

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
COURSE 2

**THE SALVATION ARMY
BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**



THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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1. The first step in the process of the Holy Spirit's work in the heart is the conviction of sin. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11).



2. The second step is the regeneration of the heart, which is the work of God's grace through the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

Hints for Success

1. Begin your study time with prayer, asking God to help you to concentrate and understand.
2. Use either **dark** pencil or pen, as long as the color is not red or green .
3. Print or write **neatly**, and large enough to be read easily.
4. Be sure to print your name and number (or, if you are not incarcerated, include your address) at the beginning of **every** lesson. Things sometimes get mixed in the mail.
5. **Don't rush!** Careful reading and, if necessary, re-reading is the true key to success in these lessons.
6. The numbers of the questions on the pages to be graded match the numbers given on the study pages.
7. Read **all** the Scripture references given in the study notes for each lesson. You will usually find the answers in these passages. It is recommended that you do one question at a time.
8. Read each question carefully. Look for "clue" words, such as: **who** said; **what** happened; **when** did; **list** in order, etc.
9. Give **complete** answers in as few words as possible.
10. Be sure to quote when asked to do so. **Quote** means to copy, word for word, from the Bible or from your study notes. Other ways that you might be asked to quote include: What did "so-and-so" say; Give four facts listed in the lesson; Name three ways to classify; etc. **When you quote from Scripture, always remember to give the reference (book, chapter, verse).**
11. When asked to answer **in your own words**, do so. **Your grade will be lowered** if you quote from the Bible or the lesson material.
12. When you are asked to tell the story or tell what happened, tell the whole story of the miracle, parable or event, not just the final result.

Example: Tell what happened when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter. *Mark 5:37-42*

WRONG	RIGHT
<p>The little girl was alive again.</p>	<p>Jairus' daughter was dying, so he came and asked Jesus to save her. By the time Jesus arrived at the house, the child was dead. Jesus told them not to mourn. He went into the house, taking along her parents, and Peter, James, and John. He took the little girl by the hand and said, "Child, get up." She came back to life, stood up and walked around.</p>

13. **Avoid leaving answers blank**, especially for questions that ask for your personal thoughts or opinions. Questions that ask for your own personal opinions do not have a right or wrong answer; you will receive credit as long as you give an honest response. Always do your best to answer each question. Partial credit is often given where you show that you tried your best to answer the more difficult questions.
14. Please **submit perforated lesson (question) pages** only. Study notes and covers will not be returned, due to the high cost of postage.
15. Please send **all** the lessons from this book at one time for grading. However, if necessary, we will accept one or two lessons at a time.
16. When you have finished this course, and have received the required grade, you will receive a certificate.
17. Please read the comments on your lessons when they are returned to you. They will add to your learning experience.
18. There are six Bible courses in the Basic Series. In addition to the certificate for each course, you will receive a **Final Certificate** when you complete the Basic Series. There are continuing courses available to those who have satisfactory grades.

Spelling Helps

<u>Aaron</u>	<u>Holy Spirit</u>	<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Satan</u>
<u>Altar</u>	<u>Idols</u>	<u>Mt. Sinai</u>	<u>Savior</u>
<u>Angel</u>	<u>Isaiah</u>	<u>Prophet</u>	<u>Temple</u>
<u>Apostle</u>	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Testament</u>
<u>Baptize</u>	<u>John</u>	<u>Resurrection</u>	<u>Worshiped</u>
<u>Disciple</u>		<u>Sacrifice</u>	

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy and be blessed through this study of the Bible.

God bless you.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

1

GOD AND GOD'S PLAN

1. THE ETERNAL GOD

God has existed forever. Long before there was anything or anyone else, before there was even time, there was God – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three Persons are **one** God – this is called the **Trinity**. God is Love. Everything that was created was created because God is love.

In *Genesis 1:26-27*, we are told that God created people in His own image. God created **all** people in His image. Adam (which means human being) gave his wife the name Eve (which means life) because she was the mother of **all** people. *Genesis 3:20*

Although we look different on the outside, we are all the same. Our DNA tells us that, and the Bible tells us that. When Paul was talking to the people of Athens, Greece, people who belonged to a different race, he told them that God made **all** people from **one** man.

Acts 17:26

So you see we are all made in God's image. That does not mean we look like God. God is a Spirit. *John 4:24*

However, God made us in His image so we could respond to His great, loving, and holy nature. When God created us, His plan was that we would enjoy true personal fellowship with God forever. *Psalms 8:4-6 / Hebrews 2:6-8*

Being created in God's image means that we:

Are like God, but not exactly like him.

