

THE
God
I LOVE
Loves You

the **JOHN 3:16** story BIBLE STUDY

THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE WITH ME.

With all my heart, I hope that you will begin a personal relationship with Jesus as a result of our time together. Why? Because Jesus has been so good to me, and I want you to enjoy the life of

*peace and satisfaction that He offers. **Let me briefly share with you what Jesus has done in my life.***

- *Jesus came looking for me even though I didn't know Him.*
- *Jesus desired a relationship with me even though He was fully aware of all my faults and failures.*
- *Jesus loved me so much that He died for me on the cross—suffering pain, rejection, shame, and humiliation.*
- *Jesus forgave me of all my sin. He took all my shame and guilt away.*
- *Jesus has been patiently changing my life. He has given me new desires, and, in the Bible, He instructs me on how I should live. He corrects me when I sin.*
- *Jesus has made me part of a loving family called His church.*
- *Jesus helps me through life's difficulties. He has never left my side.*
- *Jesus speaks to me when I read His Word, the Bible. His Holy Spirit whispers to my heart throughout the day. I talk to Him about my needs in prayer, and He listens and answers.*

All of these blessings are not exclusive to me; they are available for every human being because...

**THE GOD I LOVE
LOVES YOU
JUST THE SAME AS
HE LOVES ME...**

no matter your race, your religion, your status in society, your intelligence, your accomplishments, your personality, your looks, your past, or your bad habits. He loves you even if you have ignored

Him—or even hated Him—all of your life. The Bible says, “The same Lord over all is rich unto **all** that call upon him. For **whosoever** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:12-13).

Jesus wants to save you from your sin and enter into a relationship with you. He wants to bless your life beyond what you can imagine. He’s just waiting for you to accept Him.

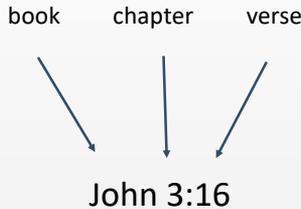
Before we begin this Bible study, I want to put your mind at ease...

- 1. Your schedule is important to me. How much time do you have to study today?*
- 2. We are not in a hurry. The information in these pages is too important for us to rush through it.*
 - Feel free to interrupt me at any time to ask a question.*
 - If we do not complete this Bible study today, we can finish it another time.*

Basic Facts about the Bible

The Bible is...

- A collection of 66 books, with each one divided into chapters and verses.



- Use the Table of Contents in your Bible to find the verses listed in this study.
- Divided into two main parts (notice the Table of Contents):
 - The Old Testament – the history of the Hebrew/Israelite/Jewish nation
 - The New Testament – the life of Jesus Christ and the beginning of His church
- An autobiography about God and a selective history of the world from His perspective, covering 4000 BC to 100 AD.
- The word of God, written down by 40 chosen men. Thirty-nine of these men were native Israelites, all of whom lived in their homeland, except for one who lived in Rome and another who lived in modern-day Iraq. Together, their lives span from 1500 BC to 100 AD.
 - For practice, look up: 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20,

Although the Bible is a very large book, its message can be summed up in just one verse—John 3:16.

Write John 3:16 below:

In the following pages, we will study this verse phrase-by-phrase. By the time we are done, you will understand how you can have a personal relationship with the God I love.

FOR GOD...

Basic Facts about God

God created the _____ and the _____
(Genesis 1:1).

God created _____ (Genesis 1:26, 27).

God is a Trinity – one God in three Persons (Matthew 28:19, 20).

God is eternal – without beginning or end (Psalm 90:2).

God knows everything (Psalm 147:5).

God is _____ – there is no other being like Him
(Isaiah 6:3).

God is sinless – He never does wrong (Deuteronomy 32:3, 4; *iniquity* = evil/sin).

God is perfect (Matthew 5:48).

God is _____ (1 John 4:8).

Now that we understand Who God is, we must ask, ***What is His relationship to us?***

SO LOVED THE WORLD...

World in this verse is referring to *humanity*. This means that God loves *every* human being on this earth. In fact, from the very beginning, God has desired to have a love relationship with mankind. How do we know that?

The first two human beings (Genesis 3:20), _____ & _____, were created...

