

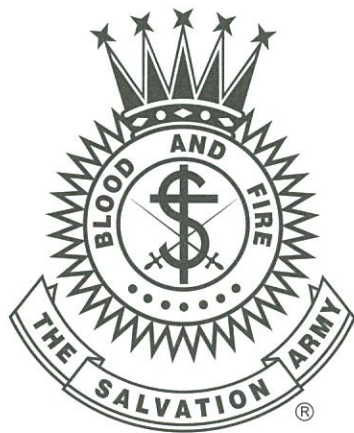
BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



**THE EARLY CHURCH
COURSE 3**

**THE SALVATION ARMY
BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**



THE EARLY CHURCH

Revised 2006
First Printing 2008
Second Printing 2010

THE BIBLE



THE BIBLE

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
The little girl was alive again.	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.

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>A</u> aron	<u>H</u> oly Spirit	<u>M</u> atthew	<u>S</u> atan
<u>A</u> ltar	<u>I</u> dols	<u>M</u> t. <u>S</u> inai	<u>S</u> avior
<u>A</u> ngel	<u>I</u> saiah	<u>P</u> rophet	<u>T</u> emple
<u>A</u> postle	<u>I</u> srael	<u>P</u> salms	<u>T</u> estament
<u>B</u> aptize	<u>J</u> ohn	<u>R</u> esurrection	<u>W</u> orshiped
<u>D</u> isciple		<u>S</u> acrifice	

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

THE CHURCH IS BORN

1. INTRODUCTION

The Book of Acts was written by a doctor (note *Colossians 4:14*) who lived at the time Jesus lived. Luke witnessed to the true story of Jesus' life in the book of "The Gospel according to Luke." It is one of the four Gospels which you have already studied. Now we will study Luke's recorded witness concerning the New Church which honors Jesus' name and power. The complete name of this book is "The Acts of the Apostles."

Luke wrote the "Book of Acts" to a friend of his. We know nothing about this friend except his name, *Theophilus. Acts 1:1*

In the first chapter of Acts Luke reminded Theophilus about how he had written previously about Jesus (found in Luke's Gospel), but now Luke would tell him about what happened in the days, months, and years after Jesus arose from the dead and was taken up into Heaven.

2. MEMORIES OF JESUS' DAYS ON EARTH, after He had risen from the dead. *Acts 1:2-12*

Jesus was seen and heard many times by many people during the forty days after He arose from the dead. His message at this time included:

Information about the Kingdom of God

A command to remain in Jerusalem to await the coming of the **Holy Spirit**.

God exists as a **Trinity**. This means that there are three distinct "persons": God the **Father**, God the **Son** (Jesus Christ), and God the **Spirit** (the Holy Spirit). And yet there are not three Gods, but only one God.

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. He is a person and has a personality of His own.

NOTE – There are many verses of Scripture given that give us the characteristics of the Holy Spirit such as comforter, teacher, counselor, guide, etc. These characteristics are what give the Holy Spirit a personality of His own. You may wish to search for verses that prove this by checking in your Bible Concordance.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would give the disciples power within themselves to obey God and do God's will. *Acts 1:8*

3. JESUS ASCENDED – or left the world and went to God, His Father. *Acts 1:9*

4. JESUS WILL RETURN: Acts 1:10-11

Heavenly beings promised the followers of Jesus that He would return in the same manner as He left them.

5. BACK TO JERUSALEM: Acts 1:12

The followers of Jesus left the Mount of Olives to return to an upper room in Jerusalem.