Have a spiritual nature that sets us apart from animals.

Have the ability to reason, plan, and evaluate.

Have the ability to love what is good, true, and beautiful.

Have the ability to hate what is cruel, false, and ugly.

Have the ability to speak and act to change what is cruel, false, and ugly.

Have the ability to care about and take care of our natural environment.

Have the ability to recognize that all people are morally responsible beings made in God's image.

Have the ability to love and serve the God who made us.

2. FREE WILL

One of the most important ways in which we are like God is our ability to make choices. This ability is known as **Free Will**. We know what is good and what is bad, but that is not enough. We must **choose** to do what is good, and turn away from what is bad. God holds us responsible for the choices we make.

Why did God give us this ability to make choices? Why didn't he just make us like robots, programmed to always do what is right? God made us with free will for two reasons. One is that God himself has free will. God **chooses** to love us and to make good plans for us. The second reason is because of love. Love is, and must be, free. In order to love someone, you must be free to love or not love. Respect and obedience can be earned or forced, but not love. God loves us and above all things, wants us to love Him and each other. *Matthew 22:37-40* Therefore, God has to take a risk, just like all people who love. God has to give us the freedom to love Him or reject Him. Robots cannot love, because they have no freedom.

If we choose to love God, then we will also want to love our brothers and sisters, and all the things that are good, true, and beautiful.

3. GOD IS HOLY: Psalm 5:4 / Isaiah 6:1-3; 11:5 / Amos 4:2; 5-14

An important thing to know about God is that God is holy (this word means pure and separate) and **righteous** (this word means right, moral, just – fair). Because God is holy and righteous, God hates evil. Evil hurts God's creation, and God loves all of creation. God is not only holy and righteous. God is very powerful. So great is God's power that evil cannot exist in God's presence, sin cannot come anywhere near God.

4. ADAM AND EVE'S CHOICE

Adam and Eve were made in God's image, which means they had free will. God put a special tree in the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them not to eat the fruit from that tree, for it would kill them. They had a choice. They could obey or disobey God. Satan came to them in the form of a serpent and tempted them to disobey God by eating the fruit. *Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-6*

Adam and Eve freely chose to disobey God and they ate the fruit. In this way, they surrendered to Satan, and became slaves of sin. *Romans 6:16*

At that moment, Adam and Eve, and all people descended from them (everyone) became spiritually dead! Spiritual death means to be separated from God by our sins. Human beings lost eternal life!! *Genesis 2:17; 3:22-24*

5. SEPARATION FROM GOD BECAUSE OF SIN

Because Adam and Eve sinned, we too are doomed to separation from God, eternal death, and damnation. We are caught in sin and evil, like flies caught in a spider's web. We cannot free ourselves from this condition by our own efforts. We became helpless. *Romans 5:12*

6. GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

God's original plan for us was for people to live in paradise, and have perfect fellowship with each other and with God. God's plan was ruined when Adam and Eve listened to Satan and disobeyed God. Adam and Eve were now sinners, and had to be separated from God. God was angry that his plan was ruined. God could have destroyed Adam and Eve. However, God loved them and had mercy on them. He put his plan of **redemption** (redemption means to buy back something that was yours in the first place) into action.

7. RESULTS OF SIN: Genesis 3:10, 15-24

Their sin did have sad results.

The serpent (Satan) was punished by a change in his physical shape (*Genesis 3:14*) and was told that the child of a woman would one day destroy him. *Genesis 3:15*

Eve would have pain when she gave birth to children. *Genesis 3:16*

Adam would rule over Eve, and she would allow this because she loved him. *Genesis 3:16*

The ground itself was cursed because of what Adam and Eve had done. *Genesis 3:17-18*

Adam would have to spend his life working hard to get food from the ground. *Genesis 3:19*

Adam and Eve were not allowed to eat from the tree of life. *Genesis 3:22-24*

Adam and Eve would die, and decay back into the ground from which they were made. *Genesis 3:19*

In His mercy, God made clothes for Adam and Eve out of animal skins.

Of course animals had to be killed to get the skins. This was the first bloodshed because of sin. *Genesis 3:21*

God's actions showed how sad and angry He was at Adam and Eve's disobedience. Nevertheless, God wanted to preserve creation. It was the sin and not the sinners that angered God. God still becomes sad and angry when we disobey him, but God continues to love us, just as He continued to love Adam and Eve.

8. THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

Genesis 3:16 / Galatians 4:4-5 / Romans 8:12 / Genesis 3:22-24 / Romans 6:23 / 2 Corinthians 5:21 / Romans 5:1-2; 8:1-2

God provided the **supreme** plan (*Genesis 3:16*) to restore humanity to what we were when God first created Adam and Eve. *Galatians 4:4-5*

The sacrificing of God's own Son proved what God is willing to do for us, because God loves us. *Romans 5:8; 8:12*

Our disobedience to God results in our being separated from him, and subject to eternal death. *Genesis 3:22-24 / Romans 6:23*

Jesus' life and death shows God's love for all people, and his desire to make a "Bridge" that would bring us back to Him. *2 Corinthians 5:21*

Jesus' death delivers us from sin, and His resurrection assures us of eternal life. *Romans 5:1-2; 8:1-2*

We must accept Jesus Christ as our Savior in order to begin God's plan for our life. *John 14:6 / Romans 10:9*

9. GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN OF RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE:

John 14:2-3 / 2 Corinthians 5:1-2, 17 / Philippians 1:6 / Revelation 21:1-5

God has always planned for us to be with Him forever. Jesus tells us that He is going to get a place ready for us. *John 14:2-3*

We must let God prepare us to live with Him forever. *Revelation 21:27 / 2 Corinthians 5:17 / Philippians 1:6*

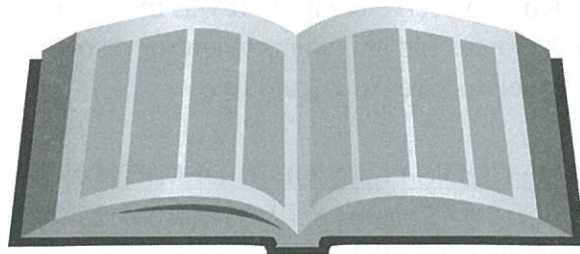
God is preparing for us a new heaven and a new earth. *2 Corinthians 5:1-2 / Revelation 21:1-5*

10. GOD'S PLAN INCLUDES ALL PEOPLE: *2 Peter 3:9 / Revelation 22:17*

God's plan is for everybody. The Bible reassures us that God does not want anyone to die or be separated from Him forever. *2 Peter 3:9*

It is right that God's Word ends with an invitation from Him, calling us to come to Him. *Revelation 22:17*

God's invitation includes you! By accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you will receive all that God has planned for your good. *Jeremiah 29:11*



“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

John 14:6 (NIV)

2

SIN AND SALVATION

The results of sin are terrible. Sin causes us to destroy each other, the world God made for us to live in and ourselves. In this lesson, we will learn more about sin, and how we can escape its stranglehold on our lives.

1. WHAT SIN IS

Sin is **anything** that is not in harmony with the will of God.

2. UNDERSTANDING SIN *James 4:17 / 1 John 5:10-11, 17 / Revelation 3:15-16*

Sin is everything that is unrighteous (wrong) or unloving. *1 John 5:17; 2:10-11*

Sin is breaking God's law and disobeying his will. *1 John 3:4*

Sin is **knowing** what is right, and knowing what we **should** do and not doing it. *James 4:17*

Sin is being indifferent or not caring about God and our spiritual life.

Revelation 3:15-16 / James 1:22

3. HOW SIN BECOMES REAL

Sin becomes real in:

What we **think** *Matthew 9:4*

What we **want** *Romans 7:14-17*

What we **say** *Matthew 5:22*

What we **do** *Romans 1:32*

There are bad results when we sin. Sin harms our relationship with God. When we disobey God's law, we spiritually remove ourselves from him. God, and only God, sets the standards by which we must live everyday. We are responsible to **God first**.

4. HOW WE BECAME INVOLVED WITH SIN:

Proverbs 5:22 / Romans 5:12; 6:16 / James 1:14-15 / 2 Peter 2:19

Through the wrong use of God's great gift of **free will** (the ability to make choices), all people became sinners. *James 1:14-15*

Adam and Eve freely chose to disobey God when Satan urged them to.

Both Adam and Eve knew that God did not want them to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had warned them what would happen if they did.

When they chose to disobey God what happened? Exactly what God had said – sin and death came into the world.

Since then, all people have been born with a sinful nature which we inherited from Adam and Eve. *Romans 5:12*

When we obey Satan, we become Satan's slaves.

Proverbs 5:22 / Romans 6:16 / 2 Peter 2:19

Our will is not free anymore; it is subject to Satan (the devil). While we are under Satan's control, we are not allowed to use our will to obey God. So we continue to sin against God until we ask Jesus Christ to set us free.

