

GRADE 10 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

UNIT I: HUMAN LIFE ISSUES

LESSON # 1: THE IDENTITY, PURPOSE, DESTINY OF HUMAN BEINGS & ITS IMPLICATIONS

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To explore selected human life issues concerning one's identity, purpose and destiny in relation to God and to one another.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, students should be able to answer three questions concerning their identity, purpose and destiny in relation to God and to one another.
2. At the end of this lesson, students should be able to explain how they should relate to God, to human beings, and to creation in general, since the human family is the family of God.

CONTENT: 1. The first human issue or question about ourselves as human beings is “**who am I?**” The answers to this question are important because they will determine what you will think about yourself and how you will relate to other people. If this question were to be answered from what different people think in our society, the answers will not be the same. Some think that by chance the first life began, and that there was a natural development of that life over a long period of time, one simple form of life gradually changing into different complex forms of life, without any supernatural power and direction. Others think that life is too complicated to have accidentally happened and developed on its own, without some supernatural power and direction behind it. The Bible teaches that God created human beings in His Own Image and Likeness (Gen.1:26-27). The Bible teaches that human beings are God's Offspring/Children (Acts 17:29). The Bible teaches that we are therefore like God. Regardless of the colour of the skin, or the country of our birth, or the language we speak, or the school we attend, we have some of God's Nature in us, just like we have our parents' natures in us. God is Supremely Intelligent. Therefore we are more intelligent than the other forms of life which God has made. God is the Supreme Authority, and rules over all the Creation. Therefore we are higher in authority than the other forms of life which God has made. We rule over the other forms of life (See Ps.8:5-8). God is concerned about what is right. Therefore we have within our hearts as human beings, a knowledge of God's Laws, which make the distinction between what is right and wrong. We also have a conscience, which accuses us when we don't do what is right, and defends us when we do what is right (Rom.2:14-16). God is a Spiritual Being. Therefore we are not only physical beings, but we are spiritual beings also (Gen.2:7; compare Zech.12:1 and Heb.12:9). Since we are, as human beings, God's Offspring, we should not look down on anyone, but we should respect and care for everyone's welfare. We should also care for the other forms of life and for what God has created in general.

2. The second human issue or question about ourselves as human beings is “**why am I here?**” You might say that you are here to learn in order to be qualified to be employed by someone else or to start your own business. You might say that you are here to enjoy life. You might say that you are here because your parents put you here in this world, and that being here was not your own choice nor act. The Bible says that God created you so that you may seek God and find Him (Acts 17:27; Eph.2:10). God is not far from each one of us; but many people do not notice Him, because they are seeking everything else, except Him! Some do not even want to think about God or to know what God wants, because they want to please themselves instead of pleasing God! We may seek God by praying to Him. We may seek God by reading the Bible. We may seek God by asking questions about God from someone who already has found God. We may seek God by getting to know God's Son, Jesus Christ, for He has all of God's Characteristics in bodily form! When we find God, we find Salvation or eternal life (Jn.17:3).

3. The third human issue or question about ourselves as human beings is “**where am I going?**” The Bible says that if you seek God and find Him in this life, you have eternal life with God to look forward to (Jn.17:3; Compare Rev.21:4)! However, if you refuse to seek God and find Him in this life, how do you expect to live with Him forever (Acts 17:30-31)?

GRADE 10 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES**UNIT I: HUMAN LIFE ISSUES****LESSON # 2: THE NATURE OF HUMAN BEINGS AS MALE AND FEMALE**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine the nature of human beings as male and female

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why God created human beings male and female.

CONTENT: 1. In Gen.1:26-27, we learn that God created human beings male and female. In Gen.2:18,21-24, we learn that the man was created first. Some time later, God saw that it was not good for the man to be alone. The man needed a friend, who could help him. God made the man fall into a deep sleep. He cut open the man's side. He removed one of the ribs. He closed up the man's side. He used the rib to make a woman. He brought the woman to the man. The man called her "woman", which means "taken out of man". God joined the man and the woman together in marriage. The woman then became the man's wife (See Gen.2:25).

