today?

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6 READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6: 19 & 20, THEN ANSWER:-

i. What did Paul mean when he wrote to the Christians at Corinth, "You are not your own"?

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ii. How can young Christians today "glorify God" in their bodies?

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7 EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT IT MEANS TO MAKE JESUS, THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE.

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Have you found some regular way in which you serve the Lord Jesus? If so, tell us about it.

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25

Total marks for this study

READ: John 4: 16-30



KEY VERSE: Acts 1: 8

"You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Christians, then, are disciples, or followers, of the Lord Jesus. From the example of the early Christians in **Acts 2** we have seen that we are to be baptized, in obedience to the Lord's command. We are to join a local church of Christians, participate in the 'breaking of bread', listen to the teaching of the Bible and join in prayer. But before returning to Heaven, the Lord Jesus gave us another command! He said, **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"**. (**Mark 16: 15**)

A CONVINCED WOMAN

In **John 4** the Lord met a woman from a city of Samaria, called Sychar. He spoke to her, and she believed what He had to say. She was so impressed by Him, that she went into the city and told other people about Jesus, saying, **"Come, see a man who told me all things that I ever did"**. In fact, she didn't just tell them about Jesus, she invited them to come and hear Him. (**v. 29**) As a result of her testimony and her invitation to people to come, **"they went out of the city and came to Him"**. (**v. 30**) Later we read, **"Many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman"**. (**v. 39**)

A HEALED MAN

In **Mark 5** we read of a wild, demon possessed man who was healed by the Lord Jesus. He wanted to go with Jesus but Jesus said to him, **"Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you"**. As a result of what he had to say, **"all marvelled"**. (**See Mark 5: 18-20**)

A PERSECUTED PEOPLE

Acts 8 records how the Christians in Jerusalem were persecuted for their faith. Many of them left Jerusalem and went to Judea and Samaria. (**v. 1**) Even though they had been persecuted for their faith, and had to leave their homes, the Christians **"who were scattered went everywhere, preaching the word"**. (**v. 4**)



"YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH."

These three examples show us that one of the results of becoming a disciple is a deep desire to tell others about the Lord Jesus.

Romans 10: 13 contains this wonderful promise, **"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved"**. But the next verse asks some very pointed questions! **"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"** (**v. 14**) So God expects us to go and tell others about Him, that they too may be saved.

Now we are not all preachers in the sense of standing up and preaching a sermon as Peter did in **Acts 2**. But the woman of Samaria and the healed man of **Mark 5** probably didn't preach a sermon. They just told other people what Jesus had said or done for them. Anyone can do that!

Have you friends, members of your family, or neighbours who have not been saved? You should be looking for opportunities to speak to them about the Lord and the Bible, and perhaps inviting them to come to meetings to hear the Word of God. It may be that people will not listen to us, or will laugh at us. But God has told us to go and tell others and we should obey Him. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if others became Christians as a result of your testimony!

Study 4. Telling Others

1 THE WORDS QUOTED FROM *MARK 16: 15* ARE OFTEN CALLED 'THE GREAT COMMISSION'. EXPRESS BRIEFLY, IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT THE LORD JESUS IS TELLING HIS DISCIPLES TO DO. 3

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2 READ *JOHN 4: 23-30* AGAIN.

i. What convinced the woman, more than anything else, that Jesus was the 'Messiah' ('the Christ')?

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ii. What effect did her words have on the men of the city?

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iii. What title did the men of the city use for Jesus in *John 4: 42*?

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3 A) TO WHOM SHOULD WE POINT ANYONE WHO ENQUIRES ABOUT THE WAY OF SALVATION? (*ACTS 8: 35*)

B) WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TELL OTHERS THE 'GOOD NEWS'?

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C) SUGGEST SOME REASONS WHY WE OFTEN MISS OPPORTUNITIES TO TELL OUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE LORD JESUS.

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4 A) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE 'PERSECUTED' FOR YOUR FAITH?

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B) IN WHAT WAYS MIGHT A YOUNG CHRISTIAN BE PERSECUTED AT HOME, WORK OR COLLEGE?

C) WHEN WE ARE PERSECUTED, WE SHOULD REMEMBER THE PROMISE WHICH THE LORD JESUS GAVE HIS DISCIPLES. (*MATTHEW 28: 19 & 20*) WRITE THE PROMISE HERE.

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5 A) USING THE KEY VERSE GIVE THE NAMES OF THE PLACES WHERE THE APOSTLES WERE TO BE WITNESSES FOR THE LORD JESUS.

B) WHAT NAME IS USUALLY GIVEN TO CHRISTIANS WHO GO ABROAD TO MAKE THE GOSPEL KNOWN?

C) WRITE A SENTENCE ABOUT ONE SUCH PERSON WHOM YOU KNOW, OR ABOUT WHOM YOU HAVE HEARD OR READ.