5. THE RESULTS OF SIN

The results or wages of sin are:

Fear	<i>1 John 4:18</i>
Guilt	<i>Ezra 9:6</i>
Suffering	
The wicked suffer	<i>Job 15:20</i>
The wicked make others suffer	<i>Isaiah 10:2</i>
Separation from God	<i>Isaiah 59:2</i>
Death and everlasting punishment	<i>Romans 6:23 / Ephesians 2:1 / Matthew 25:41 / Revelation 20:15</i>

6. WHAT THE JEWISH LAW DID ABOUT SIN: *Hebrews 9:22*

In the **Old Testament**, God gave the Jewish people definite rules for dealing with sin. Sin requires blood to be shed to cleanse it. *Hebrews 9:22* God allowed the Jewish people to sacrifice animals instead of themselves.

Leviticus 4 is a sample of the strict rules God made for dealing with sin by animal sacrifice.

The animals that were sacrificed had to be physically perfect (unblemished). Often the animal required was a perfect lamb. The perfection of the animal was important because it was a symbol of Jesus who is perfect, and who would one day sacrifice His life for our sins.

7. WHAT GOD DID ABOUT SIN THROUGH JESUS: *John 1:29 / Hebrews 9:28*

We read in the **New Testament** that God sent his Son, Jesus, to earth to be "...the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world." *John 1:29* His dying on the cross set us free from having to pay for our sins. The shedding of Jesus' life-blood was the price **we needed** to pay for our sins. We should die for our sins. Nevertheless, Jesus did it for us.

The way that Jesus died, sacrificing His life and shedding His blood, perfectly followed

God's command that sin can only be forgiven when blood is shed. Because Jesus is human, He could die, and because Jesus is God, His death was the only sacrifice necessary for all the sin of the world. *Hebrews 9:28*

8. FREEDOM FROM SIN: *Romans 8:13-16 / Hebrews 8:12*

We are all born with sinful natures because of Adam and Eve's sin.

However, sin's hold on us does not have to last forever. When Jesus died on the cross He paid for our sins – He **atoned** for them. When we accept His forgiveness, our old sinful nature is changed. We have a new, God-like nature and we become “at-one” with God (atonement). *John 17:20-23 / Romans 8:13-16*

When we accept Jesus Christ, confessing our sins, we are in tune or harmony with God and our changed nature makes it possible for us to recognize his voice, leading us in the right way. *Isaiah 30:21 / John 10:3-4*

When we accept Jesus Christ, who atoned for our sins, past sins are erased and will not be held against us. *Hebrews 8:12*

When we accept Jesus Christ, we will become new people.
2 Corinthians 5:17 / Romans 8:9-10

9. GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION: *John 10:28, 30 / Ephesians 2:8*

Salvation is the miracle that happens when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. He comes into our life to live with us, and all our sins are forgiven. Our new, eternal, life begins. It is God's gift to us, because he loves us. *John 10:28 / Ephesians 2:8*

We could never pay for our sins. The most valuable thing we could possibly offer God is our life, but our life itself is a gift from God! Only Jesus could do this for us, because Jesus is God. *John 10:30 / Colossians 1:15-20*

10. HOW WE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF SALVATION:

Matthew 7:9-11; 11:28-30 / Luke 15:17-19 / John 3:14-17 / Romans 3:22-24; 5:1-2 / Ephesians 2:4-10 / Hebrews 9:14, 28 / 1 John 1:9

We receive Jesus Christ personally as our Savior: *Matthew 11:28-30 / John 3:14-17*

By believing the Bible when it says that He gave Himself as a sacrifice in order to redeem us (buy us back – remember, we were Satan's slaves). *Hebrews 9:14, 28*

By confessing our sins. *1 John 1:9*

By being sincerely sorry for our sinful, selfish attitude, and being willing to change (repent).
Luke 15:17-19

By asking God to forgive us and accept us. *Matthew 7:9-11*

By faith, receiving God's forgiveness, peace, and power to live a godly life.
Ephesians 2:4-10 / Romans 3:22-24; 5:1-2

Why was God willing to accept such grief, endure such double pain? Because of **LOVE**.
God did it because God loves us. God did it because He loves us that much.

GOD'S LOVE – AWESOME!



“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THIS COURSE,
PLEASE FILL OUT THE "INTRODUCTORY LESSON" LOCATED ON THE
BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE MAIN PAGE.

