



**Twyford
Fellowship
Group**

*CENTRED
ON
JESUS*

CENTRED ON JESUS.....

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To the student,

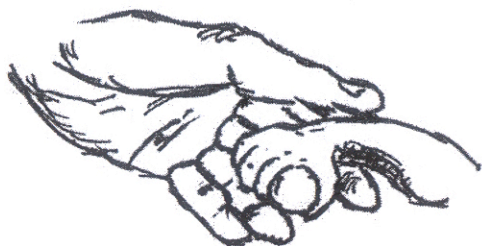
These notes are designed to help you to grow in your Christian life by learning more about Jesus and God. Work through them, noting down what you learn and questions that remain unanswered. When you meet with your helper, ask him or her your questions and make sure you fully understand what you have read.

To the helper,

Work through these notes yourself, not skimping on the study. If there are things you do not understand, ask someone. If you are asked questions you cannot answer then don't bluff your way through.

"I don't know, I'll find out"

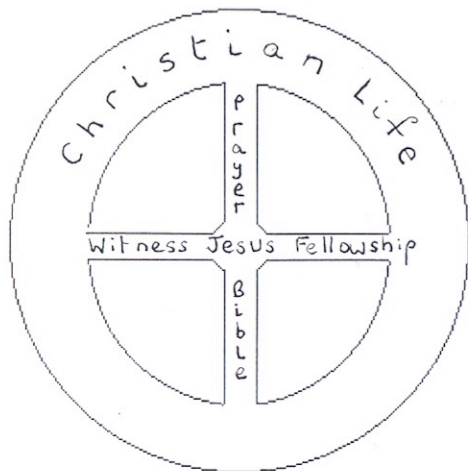
is a good phrase to remember. Study your Bible daily; it's the only way you will gain a sure foundation of Jesus, God's Living Word.



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A balanced wheel runs smoothly because it has a firm hub, equal length spokes, and a fully inflated tyre.

The same is true for us as Christians

We need:

- * JESUS at the centre of our lives, about which all else must revolve.
- * SPOKES of the FOUR aspects of our lives,

Prayer, Bible Reading, Fellowship, Witness.

- * The Holy Spirit filling us fully.

These notes, and the discussions you will have with them, will help you to understand these areas more fully.

We will consider each in turn.

1. JESUS

It is important for a Christian to know who Jesus is and to be sure of the central hub of their life.

Think firstly about these questions. You may find it helpful to jot down a few brief answers.

WHAT HAS JESUS DONE FOR YOU?

WHAT DID IT COST HIM?

WHY DID HE DO IT?

IS HE ALIVE NOW?

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

Think and pray about these questions. Your relationship with Jesus depends on you knowing now how much you believe. Pray, too, he will teach you more as you go through this study.

WHO IS JESUS?

What does it say in:

(summarise what these verses say about WHO JESUS IS)

JOHN chapter 1 verse 14

(this can also be written as JOHN 1:14)

JOHN chapter 1

verse 29 (JOHN 1:29)

P
E
A
C
E



MATTHEW 3:16-17

MATTHEW 4:3



ACTS 9:5

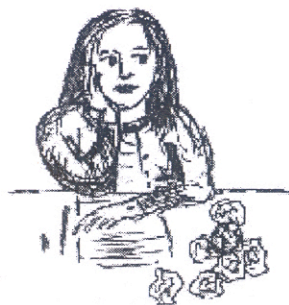


JOHN 20:30-31

JOHN 1:1-18



WHAT HAS JESUS DONE FOR YOU?



You probably have some ideas on this. Write them down and then compare them with what you have learnt in this study.

What do these verses say?

the problem

ROMANS chapter 3 verse 23

ROMANS chapter 6 verse 23

JOHN 3:16

JOHN 5:21

JOHN 5:24



ISAIAH 53: 5-6

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 18-19

JOHN 14: 6

REVELATION 3: 20



So Jesus 'bridges the gap,' between sin and death, and, God and life.

WITH JESUS, we will receive the following.....

..... GOD'S BEST!

JOHN 10: 10

GENESIS 2: 8-9

REVELATION 21: 1-4, 7

Also read all of

JOHN chapters 10 and 15

and

REVELATION chapters 21 and 22.



WITHOUT JESUS we reject God. It isn't that He condemns us to hell, but we choose it.

REVELATION 21: 8

ROMANS 6: 23

GENESIS 3: 17-19

GENESIS 3: 23-24



Why did He do it?