- **In the image of God** (Genesis 1:26, 27)

This means that man is unique from the animal creation in three ways:

- Personality – intellect, emotion, and will
 - Spirituality – the inclination to worship; capable of having a relationship with God
 - Morality – possessing a conscience, a sense of right & wrong
- **For relationship** (Genesis 3:8, 9)
 - God walked and talked with Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden every day. And when they hid from God, He went looking for them (more on this later).
 - Obviously, God loved Adam and Eve and desired to have a close relationship with them.

God has not changed. He loves *you* just as much as He loved Adam & Eve, and He desires to have a close relationship with you.

THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON...

God proved His love for humanity by sending His Son Jesus to this earth to die for our sins (see also 1 John 4:9, 10).

To understand the magnitude of Jesus' death, we must first consider Who Jesus is.

Basic Facts about Jesus

- Jesus is the only begotten (one and only) Son of God (John 3:16).
- Jesus is equal with _____ (Philippians 2:6).
- Jesus is also called “the Word.” He is the _____ of the universe (John 1:1-3).
- Jesus was born of a _____ (Matthew 1:23-25).
 - What does his name Emmanuel mean? _____
- Jesus was God in a human body (John 1:14).
- Jesus did incredible miracles:
 - Fed 5,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish (John 6).
 - Made blind people see (John 9).
 - Raised the dead back to life (John 11).
 - The Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) record approximately 40 different miracles of Jesus, but these were selected as examples of the hundreds, if not thousands, of astounding deeds He performed while on earth (see John 21:25).
- Jesus never _____ (1 Peter 2:21-24).
 - He grew up in a family with brothers and sisters (Matthew 12:46), worked as a carpenter (Mark 6:3), and lived alongside His 12 disciples for over three years; yet, no one could report that He sinned.
- Jesus came back to life after being crucified on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4).

Why Did Jesus Die on the Cross?

1 Peter 3:18 answers this question.

- Christ “suffered for _____.”
 - Since Jesus never sinned, for whose sins did He die? _____
- Jesus died, “the just for the unjust.”
 - Who is the “just” (perfect) One? _____
 - Who are the “unjust” (sinful) ones? _____
- Jesus died, so “that he might bring us to _____.”
 - Remember, because God is *holy* and *sinless*, He cannot tolerate sin.
 - He must judge sin (Romans 6:23). However, because God loves us and desires to have a relationship with us, He sent Jesus to take our punishment for us—the “just” died for the “unjust.”

What motivated Christ’s death?

1 John 4:10, Romans 5:8

- Jesus—the sinless Son of God—died to pay for our sins, so that we can have a relationship with a holy, perfect God. More on this later, but first let’s find out what *sin* is and where it originated.

What Is Sin?

- Sin is defined as breaking God's law, i.e. His rules for how people should behave (1 John 3:4).
 - Because God created us, He has the right to tell us how we should live. We are accountable to Him, and He will judge us when we die (Hebrews 9:27).
- God first revealed His laws to the Israelites in the Old Testament. These laws are summed up in the **Ten Commandments** (Exodus 20:1-17).

Which of these laws have you broken?

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make or worship any graven image (idols).
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain (using God's name flippantly or as a swear word).
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (The Sabbath day is the seventh day of the week reserved for rest and worship.)
5. Honour thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery (to be sexually involved with someone else's spouse).

What does Jesus include in the category of *adultery* (Matthew 5:27-28)? _____

8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour (to lie about someone else).
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's possessions or relationships (to be discontent).

No one has perfectly obeyed all of God's Ten Commandments; we have all chosen to *sin*.

Where Did Sin Come From?

Write Romans 5:12 below:

The “one man” referred to in the verse above is Adam.
Remember him?

Sin entered the world through Adam and his wife, Eve.
God created them as perfect beings and put them in
the perfect Garden of Eden to enjoy a relationship
with Him. But in order to test Adam and Eve’s love,
God gave them one command (law) to obey.

What was that command? (Genesis 2:16, 17)

What would happen if they disobeyed?