2. After they were both married, God told them to reproduce godly children, who would eventually fill the empty earth (Gen.1:28; Mal.2:15). God did not command the man and the woman to have sex and to reproduce godly children UNTIL after they were both married. OUTSIDE of marriage, sex is DEFILED or UNCLEAN in God's sight. In other words, sex outside of marriage is a sin in God's sight. Marriage between a man and a woman is the only relationship in which sex is approved by God (1st Cor.7:2; Heb.13:4).

3. Marriage was created by God to be a life-long relationship, ending naturally with the death of one of the marriage partners (Mk.10:9; Rom.7:1-2).

4. Marriage was created by God for a man and a woman (Mk.10:6-7). Marriage was not created for two men nor for two women, but for a man and a woman. Marriages between the same sexes are not approved by God. Homosexuality and Lesbianism have always been wrong in God's sight (Rom.1:26-27).

5. Human Beings were created "male and female" in order for both of them as adults to be joined together by God in marriage so that there may be the reproduction of a godly family. This means then that if a male desires to be with a female, or vice-versa, which would involve them having sexual relations and reproducing a family, they must be joined together by God in marriage FIRST. However, if either a male or a female can control their sexual desires, and would prefer not to get married, but to devote all their time and effort in serving God, they do not sin in living a single or unmarried life (1st Cor. 7:32-35). But if they have difficulty in controlling their sexual desires, it would be unwise to live as a single person for the rest of one's life, for this lack of control might lead to sex outside of marriage. Therefore it is better for a person like that to get married (1st Cor.7:9).

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LESSON # 3: HUMAN BEINGS AS CO-WORKERS WITH GOD

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine what it means for human beings to be co-workers with God

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define the term, “co-workers”, concerning the relationship between human beings and God, their Creator.

2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe three works, which the first man and the first woman were given to do by God.

3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe two works for God, which the apostle Paul and the preacher Apollos did in Corinth, a city of Greece.

CONTENT: 1. “Co-workers” with God means that human beings are expected to do whatever God has commanded them to do. They are to be cooperative. It does not mean that human beings are on the same level of authority as God, for God is the Creator, and human beings are His Special Creation. Therefore God expects human beings to love, respect, trust and obey Him.

2. In Gen.1:28-30, the first man and the first woman were told to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...”. This means that as the first married couple, their work was to reproduce a lot of children, who would eventually fill the empty earth. They were not only to reproduce a lot of children, but they were expected to train their children to know God, love Him, trust Him, respect Him and obey Him, so that the earth would be filled with godly people, who cooperate with God (Mal.2:15). If the first married couple had done this, and if all married couples since then had done this, the earth would be a place where people are obedient to God in every aspect of their lives—loving, kind, caring, helpful, honest and peaceful! It is so important for parents to take their work from God seriously, by teaching their children about God from the Bible, setting an example of prayer to God, being honest, trying their best to be peaceful, being kind, to look after their children with genuine love and care, for it is likely that as the children grow older in life, they will do what their parents have taught them to do (Prov.22:6)!

Another work that the first man and the first woman were told to do from Gen.1:28-30, was to “subdue” the earth. This means that they were to manage or control their environment. The man, for example, was to dress and keep the garden of Eden (Gen.2:15). This means that he was to look after the garden by cultivating the soil for it to produce more food for his family (Gen.1:29). He was also to keep the garden clean and tidy. When we do not manage our environment properly, it will affect us in bad ways. The pollution of rivers poisons fishes, and reduces the amount of fishes a fisherman may catch. The emission of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere may cause breathing problems, such as when the Riverton City Dump is on fire.