JOHN 15: 13 talks about LOVE. God loves you, and sent Jesus to rescue you from death and destruction.

JOHN 3: 16-17

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 15

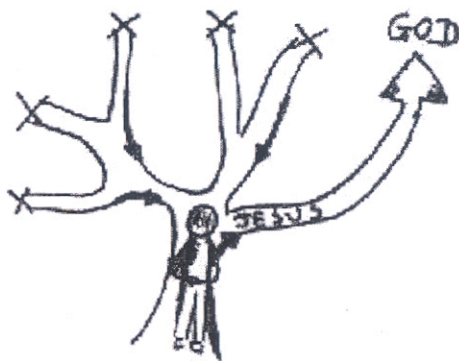
2 CORINTHIANS 5: 17-21

EPHESIANS 2: 8-10

WE DON'T DESERVE IT.

God does it because of who He is, not what we are like.

Is Jesus the only way to God and Heaven?



JOHN 14: 6

ACTS 4: 12

The whole Bible relates more of Jesus to us. As you read it you will get to know Him better. The next study is on the topic of the Bible.

2. THE BIBLE

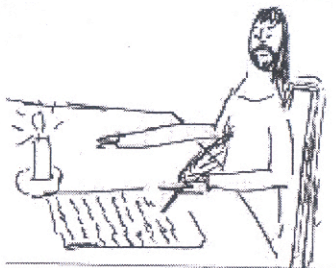
What is it? Why is it special? Who wrote it?
Why should we read it? How can I understand it?
Is it out of date? Can I trust it?

Some, or all of these questions may have gone through your mind. We need to look at the Bible itself for most of the answers. It is helpful to talk to other Christians about how the Bible has helped them. It's also useful to read books of famous Christians who trusted what the Bible said. e.g. Wesley, Whitefield, or Brother Andrew (God's Smuggler).

WHAT is it?

Unless we come to terms with this question, we will not find our Bible Study that helpful.

The Bible says about itself.



2 TIMOTHY 3: 15-17

1 JOHN 5: 13

PSALM 119: 89

Frequently in the Bible we read, "And God said ..." or "The Lord said...." or "Jesus said....". The Bible is the Word of God. His message to each of us.

What does it say about how it was written?

2 PETER 1: 21

It took thousands of years to write; by different 'authors'. Yet it reads like a book with a definite beginning and a happy conclusion.

Compare GENESIS 3: 23-24 with REVELATION 22: 1-5

The 'story' in between is that of a loving God who desires people to belong to Him, and how His Son had to die for this to be achieved. There is no doubt, as you read, that your conclusion will be "this was written by one person".

2 TIMOTHY 3: 16

WHY should we read it?

We have already seen part of the answer: it is God's book. To follow Him we need to read His Book. It is not a meaningless, dull task to carry out.

See what He promises for doing it:

JOHN 20: 31

PSALM 119: 105

ACTS 20: 32

PSALM 119: 130

PSALM 119: 9

PSALM 19: 7-11

Spend some time reading through the whole of PSALM 119, noting the promises given for following God's word.

Read the Bible prayerfully, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you and to help you to understand. A good prayer is PSALM 119: 18

HOW should I read it?

A thing worth doing is worth doing carefully.

Pray about it first..... then:



JEREMIAH 15: 16

JAMES 1: 22

Note down what you learn: any promises given, commands to be obeyed. Pray again at the end, that God will help you to remember and apply what you have read. Try to memorise a few verses every week so that you can look them up when needed.

JESUS' ATTITUDE TO THE BIBLE

Jesus knew His scriptures. He memorised them, (Luke 4: 1-13), and knew their power to defeat Satan.

He believed them, even the bits we might find hard to believe.

MATTHEW 24: 37-39, LUKE 11: 30-32, etc.

There are THREE ways to spend time with the Bible:

1. READING. Treat it like a book. Choose one of its 66 books and read it through. Get to know the whole Bible this way.

2. STUDY. Take a smaller section, a few verses or a paragraph or two. Treat it as if you had an exam to pass in it! Find out what God is saying to you though it. Is there an example to follow, a command to obey, or a promise to rely on? Look up any cross-references to other parts of the Bible. Write down everything that you think of as you study. Work through a book or a theme, day by day, in this way. Start with a Gospel, then Acts, then another Gospel, and then perhaps the books of Samuel. Don't study a book until you have read it through first! Get into the habit of sharing what you learn with other people.