In Genesis 3, Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent and tempted her to eat the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil. Eve lusted after the fruit and chose to eat it. Then she gave the fruit to Adam, and he joined in her sin. **As soon as they ate of the fruit they died**—not physically, but spiritually, just like God had warned them (Genesis 2:17). This means that they were immediately separated from God. Whereas they had enjoyed a close relationship with God beforehand, now—because of sin—they hid from His presence (Genesis 3:8) and then were expelled from Eden, never to return again (Genesis 3:23, 24).

Adam's sin affected all of his offspring, including us. **We were all born with Adam's "sin nature"** (Romans 5:12). This means that we are all incapable of living a perfect life; it is impossible for us not to sin. But Adam is not the only one to blame. Each one of us has willfully chosen to sin (break God's law) on our own. Therefore, we are all sinners by *birth* and sinners by *choice*. We stand guilty before God (Romans 3:19).

Because we are *guilty*—just like Adam and Eve— we deserve the death penalty for our sin (compare Genesis 2:17 & Romans 6:23).

Death in the Bible

Spiritual Death – the *spirit* separated from God (Genesis 2:17)

- What Adam & Eve initially experienced when they ate the forbidden fruit
- The state in which every human being is born

Physical Death –the *soul* separated from the *body* (Hebrews 9:27, 2 Corinthians 5:8)

- Soul: the immaterial, inner part of man, including the intellect, emotion, and will.

The Second Death – the entire being eternally separated from God (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8)

- Incurred at the Great White Throne Judgment, when unsaved sinners are cast into the Lake of Fire

Unlike what many religions teach, we cannot cover up our sins with good works. No matter how often we attend church or how many good deeds we perform, our sins make us guilty before God and prevent our entrance into heaven.

This is why Jesus died for our sins—“the just for the unjust.” His death satisfies God’s justice (1 John 2:2) and provides a way for us to be “justified” in God’s sight.

What Does It Mean to Be Justified?

Justify, as an accounting term, means “no negative.”

| Bank Account | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| ITEM | DEPOSIT (+) | WITHDRAW (-) | BALANCE |
| Rent | | 1000 | |
| Pay Cheque | 300 | | |
| | | | -700 |

The only way to justify this account is by depositing money and removing the negative.

| Bank Account | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| ITEM | DEPOSIT (+) | WITHDRAW (-) | BALANCE |
| Rent | | 1000 | |
| Pay Cheque | 300 | | |
| Gift | 700 | | |
| | | | 0 |

JUSTIFIED!

In the Bible, *justify* means “to make righteous (perfect).”

All of us have an account in the eyes of God that is covered by sin—in the negative. We must be justified (made righteous), or else a relationship with God is impossible.

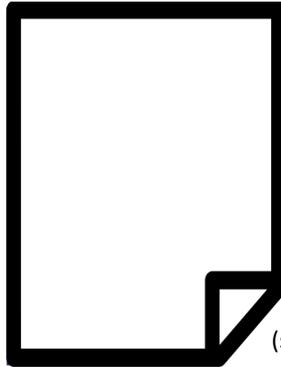


(see page 27)

What is incapable of justifying our account? (Romans 3:20)

What can justify our account? What do we need to cover our sins? (Romans 3:21, 22)

Christ's Righteousness



(see page 25)

Only Jesus' blood can erase sin and make us justified—righteous/perfect in the eyes of God (Romans 5:9).



My Sin A

Lying

Stealing

Lust

Disobedi

Hatred

Unkindn

**Christ's
righteousness
must cover
our sins.**

Review:

For God...

- God is the Creator; He is holy, perfect, and just; because He created us, we are accountable to Him.
- He is one God in three Persons—a Trinity.
 - Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

So loved the world...

- God loves every human being; He created us in His own image, to have a relationship with Him.

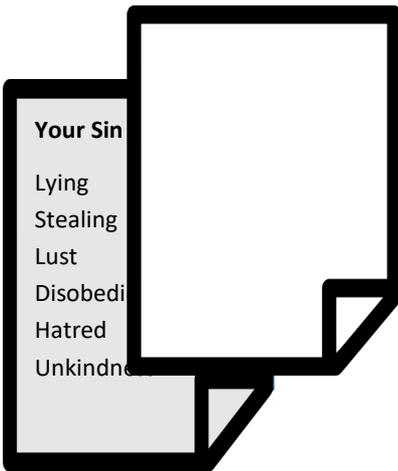
That He gave His only begotten Son...