Another work that the first man and the first woman were told to do from Gen.1:28-30, was to “have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth”. This means that they were to rule over all that God had created in the sea, the sky and the dry land. They were to manage all other forms of life which God had created in the world. One way in which the first man exercised his dominion over the other forms of life which God had created, was to give names to them (Gen.2:19-20). “Dominion” does not mean abuse. God cares for all the animals (Gen.1:30). Human Beings are expected to work on God’s behalf in caring for the animals also.

3. In 1st Cor.3:9, the apostle Paul wrote, "...we are labourers together with God..." . The apostle Paul said that his work was to "plant" the church at Corinth. This means that he was the FIRST Christian Missionary to come to Corinth, a city in Greece, and to convert some Jews and many Greeks to Christianity through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ. 1st Cor.3:6 reads: "I have planted..." . The Corinthians, who were converted to Christianity, were compared to a "cultivated field", that is, to a field which had been dug up and seeds scattered over it" (1st Cor.3:9). The seed is the Word of God, that is, the Gospel of Christ, which is placed inside of people's hearts. Those who are receptive to God's Word, will believe it, repent and turn to God, confess their faith in Jesus as God's Son, and be baptized in water (Acts 18:8). Paul did not praise himself, but gave God the credit for the conversion of these Corinthians. God's Word, not any human being's own word, is the Power which can save people from their sins and give them eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Paul was only a servant of God, doing what God had commanded him to do.

Apollos did another work at Corinth. He "watered" the seeds, which the apostle Paul had scattered over the Corinthians' hearts . 1st Cor.3:6 reads: "...Apollos watered..." . He came after Paul had converted these Corinthians, and strengthened their faith by teaching them what God expected of them now that they had become members of the church or Christians (Acts 18:27-28). His work was equally as important as Paul's work, for if there had been no watering of the seeds, there would have been no spiritual growth, and there would have been spiritual death eventually (1st Cor.3:8)!

Although their works were different, it did not mean that either Paul or Apollos were to be exalted over the other; but God was to be given the honour (1st Cor.3:5,7). When we do what God wants us to do, we must not exalt ourselves over others who are also doing what God wants them to do; but we must glorify God!

4. Adam and Eve were co-workers with God. They were commanded to: (i) reproduce godly offspring, which would eventually fill the empty earth; (ii) subdue the earth, that is, manage and control the environment for the good of all of God's Creation; (iii) have dominion over all the other forms of life in the world which God had created, which means to manage them and to look after them (Gen.1:28-30).

Paul and Apollos were co-workers with God. Paul was the FIRST Christian Missionary to Corinth. He converted many of the Corinthians to Christianity through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ. Apollos came afterwards and helped much the new converts to Christianity by teaching them how to live as followers of Christ (1st Cor.3:5-9).

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LESSON # 4: HUMAN BEINGS ENDOWED WITH INTELLIGENCE & FREE WILL

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine God’s gifts to human beings of intelligence and free will

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define “intelligence” and “free will”. 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to discuss at least two examples of intelligence in the society. 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to discuss at least two examples of free will in the society. 4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe at least four examples of both intelligence and free will from the Bible.

CONTENT: 1. **Intelligence** is the mental ability to learn new ideas, attitudes, and behaviour quickly, and to apply knowledge in new situations. It is the ability to think through problems and to overcome them. It is the ability to set goals and to plan how to achieve them within a specified period of time. It is the ability to survive in spite of the odds against survival. **Free Will** is the freedom to make one’s own decisions or choices. Generally, God does not interfere with choices which we make. He will influence us and show us the right way; but in the final analysis, He allows us to do what we have decided to do. His allowance of us to do what we have chosen to do, should not be interpreted as God approving of what we have chosen to do. Whether or not God approves of what we have chosen to do, may be known from whether or not we are doing what He wants us to do as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Free Will does not mean that there may not be bad consequences arising from the bad choices we have made. God has not promised to protect people from the consequences of the bad choices which they have made.