3. MEMORISE. If Jesus learnt scriptures by heart, then so should we! It's good to start with those that assure us of our 'salvation' and encourage us as Christians. Learn the reference as well as the words: *USE A MODERN TRANSLATION.*

TRY THESE FOR STARTERS.

JOHN 3: 16	JOHN 6: 37	ROMANS 8: 18
EPHESIANS 2: 8	JOHN 10: 27-28	ROMANS 3: 23
JOHN 1:12	ROMANS 6: 23	ROMANS 12:1
JAMES 4:7	ACTS 4:12	ROMANS 8:1
GALATIANS 5: 22-23	REVELATION 3:20	

Is the Bible out of Date?

No! As you get to know it you will discover it full of teaching on every aspect of life. It is a complicated book, God's revelation to humanity.

REVELATION 22: 18-19

As archaeologists have discovered more and more in the Middle East, they have repeatedly confirmed the Bible to be accurate. NOTHING discovered has ever disputed the Bible. On the contrary, it has always found to be a totally reliable record of people and places of the past.

FINALLY: You may not at this moment be in a position to honestly say, "I believe the Bible totally". God does not expect that, but He does expect you to be teachable. Pray that God will, by His Spirit, reveal more and more of His truth to you. Faith is a gift from God, not something we work up ourselves.

MARK 9: 24

MATTHEW 13: 31-32 *faith grows*

ROMANS 12: 2

3. PRAYER

What is prayer?

Why bother, when God knows everything anyway?

It's so boring!

WHAT is Prayer?

Simply, it is talking to God, and listening to Him!
It's a two-way conversation, and involves:-

WORSHIP CONFESSION INTERCESSION

WORSHIP



Worship or praise, is giving ourselves to announce how greatly we love, appreciate and want, God. It does not just involve singing.

See how others have worshipped. (Note down what they did).

2 SAMUEL 7: 18-29

2 SAMUEL 6: 14-15, 21-22

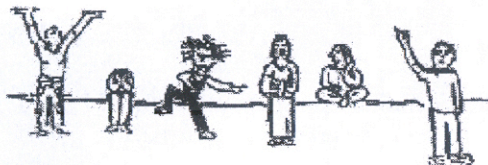
ISAIAH 6: 3

LUKE 2: 20

LUKE 2: 28-32

LUKE 2: 36-37

REVELATION 7: 9-10



Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your worship. Remember the things Jesus has done for you especially His death. Imagine Him on the throne next to the Father, with all Heaven worshipping. Thank Him for all He means to you, and get carried away! Sometimes it is easier than others, but do it anyway. Then when you join with others to sing and praise it will be a much more natural part of your Christian life.

CONFESSION

As we gaze upon the Holiness of God, we recognise our own sin, guilt and worthlessness. Only in Jesus are we made clean. It is right to confess those things we know to be wrong. Not just as a ritual, but real **REPENTANCE**, desiring never to do them again. We also recognise that we are sinful and unable ever to be pure, save through Jesus!

ISAIAH 6: 5-7

PSALM 51: 1-19

Notice especially verse 1. It is not because of us that we are forgiven, but because we worship a God who is merciful and loves to forgive.

JONAH 2: 1-10

1 JOHN 1: 8-10

HEBREWS 4: 16

INTERCESSION

Literally, 'standing in the gap'. Intercession involves us inviting God into situations in our lives and the lives of others. We can intercede for our families, our friends, our nation, the world and ourselves. Not only can we, but we must.

1 SAMUEL 12: 23

God makes promises to us when we intercede.

JOHN 16: 24

MATTHEW 7: 7-11

Intercession is a big topic, and worth more consideration than space allows here. It is one of the important tasks given to Christians. Without it, God **cannot** get involved!

WHY DO WE NEED TO INTERCEDE?

Read GENESIS 2: 15 and GENESIS 1: 26-30

God made people, placed them on the earth to guard and control it. Older Bible versions say, "have dominion over it"!

Effectively, God said, "You're in charge, I won't interfere!"

So, God cannot get involved unless invited to by people. That's why it is vital that we, God's people, invite Him to be involved! Pray for those around you, things you're interested in, your school/job, and the nation.

WHEN to Pray?

Jesus gave us an example: -

MARK 1: 35

"Very early in the morning", may not be the best time for you, but notice that Jesus made sure He was alone and undisturbed.

In modern jargon this is called a QUIET TIME
.....BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!



1 THESSALONIANS 5: 17-18

EPHESIANS 6: 18

God is always ready to listen!

HOW to Pray?