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Use the space below, or use a separate piece of paper, to tell us what the Lord Jesus means to you.

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100
 Total marks for this Unit

Return your lessons to:
 PBS Centre or to:

25
 Total marks for this study

Study 2. Being Baptized

READ: Acts 2: 36-47



KEY VERSE: Matthew 28: 19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

In Acts 2: 41 we read that over 3,000 people became Christians on the same day. A number of things happened at that time which are important to us because they show what the first Christians did.

1. THEY “GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD”.

This means that they listened to the message Peter preached, agreed with it, and acted on it. In other words, they believed that what he said about Jesus was true. They also did what Peter told them to do. They changed their minds about Jesus, believing now that He was **“Lord and Christ”**. They accepted the message, repented of their sin of rejecting Jesus’ claims to be the Christ, and were saved.

2. THEY WERE BAPTIZED.

Baptism was an important step for these people. It continues to be an important act of obedience for believers all over the world today. We must look carefully at what it means to be baptized.

WHO WERE BAPTIZED? *“Those who gladly received his word.” (Acts 2: 41)* It was believers who were baptized. The first step of obedience to the Gospel is repentance. The second step is belief or trust in the Lord Jesus. In the Bible, believing in Him is very closely linked with being baptized. It is always stressed that believers are baptized, not unbelievers. It is also clear that a person becomes a believer before baptism, not after baptism or because of it. It is our faith in the work of Christ that makes us Christians, not our baptism. Baptism is the ‘fruit’ of faith in Christ, not the ‘root’ of it.

HOW WERE THEY BAPTIZED? The word ‘baptize’ in the Greek language in which the New Testament was originally written, means ‘to immerse’ or ‘to put something completely under’. If you have a white handkerchief and you want to turn it blue, you buy a dye powder from the store, put it in water, mix the colour around, and then plunge the

handkerchief down into the blue coloured water. In the same way, then, as you would ‘baptize’ a piece of cloth by immersing it in water, so these early Christians were immersed in water after they became believers. The same thing happened to the Ethiopian man in the desert. (Acts 8: 36-38) He listened to the message Philip preached to him, believed it and then was baptized. When they came to water in the desert, both he and Philip **“went down into the water”** and he was baptized in it.

WHY WERE THEY BAPTIZED? They were baptized in water because the Lord Jesus had said to His disciples just before He left them and went back to Heaven, **“Go . . . make disciples . . . baptizing them”.** (Matthew 28: 19) Now Peter was obeying this command of the Lord Jesus in telling these new believers at Jerusalem that they needed to be baptized. Their baptism was an act of obedience. All Christians should likewise be obedient!

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF BAPTISM? When an individual believer goes down into the water, under the water, and comes up out of the water, he is showing symbolically what he has believed. Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 15: 3 & 4, “Christ died for our sins . . . He was buried . . . and He rose again the third day . . .”** When a Christian is baptized, he is declaring his faith in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus as the basis of his salvation.

3. THEY BEGAN TO LEARN.

Having been saved and baptized, they began to learn the teachings of Jesus. The ones who taught them were the apostles, the men who had been with Jesus, and had heard Him teach. The new Christians **“continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine”.** (Acts 2: 42) In other words, they went along to the teaching meetings of that first church and learned what the Christian faith is all about.

If you have been saved, that’s good. You are now a Christian. You have obeyed the Gospel. That is the first step. The second step is to be baptized. Enquire about this matter from a nearby church which practises believers’ baptism in the way that the New Testament teaches, and, if possible, go along to their teaching and preaching meetings. Learn, obey, and later you will be able to teach others!

Study 2. Being Baptized

1 A) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPENT?

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B) WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR THE JEWS, IN JERUSALEM, TO REPENT? (SEE ACTS 2: 36-38)

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C) WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR US TO REPENT?

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6

2 A) WHAT DOES THE WORD 'BAPTISM' MEAN?

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B) DESCRIBE BRIEFLY THE BAPTISM OF THE ETHIOPIAN, AS RECORDED IN ACTS 8: 36-38.

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4

3 BELIEVING IN THE LORD JESUS SHOULD ALWAYS COME BEFORE BAPTISM.

WRITE OUT A VERSE FROM THE BIBLE READING WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THIS STATEMENT.

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2

4 ANSWER EACH OF THESE QUESTIONS IN A FEW WORDS.

i. Who should be baptized?

ii. How should they be baptized?

iii. Why should they be baptized?

iv. What is baptism a 'picture' of?

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5 AS CHRISTIANS WE NEED TO LEARN AND OBEY. SUGGEST WAYS BY WHICH A YOUNG CHRISTIAN CAN DEVELOP SPIRITUALLY.

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6 BAPTISM IS A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF SOMEONE'S PERSONAL, PRIVATE FAITH. EXPLAIN THIS STATEMENT FROM WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM THIS STUDY.