2. Examples of **intelligence** in the society are parents working and earning money to look after their children, so that the children may be free to come to school to learn and to prepare themselves for getting a job, from which they may look after their parents when their parents are too old to work. Also some blind people try to be independent by learning to read Braille, to walk with a cane by themselves, to go to school and to prepare themselves for CSEC, and to earn a living.

3. Examples of **free will** in the society are motorists passing the speed-limit, overtaking on an unbroken line, or racing through a stop light. Some students read other text books or chat during class instead of paying attention to what is being taught.

4. **Examples of intelligence and free will from the Bible are as follows:**

(i) **Adam and Eve** showed intelligence by making clothes to cover their nakedness. Adam showed intelligence by naming his wife “Eve”, which meant that she was “the Mother of all who live”. Adam and Eve showed free will by disobeying God and in trying to hide from Him (**Gen.3:7,20; Gen.3:1-6,8**).

(ii) **Isaiah** exercised free will in answering the call of God to be His prophet. Judah exercised free will in refusing to obey God’s will spoken by Isaiah (**Isa.6:9-10**).

(iii) **Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount in Matt. Chapters 5-7**, demonstrates the intelligent way of getting along with God, by knowing your need for God, mourning over your sins, being gentle and humble, hungering and thirsting to do what is right, being pure in heart, being merciful, being peacemakers, enduring persecution for doing what is right, influencing others to do what is right, glorifying God rather than yourself, being sincere in the practice of what is right, not serving money but serving God, trusting Him to provide what

you need, putting what God wants first in one's life, and not being deceived by false prophets; but there is free will either to enter the narrow gate and to travel the narrow road that leads to life, or to enter the wide gate and to travel the broad road that leads to destruction. The Sermon on the Mount also demonstrates the intelligent way of getting along with all kinds of people, by being gentle, humble, patient, peaceful, forgiving, faithful to one's marriage-partner, faithful to one's promises, loving one's enemies, doing good and not evil to them, not being boastful, not a lover of money, not anxious about life, and not judgemental nor condemning.

(iv) **Jesus Christ teaches in Jn. Chapters 14-16**, the intelligent way of loving Christ, keeping His Commandments, winning others as followers of Christ, enduring sufferings for Christ's sake, and ultimately of having a room in the Father's House, when Jesus, His Son, returns.

(v) **Paul in Acts 13:40-41** shows that we have free will to decide whether or not to believe and obey the gospel of Christ.

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LESSON # 5: GOD IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

1. To recognize the sacredness of human life
2. To examine the idea of God as the Source and Sustainer of life
3. To discuss God's concern for the life of each individual from what is written in the Bible and in relation to every day life experiences
4. To identify God's purpose for the world and its people so far as life is concerned

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define the word, "sacred".
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain from Whom life came and how it continues.
3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to give FOUR examples from the Bible of God's concern for the life of each person and to connect these examples with experiences they have had.
4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe God's ultimate purpose for the world and its people, so far as life is concerned.

CONTENT: Life is "sacred". "Sacred" means "of God". Life is sacred for **three** reasons:

1. **God is the Creator and Sustainer of plant, animal, and human life.** He made dry land and caused it to produce grass, plants and trees. He made animals that swim in the waters, fly in the sky, and move on the dry land. Finally, He made human beings in His image and likeness. He created the law of reproduction so that everything reproduces after its own kind. He provides the breath of life, light, food and water for every living thing to continue to live (See Gen. Chapters 1 and 2; Jn.1:1-4; Acts 17:24-29).
2. **God is concerned for the life of each person.** Four examples from the Bible of God's concern for the life of each person, and how this concern is experienced in every day life, are as follows: (i) God knew Jeremiah before he was conceived in his Mother's womb. God set Jeremiah apart and appointed him as a prophet while he was in his Mother's womb. When Jeremiah was a child, God revealed to him his purpose in life as a prophet, gave him the words to speak, and promised him protection from those who would not like his messages (See Jer.1:4-9). This teaches that God has a plan for the life of a human being while they are in their Mother's womb. If that child were to be aborted, this would prevent God's plan from being carried out in the life of that person. Therefore abortion is a sin, for it shows disrespect for God, who created this new life in the womb, and who had a plan for that child's life, and it is breaking God's commandment: "Do not murder"! (ii) God saved Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives, and a sample of all the animals from the flood. God did not want to destroy *any life*. He gave the world in Noah's day, 100 years to repent of their sins. Noah preached righteousness to the world during that time. They did not believe what Noah preached, and they did not repent. Therefore God eventually brought the great flood upon the earth. God spared the lives of Noah and his family, and a sample of all of the animals, by an Ark, that is, a Ship, because He wanted them to reproduce new life to refill the empty earth after the great flood. God also is giving the world time to repent. The Lord Jesus has not returned as yet because God is waiting for more people to repent so that He can spare them at the Final Judgement. Meanwhile, Christians are spreading the message of repentance and forgiveness of sins through Christ in an effort to save more people from the punishment that will come upon the disobedient on the Judgement Day (See Gen. Chapter 7); (iii) God feeds the birds, clothes the grass of the field with lilies, and promises to take care of human beings **even more** by providing food, drink and clothes, if they put Him first in their lives by doing what is right (See Matt.6:25-34). The cost of living is high! Most salaries are not enough to cover all of the basic monthly expenses for a family! However, if you trust God and try to please Him all of the time, no matter how poor or needy you are, God will help you to cope! (iv) God knows when even ONE cheap bird, such as a sparrow, falls to the ground. Human beings are worth MORE to God than many sparrows! If

God is concerned about ONE cheap bird, how **much more** is He concerned about human beings! God even knows how many hairs are on the head of **each** person! This is an example of **how much** God is concerned about the **details** of each individual person's life (See Lk.12:4-7)! You may not have much money. You may not have many clothes. You may not live in a quiet and safe neighbourhood. You may be looked down upon by some people. However, God loves and cares for you! He is concerned about you! You are important to Him!

3. God's ultimate purpose/plan is to give human beings, who hear the words of His Son, Jesus Christ, and who believe in Him, who sent Him, the gift of everlasting life! This is so certain that everlasting life is said to start now, for such persons have already crossed over from death into life (See Jn.5:19-24)! **God's ultimate purpose/plan for the created universe, that is, the created heavens and the created earth, is to set them free from death so that they may share the immortality of human beings who are given everlasting life** (See Rom.8:18-23; compare 2nd Pet.3:13 and Rev.21:1)!

Therefore life is sacred, and it should not be misused, but it should be lived for the glory of God. Neither should we misuse anyone else, for they too have received life from God. Rather we should respect and love others as we respect and love ourselves.

GRADE 10 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES**UNIT I: HUMAN LIFE ISSUES****LESSON # 6: CHRIST'S AFFIRMATION OF THE WORTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine Christ's affirmation of the worth of the individual

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to give examples of how Christ showed the worth of four types of persons in the Gospel Accounts.

CONTENT: 1. **Christ affirmed the worth of individuals who were sick** in healing the man with the withered arm (See Mk.3:1-6), giving sight to two blind men (See Matt.20:30-34), and healing a woman's bent back (See Lk.13:10-17), although in each case there were people who did not think that these sick persons should have been healed.

2. **Christ affirmed the worth of individuals who were suffering** in restoring a demon-possessed man to his right mind (See Mk.5:1-20), healing a woman of haemorrhages (See Mk.5:25-34), raising Jairus' daughter to life (See Mk.5:35-43), cleansing ten lepers (See Lk.17:12-19), and healing the daughter of a Canaanite woman of demon possession (See Matt.15:21-28).

3. **Christ affirmed the worth of children** when He received and blessed little children (See Lk.18:15-17).