JAMES 1: 6-7

1 JOHN 5: 14

1 JOHN 3: 22

PHILIPPIANS 4: 6-7

PSALM 46: 10

ROMANS 8: 26-27

MATTHEW 6: 5-15

BUT IT'S SO BORING!

Yes it is, if prayer is only reeling off a long list of requests to God. I hope you have seen by now that that is not all. Use your imagination to worship God. Pray at the best time of day. (God is more important than TV, food, even homework!)

Write down the things you pray for, in a diary, and look out for the answers. **Then praise God for them.**

In the last section of this booklet we will be considering the difference the Holy Spirit makes to us. That will include our praying.

ANYTHING WORTH DOING IS DIFFICULT AT TIMES, DON'T GIVE UP

Get into the habit of praying with other people, especially your helper.

Jesus promises us:-

MATTHEW 18:20

BE SPECIFIC!

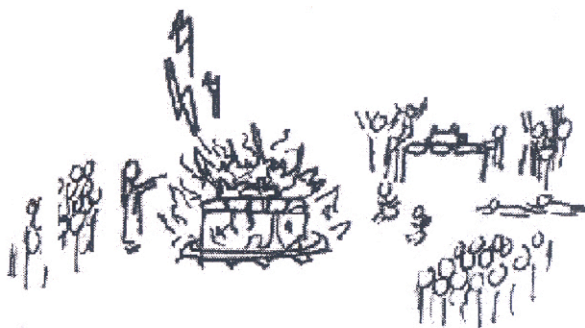
You'll never see answers if you pray "God bless so and so....." pray for their needs specifically, so that you can see when prayer is answered!

FINALLY, the following passages are just a few examples from the Bible where prayer was answered/ Your helper and other Christians will tell you how their prayers are answered. BE ENCOURAGED!

DANIEL chapter 6

1 SAMUEL chapter 1

ACTS chapter 12



1 KINGS chapter 18

4. FELLOWSHIP

What was the attitude of the early Christians when meeting together?

ACTS 2: 42, 44, and 46



JOHN 13: 34, 35

MATTHEW 18: 20

THE CHURCH, the Body of Christ.

How is the church described?

ROMANS 8: 16

ROMANS 12: 5

A body needs to work together. Each part depends on those around it, working in two-way communication with the head. A family can break up unless it keeps in contact with each other, so can a Body.

We need to meet with other Christians. WHY?

(see again ACTS 2: 42-46)



OTHER REASONS:

1 THESSALONIANS 5: 11

1 TIMOTHY 2: 1,2

EPHESIANS 4: 15,16

we need support

THE CHURCH, the Army of God

No army survives unless it is united; God calls us to support each other. Especially the younger Christians. Get involved with a church or Fellowship where people love the Lord!



5. WITNESS

Why should I tell others? I don't want to be labelled a freak! Religion should be private.

WHY tell others?

ROMANS 3: 23

ROMANS 6: 23

ACTS 4: 12

REVELATION 20: 11-15

To summarise the above, what will happen to the people around you if they don't become Christians?

OTHER REASONS

Jesus commands us

MATTHEW 28: 19-20

MATTHEW 10: 32-33

JAMES 5:20

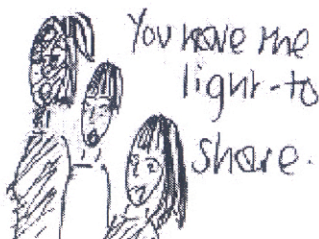
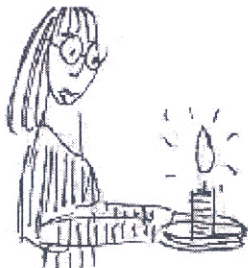
EZEKIEL 3: 16-18

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 13

Jesus the light of the World lives in you.

READ

MATTHEW 5: 13-16



HOW to tell others

You may not be good at explaining things..... You may not be good at winning arguments.....

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE!

Re-read MATTHEW 5: 13-16

You are like salt, you are like light. Christ has already done this in you. People will be attracted to God in you because of the difference He makes as His Holy Spirit enriches your life. What differences?

GALATIANS 5: 22-23

There are other differences too: -

As we fellowship with other Christians

JOHN 13: 34

At work

COLOSSIANS 3: 22-25

You may not feel that it is possible at the moment. You may not even want it to be, if so, ask God to "change your mind" and He will.

See ROMANS 12: 1-2

So, God speaks through our lives and we support this with words. We were not saved just for ourselves, but to bring others to God. There is no greater thrill on earth than seeing someone you have prayed for becoming a Christian.