6. THE UPPER ROOM

This was the place in Jerusalem where the eleven apostles; Jesus' mother, Mary, His brothers and other disciples, both men and women chose to wait as Jesus had commanded them. *Acts 1:4; 5:13-14*

7. MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH: Acts 1:1-16, 26

The Congregation *Acts 1:1-15*

Its key members *Acts 1:13-14*

Its preacher *Acts 1:15*

Its size *Acts 1:15*

8. ACTIVITIES IN THE UPPER ROOM: Acts 1:1-14, 26

Its mission or work *Acts 1:14, 26*

Prayer *Acts 1:14*

Selecting someone to take Judas' place *Acts 1:16, 26*

9. THE DAY OF PENTECOST: "Happy Birthday" little church! Acts 2:1-8, 12

The celebration was misunderstood. *Acts 2:13*

The celebration was defended and explained. *Acts 2:14-21*

Here Peter is speaking to Jews of the "Dispersion." These were Jews who had been scattered all over the Mediterranean world and had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

Peter quoted from the book of Joel, *Acts 2:17-21*, which says that during the end times, God's Spirit will be poured out among His servants and many amazing things will occur. Peter seemed to share a sense of urgency when telling the people of Jerusalem that they needed to be saved.

The promise of *Acts 2:21* was not for that day and age only. It is as much for you and me today as it was for those who lived in Bible times.

And the plan is just that simple. "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." *Acts 2:21*

Those early Christian converts were just beginning to learn the joy of calling upon the Lord and being saved, and so can you.

If you believe in your heart that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for your sins (and mine), that God raised Him from the dead, and that through His name you can be saved, why not call upon His name now.

The promise is yours and all the joy of knowing Christ is awaiting you.

Let us know of your decision to call upon the name of the Lord and be saved.

The Church was born in an upper room with a congregation numbering about 120 members. Later, from this small congregation sprang many new congregations until the new church became a moving and powerful force in the whole world. The principles and doctrines of those early days have spread to the farthest corners of the world. Those principles and doctrines are based on the life and teaching of Jesus.

10. THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH: *Acts 2:22-24, 29-33, 36 / Hebrews 12:2*

Joining the Church. *Acts 2:37-42*

A picture of the early Church. *Acts 2:43-47*

At this early point in the Church's history, we see a very detailed picture of how the believers felt (verse 43), what they did (verses 43-46), and how the church was growing (verse 47).



“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Acts 2:21 (NIV)

2

NEW CHURCH GROWING PAINS

As we studied in the closing portion of Lesson One, the Christians were seeing the wonderful power of God. We learned that crowds were joining the church; everything was going well!

1. PETER AND JOHN THROUGH GOD'S POWER HEALED A LAME MAN: *Acts 3:1-10*

2. PETER PREACHED HIS SECOND SERMON: *Acts 3:11-26*

Here Peter talked to his own people, the Jews of Israel.

3. THE ENEMY STRUCK BACK

The religious rulers of the temple showed a jealous spirit. *Acts 4:1-2*

Peter and John were imprisoned. *Acts 4:1-3*

Out of defeat came victory. *Acts 4:4*

A court hearing for the prisoners: *Acts 4:5-7*

4. THE DEFENSE SPOKE: *Acts 4:8-12*

5. THE COURT WAS LEFT SPEECHLESS REGARDING JUDGMENT: *Acts 4:13-14*

The Jury Discussed The Case. *Acts 4:15-16*

6. THE VERDICT WAS HANDED DOWN AND SENTENCE WAS PRONOUNCED!

Acts 4:18

The prisoners declared their determination to be loyal to Christ. *Acts 4:19-20*

The prisoners were warned. *Acts 4:21*

7. A PRAISE AND PRAYER MEETING: *Acts 4:23-31*

The Church Prospered. *Acts 4:32-37*

8. DISGRACE WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH: *Acts 5:1-11*

Ananias and Sapphira “put on a front” of dedication and unselfishness. They pretended to give all they had but secretly they kept part for themselves.

Although Ananias and Sapphira did keep some of the money for themselves, their real sin was deception, letting people think they were giving all when they really were not that unselfish. They were committing an act of fraud (deceit, trickery).