4. **Christ affirmed the worth of outcasts** in accepting them, such as in forgiving and sparing the life of an adulteress (See Jn.8:1-11), cleansing a Samaritan leper along with nine Jewish lepers (See Lk.17:11-19), and in forgiving and eating with a chief tax-gatherer of Jericho called Zacchaeus (See Lk.19:1-10).

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LESSON # 7: ETHICAL ISSUES RELATED TO HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine questions concerning what is right to be done to ourselves and to others, based on the facts already covered in Unit I, namely, that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God, they are God's Offspring, they were made to seek and to find God, one day they will give an account to God for why they lived the way they did, they are co-workers with God, God is the Source of life, God is concerned for the life of every human being, God promises eternal life to those who believe in and obey His Son, Jesus Christ, and Christ showed how much human beings are valuable when He showed care for the sick, the suffering, the children and the outcasts.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe six different forms of child abuse. 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define substance abuse. 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe the bad effects of three substances which are commonly abused. 4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explore the arguments of those who are either against capital punishment or for it. 5. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to list statistics of poverty worldwide, and to identify who are mostly affected by it. 6. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe the bad effects that unemployment may have on people. 7. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define "prejudice" and "discrimination", and to explain why these attitudes and behaviour should not be shown towards each other. 8. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe typical ways in which males and females relate to one another, and how God wants them to relate to one another. 9. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define "violence", "vandalism" and "war", and explain why these actions abuse human life and lower human dignity.

CONTENT: 1. CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse is any way of mistreating a child so that his or her health and life are endangered. **The first form of child abuse is abortion.** Abortion is ending the life of an unborn child before he or she is born or while the child is in the process of being born. **Abortion is sinful because it destroys God's creation.** God's creation of a child is wonderful and marvelous. Even before the child is completely formed, God has put information within the genes of the child which will determine how the child will look and how he or she will behave. In Psalm 139, the information for the development of a child in the womb is poetically said to be in God's book. "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest part of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." (Psalm 139:14-16) Even if the child does not look like a human being yet, God already treats the unformed child as a human being. The writer of Psalm 139 writes: "My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret...Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written...when as yet there was none of them." Notice the personal pronouns "my" and "I". God regarded the unformed living substance in the womb as a developing person, not as an impersonal group of tissues.

Abortion is sinful because it prevents the plan which God had for the child's life from being carried out. Jer.1:4-5 reads: "Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Notice that God had already set Jeremiah apart for Himself to serve as a prophet and had appointed him to carry out this purpose in life before he came out of the womb. If then, Jeremiah had been aborted, how would he personally have been able to fulfill God's plan for his life?

The second form of child abuse is neglect. To neglect a child means not to look after him or her, for examples, not feeding them, nor giving them drink, nor clothing them, nor getting them medical attention, nor getting them an education, nor training them to know God, trust God, love God, respect God and obey God. This is the starting point of crime and violence. When children are unloved and uncared for, they become resentful of others, and because they are not in a position to be employed and to earn their own living, they beg from others, steal from others, sell drugs, join gangs and kill others! If they do not learn about God and how He wants them to live, they will engage in crime and violence without feeling bad about it! 2nd Cor.12:14 from the Good News Bible reads: "...children should not have to provide for their parents, but parents should provide for their children."

The third form of child abuse is verbal abuse. Verbal abuse means to shout angrily and insultingly at a child, for examples, to say, "You're no good!"; "You're an idiot!"; "You're fool fool !"; "You're dunce !"; "You will never amount to anything good in life!" Col.4:6 from the Good News Bible reads: "Your speech should always be pleasant and interesting, and you should know how to give the right answer to everyone."

The fourth form of child abuse is physical abuse. Physical abuse means to hurt a child bodily by using excessive force in punishing, out of anger and frustration. God wants parents to love their children, and if they need punishment, to do so not to injure them nor to kill them, but to give them the kind of punishment that they can handle. Physical punishment must be combined with teaching children what is right. Physical punishment should be administered as a last resort, when warnings keep on going unheeded. However, God never intended that parents physically abuse their children by taking out their anger and frustration on them (See Heb.12:6)!