That is the key! **YOU** will **never** convert anyone. Only the Holy Spirit can do that, and He does it as we pray. Pray for people. Pray for opportunities to talk about Jesus. Know what the message of Good News is. And keep praying!

1 CORINTHIANS 5: 14-21

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We've mentioned Him quite a lot so far!

Who is He? What is His purpose in your life? How does He help?

FIRSTLY, there is only one God.

He reveals Himself to us in three ways: -

as **Father Almighty**, Creator of the earth and universe

as **Jesus Christ**, God yet Man. Saviour of all who trust in Him.

as the **Holy Spirit**, or the Presence of God on earth today.

Yes, it is confusing. But just as 'H₂O' can reveal itself as solid, liquid or gas, all of which are pure water, so God reveals Himself in different ways.

So: the Holy Spirit is God. He is described in different ways in the Bible. Note down what these verses say about Him. (What He is like and/or what He gives to us).

JOHN 16: 7 -

JOHN 16: 8

JOHN 16: 13

ACTS 1: 8

ACTS 1: 16

ACTS 2: 2

ACTS 2: 3

ACTS 2: 4

ACTS 2: 38

ACTS 4: 31



each one of you.....

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 3

GALATIANS 5: 16

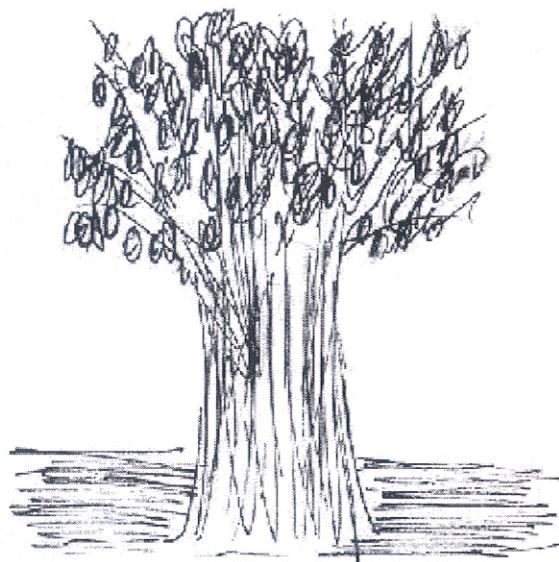
1 CORINTHIANS 12: 4

GALATIANS 5: 22-23

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 7

GALATIANS 5: 25

I hope by now you are beginning to build up quite a picture of the Holy Spirit's importance in our lives.



WHEN DO I RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

When you become a Christian

ROMANS 8: 9-11

ROMANS 8: 15-17

From that moment on He is the 'tyre' of your life/wheel. Yet we may still have a bumpy ride! If Jesus is not at the centre, then our life will not be rigid in God. If the most important thing is, say, football or our boy/girl friend, or TV or money, then we do not have a solid hub! If we neglect prayer, the Bible, fellowship or witness, then our 'tyre' will be out of shape and life will be full of ups and downs.

Even if we have all those things, we need the 'tyre' fully blown up! From the day you become a Christian the Holy Spirit lives in you, but he wants total possession! He wants you fully inflated!

Are you ready to let Him have ALL parts of your life, to do with as he wants?
If you are, then you will see the fruit growing quickly. (GALATIANS 5: 22-23)

BUT YOU CAN EXPECT MORE!

God filling us in our lives



He helps you to pray.

ROMANS 8: 26-27

He helps you to witness.

ACTS 2: 1-12

(notice the people came to them)

ACTS 4: 31

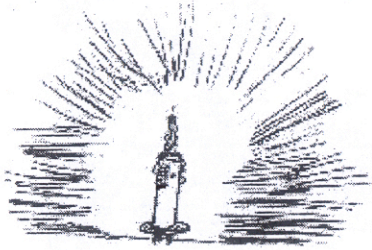
He helps you to understand the Bible.

JOHN 16: 13

He helps you to fellowship.

2 CORINTHIANS 13: 13

HE EQUIPS US



1 CORINTHIANS 12: 4-11

LUKE 11:13

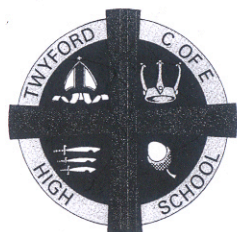
Give yourself fully to God. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit each day, to equip you for the day. Expect Him to give you gifts to use in His service..... but He won't unless you are prepared to use them!

.....

AND FINALLY

EPHESIANS 6: 10-18, 23-24

.....



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