9. GREAT VICTORIES: Acts 5:12-16

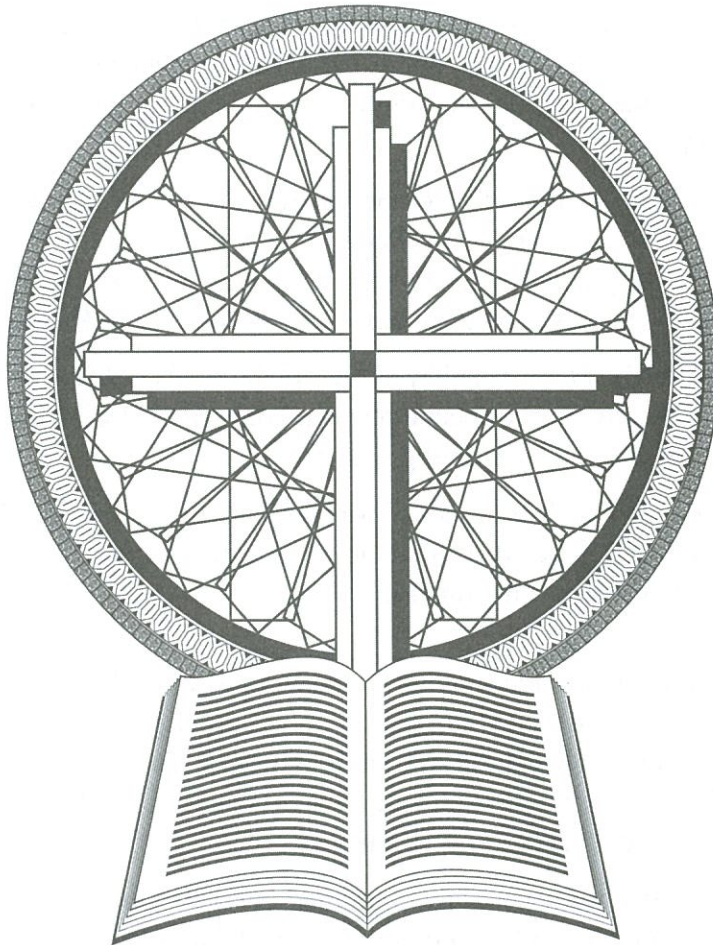
The apostles were given mighty power. *Acts 5:12*

The people respected the leadership and authority of the apostles. *Acts 5:13*

10. PETER BECAME A MIGHTY INFLUENCE THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD:

Acts 5:14-15

Multitudes of physically and mentally sick people were healed at this time. Surrounding communities began to carry their sick to Jerusalem to be healed. *Acts 5:16*



“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

Acts 3:19 (NIV)

3

A BATTLE TO SURVIVE

The religious rulers of the temple determined that this new invader, the Church whose congregation followed the hated Nazarene, Jesus, must be stopped.

Let us consider this established religious body before we continue in our study of the New Church whose leaders and congregation called themselves Christians.

The established religious body, was known as the Sanhedrin, and was composed of two principal groups of people called:

1. PHARISEES, who came into existence about 300 years before Jesus was born. At that time some of the old Jewish fathers noted that some of the younger Jewish leaders were going away from the rules and traditions in order to please the more modern and less religious people about them.

In order to uphold their interpretation of God's laws and to promote what they considered the proper form of worship, many of the men formed the sect of the Pharisees. Their rules were very religious, very dedicated, and very strict. Anyone who did not follow the rules to the letter of the Law was not allowed to belong to the sect of the Pharisees.

In Jesus' day most of the Pharisees obeyed their own rules, not because they loved God, but because they were greedy for the special respect, honor, and glory. This honor was given because the Pharisees put on such a religious "front."

The Pharisees believed that "good works" was their ticket into heaven. They believed that God was so pleased with good works that He would cause such religious persons to arise from the dead and live in heaven with God.

2. SADDUCEES came into existence about the same time as the Pharisees. They were the young leaders who were interested in pleasing their nonreligious friends. They were living in subjection to a nation to which these friends belonged. The young men wanted to "get somewhere" and the old Jewish beliefs got in their way. As a result they refused to follow the old laws. They called themselves "Sadducees."

The Sadducees in Jesus' time were few in number but they were wealthy and politically powerful. They worshiped regularly but they believed that the present life was all that counted. They did not believe in the Resurrection or life after earthly death for anyone. They lived by the code "get all you can while the getting is good." They were materialistically minded. They hated the disciples because they taught that man will be held accountable after death for the deeds and thoughts of earthly life.

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