- God proved His love for us by sending His Son to die for our sins.
 - We are all sinners by *birth* (we inherited Adam's sin nature) and sinners by *choice* (we have wilfully broken God's law).
 - Our sin separates us from a holy, perfect God.
 - We deserve to be punished for our sins.
 - Jesus took our punishment (death) for us; He died in our place, as our substitute—"the just for the unjust." His blood must be applied to our account, in order for us to be justified (perfect) in the eyes of God.

THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

In order to be justified (made righteous/perfect), we must *believe in Jesus*.

Another term for *believe* is *faith*. When we put our faith in Jesus, we are covered with His righteousness, and we cannot be judged for our sins (Galatians 2:16).



**Christ's
righteousness
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our sins.**

What Does It Mean to Believe in Jesus?

- In **John 3:14, 15**, Jesus used a story about the Israelites to illustrate *saving belief*.
 - Jesus was referring to an event of miraculous salvation recorded in **Numbers 21:4-9**.

IN THIS STORY...

- The Israelite people sinned by complaining.
- God sent poisonous, deadly snakes to judge them.
- The people cried out, “We have sinned,” and they asked Moses (their leader) to pray for God to save them.
- God didn’t take away the snakes, but He provided a remedy—a brass serpent on a pole.
- God instructed all who were snake-bitten to look at the serpent on the pole. He promised that, if they looked at the serpent, they would live.
- Indeed, everyone who looked at the pole lived.



Most of us have never been bitten by a snake, but we are all infected with sin. **The only remedy is Jesus**; He is the “Son of Man” that was lifted up on a cross, like that brass serpent was lifted up on a pole.

What Does It Mean to Believe in Jesus?

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, **we all must...**

1. Admit that we have sinned against God and deserve His judgment.

- Even worse than a venomous snake bite, the ultimate punishment for our sin is “the second death”—never-ending separation from God in the lake of fire (Romans 6:23, Revelation 21:8). **This is what it means to “perish.”**

2. Repent and turn to God for salvation.

- Acts 3:19 says, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...”
 - *Repent* means “to change one’s mind, think differently.”
 - *Be converted* means “to turn.”
- The Israelites in the wilderness **changed their mind** and began to **think differently** about their sin. They regretted their complaining and cried out, “We have sinned.” They humbly **turned to** God, knowing that He was the only One Who could save them from death.
- Jesus wants to **change our minds** and cause us to **think differently** about our sin, so that we will **turn to** Him for salvation (Matthew 9:9-13).
 - Sin devastates our relationships, robs us of

inner peace & joy, damages our health, and, ultimately, condemns us to eternity in the lake of fire.

- Jesus wants to save us from sin's ultimate penalty (the lake of fire) *and* its present power in our lives. His goal is to change not only our eternal destiny but also our current way of life.
- This is why we must repent. By changing our minds about our sin, we can allow Jesus to save us and begin changing us to be more like Him (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:2).
- Jesus wants to cover all your sins **today** and make you once-and-for-all righteous/perfect in the sight of God (Romans 3:22). Then, from this day forward, He wants to make you more like Himself by leading you away from sin in your every-day life. It all begins with repentance—changing your mind about your sin and turning to Jesus as the only way to be saved.

3. Believe in God's remedy as the only way to be saved.

- You must believe that Jesus is the remedy for your sin.
 - The only remedy for the snake-bitten Israelites was to look at the brass serpent, and the only remedy for sinners is to look to Jesus.
 - Your good works, your sincere effort, your church attendance, or your religious beliefs cannot save you (Ephesians 2:9, Titus 3:5). Jesus is the only remedy.

Would you like to be saved from your sin, so that you can have everlasting life—a relationship with God that lasts forever?

Read Romans 10:9-10, 13 and write out verse 13:

If you believe in Jesus and call upon Him to save you, what happens? (see end of verse 13) _____

In a simple prayer from your heart, ask Jesus to forgive your sins, save your hell-bound soul, and change your life. Tell Jesus you are trusting His death on the cross and His rising from the dead as the only way for you to be saved. Thank Him for His forgiveness and His promise of heaven. Ask Him to help you follow Him.