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7 WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS TO "CONTINUE STEADFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE"? (ACTS 2: 42)

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25

Total marks for this study

READ: Acts 2: 41-47, Acts 20: 6-12



KEY VERSES: Hebrews 10: 24 & 25

“Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together . . .”

The Bible Reading from **Acts 2** shows us two other things that these first believers did.

THEY WERE ‘IN FELLOWSHIP’ WITH EACH OTHER.

This means more than that they spent a lot of time with each other. Now that they were believers they found they had a lot in common. They loved God, they loved each other and they loved to spend time with each other. These new Christians shared their food, their homes, their money and their knowledge of God.

But the words ‘in fellowship’ mean something else, too. They were, to put it simply, all members of the same group of believers, i.e. **“the church” v. 47**. Today, if a building is used for religious purposes it is often called a ‘church’. For instance, if we want to direct someone somewhere we would perhaps say, “Go down the road and turn left at the church”. But the real meaning of the word ‘church’ in the Greek language in which the book of the Acts was written, was ‘the assembly’, or ‘group’. The ‘church’ then, is the people, not the building! So these new believers all joined the same assembly, or church, of Christians. They were in fellowship with one another. As a new believer, you, too, should try to find an assembly of Christians, who recognizes Jesus Christ as Head, and follows closely the teaching of the New Testament for all their beliefs. You should try to attend their times of worship, prayer, and teaching, whenever possible.

THEY CONTINUED IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND PRAYERS.

These were two of the meetings that the believers had in the early days. They met together to **“break bread” (Acts 20: 7)** and to pray. Now we know

that this **“breaking of bread”** was different from just eating together, because **Acts 2: 42-47** explains that, in addition to the **“breaking of bread”**, they were **“breaking bread from house to house”**. The **“breaking of bread”** is also known as **“The Lord’s Supper”**. (See **1 Corinthians 11: 20**) It was the time when believers met together and broke the bread and drank from the cup (of wine) in memory of the Lord Jesus. They did this because He had said to His disciples before He died, **“Do this in remembrance of Me”**. (See **Luke 22: 19 & 20 and 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26**)

They also met together for prayer. Praying is talking to God. God talks to us when we read the Bible. We talk to Him when we pray. It is good to pray on your own, and to tell God what is in your heart in a private way. But it is also good to get together with other Christians to pray. Some of the first prayer meetings are recorded in **Acts 4: 23-31** and **Acts 12: 12-16**.

From the example of these first century believers, we see that God wants us to be baptized, and then to join ourselves to a company of Christians. Then, when we are in fellowship with them, we should be at the ‘breaking of bread’, teaching, and prayer meetings. If we do this, we will grow and we will help others to grow, and we will please God. In **Acts 20**, which was the second Bible Reading for this Study, we see Christians, many years later, still following the example of these first Christians in **Acts 2**. Paul came to visit them, and found that they had come together on Sunday, **“to break bread”**, and to listen to the teaching of the Word of God.

Being a Christian means we are part of a family. It is important that we should have the support and friendship of other Christians. The obedience and practices of these first believers are a good example for us today. But living the Christian life means more than just attending meetings. That is the public side of Christian life. Privately, it is walking with God, too, as we shall see.

Study 3. In Fellowship

1 A) WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE MEAN WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT A 'CHURCH' TODAY?

B) WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT MEANING OF THE WORD 'CHURCH'?

2

2 EXPLAIN WHAT 'FELLOWSHIP' MEANT TO THE FIRST CHRISTIANS?

3

3 A) IN WHAT PRACTICAL WAYS DID THEY SHOW THEIR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER?
(SEE ACTS 2: 44 & 45 AND 4: 34 & 35)

B) WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BENEFITS TODAY OF HAVING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND CHRISTIAN FRIENDS?

4

4 THE "BREAKING OF BREAD" WAS INTRODUCED BY THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF.
READ *1 Corinthians 11: 23-26*, AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING BRIEFLY:-

- i. When did He introduce it?
- ii. What did He say the bread would represent?
- iii. What did He say about the cup?
- iv. Why do Christians take the bread and the cup?
- v. For how long are they to continue doing this?

5

5 ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE:-

- In the New Testament people were baptized by sprinkling water on their heads.
- All believers in the Lord Jesus should be baptized.
- It is God's will that Christians should meet together.
- In the Bible, the word 'church' always means a building for religious services.
- Praying to God was a feature of first century church life.

5

6 SUGGEST SOME REASONS WHY WE SHOULD NOT FORSAKE "THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER". (SEE KEY VERSES)

3

7 LOOK AT THE PRAYER MEETING IN ACTS 4: 23-31:-

- i. Who were "their own company" or "companions" ?
- ii. What phrase in v. 24 indicates they were united in their prayers?
- iii. What was the three-fold result of this prayer meeting?

3

25