Like the Israelites, who were saved from the snake bites the moment they looked at the brass serpent, you were saved the moment you believed in Jesus.

Three Immediate Results of Believing in Jesus:

- 1. You don't have to fear death** (John 1:12, 5:24, 10:27-29, Romans 5:9, 1 John 5:13).
 - Once you have accepted God's remedy for your sin, you are justified *forever*; you are a child of God; you can never lose the gift of eternal life.
- 2. Jesus lives in your heart through His Holy Spirit** (Galatians 4:6).
- 3. You have constant access to God through prayer** (Hebrews 4:14-16).

What Next?

When can we get together again? _____

Next time we meet, I would like to share with you how you can grow in your relationship with God. Some topics we might discuss include the following:

- Baptism: your first step of obedience to Jesus
- God's wonderful promises about heaven
- Developing a walk with God (i.e. daily Bible reading & prayer)
- Joining a church family
- Overcoming sin & temptation in your daily life

Until we meet again...



Start reading your Bible every day and talk to God about anything and everything.

- Read the Gospel of John to learn about Jesus.
- Read the Psalms for encouragement.
- Read Proverbs for wisdom about everyday life.



If your schedule allows, meet me at church this Sunday.

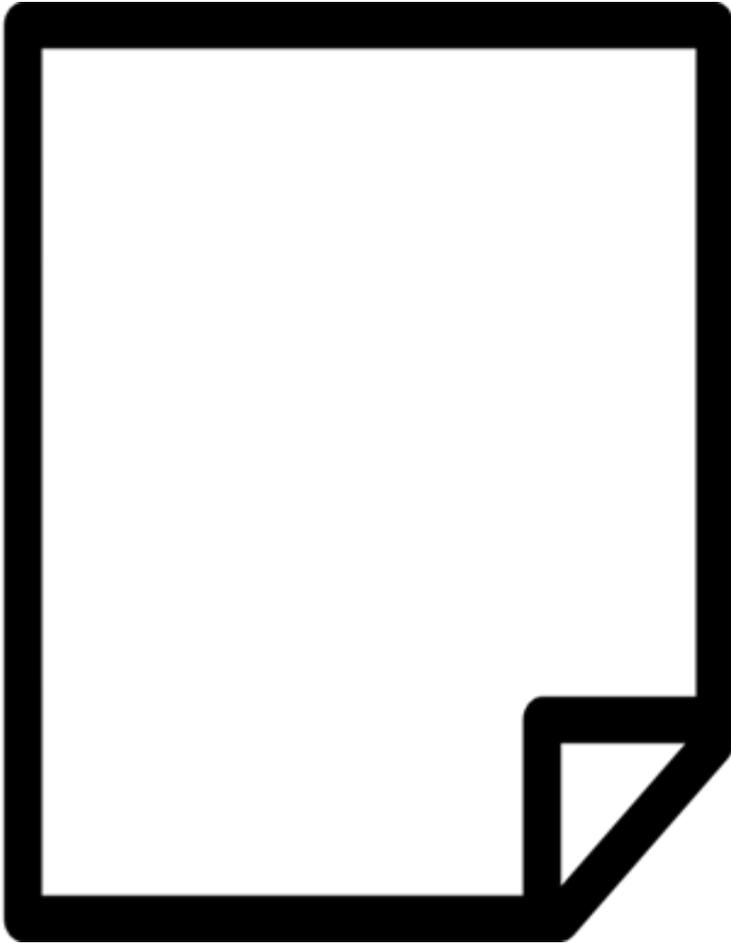
- What happens at one of our typical church services?
 - We enjoy talking with other believers before and after the service.
 - You can sit with me, and I can introduce you to some of my friends.
 - We sing, but don't worry—we won't make you sing a solo.
 - We pray, but have no fear, you won't have to pray out loud.
 - We listen to the pastor preach the word of God.

Call or text me any time if you want to talk or have a question.



Any Questions?

CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS



Read Romans 3:22-28.

According to Romans 3:22, “His righteousness is unto all and upon all them that believe”.

Romans 3:28 “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

MY SIN ACCOUNT



Romans 3:20 “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