The sixth form of child abuse is carnal abuse. Carnal abuse is sexually misusing a child. Not only is sex before marriage a sin, but it is a sin to have sex with children. God did not design that sex should be done in childhood, but in adulthood, between a husband and a wife. Gen.2:24 reads: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." This Scripture says that marriage and sexual relations were designed by God for "a man" and "his wife"—not a boy and his girl. The Hebrew word, "ishshah", means either "wife" or "woman", depending on the context in which it is used. A man is an adult male, and a woman is an adult female.

2. SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Substance Abuse is either taking an overdose of a legal drug or chemical or taking an illegal drug or chemical that has bad effects on the mind and the body. This abuse may lead to the user being dependent on the substance so that he or she thinks that they cannot go through a day without it or they won't feel good. So dependent may a user become, that when he or she tries to stop the practice, they experience painful reactions in their body. Or the user may think that he or she needs the substance to feel good, but stopping the practice does not produce painful reactions in the body, only the mind may make the person feel depressed.

Common substances abused are cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana, popularly known in Jamaica as "ganja".

Cigarettes are filled with poison that goes into the lungs when you inhale. Coughing, dizziness, and burning of the eyes, nose, and throat are early signs that smoking is harming you. Smoking increases your chances of getting cancer. Lung cancer is the most common kind of cancer caused by smoking. A smoker is at greater risk of getting cancer of the lips, mouth, throat, or voice box. Smokers also have a higher risk of getting esophagus, stomach, kidney, pancreas, cervix, bladder, and skin cancer. The more cigarettes you smoke, the greater your risk of a heart attack. Chemicals in tobacco, harm the cilia (tiny hairs) that line the lungs and which help to remove dirt and waste products, so that they are not able to filter the dirt from the air. As a result the lungs become gray with dirt instead of clean and pink. (Internet, Drugs.com)

Alcohol is a depressant, which means it slows the function of the central nervous system. Reaction times are slowed dramatically — which is why people are told not to drink and drive. When large amounts of alcohol are consumed in a short period of time, **alcohol poisoning** can result. Alcohol poisoning is exactly what it sounds like — the body has become poisoned by large amounts of alcohol. Violent vomiting is usually the first symptom of alcohol poisoning. Extreme sleepiness, unconsciousness, difficulty breathing, dangerously low blood sugars, seizures, and even death may result. (kidshealth.org/teen/drug_alcohol.htm)

Marijuana, popularly called “Ganja” in Jamaica, is another substance that is commonly abused. Studies of marijuana's mental effects show that the drug can impair or reduce short-term memory, alter sense of time, and reduce ability to do things which require concentration, swift reactions, and coordination, such as driving a car or operating machinery. In addition, when young people start using marijuana regularly, they often lose interest and are not motivated to do their schoolwork. The effects of marijuana can interfere with learning by impairing thinking, reading, comprehension, and verbal and mathematical skills. Research shows that students do not remember what they have learned when they are "high". Driving experiments show that marijuana affects a wide range of skills needed for safe driving -- thinking and reflexes are slowed, making it hard for drivers to respond to sudden, unexpected events. Also, a driver's ability to "track" (stay in lane) through curves, to brake quickly, and to maintain speed and the proper distance between cars is affected. Research shows that these skills are impaired for at least 4-6 hours after smoking a single marijuana cigarette, long after the "high" is gone. If a person drinks alcohol, along with using marijuana, the risk of an accident greatly increases. Marijuana presents a definite danger on the road.

Marijuana smoke contains some of the same ingredients in tobacco smoke that can cause emphysema and cancer. In addition, many marijuana users also smoke cigarettes; the combined effects of smoking these two substances create an increased health risk. Marijuana smoke has been found to contain more cancer-causing agents than is found in tobacco smoke. (National Institute On Drug Abuse, 1984 –Taken From The Internet)

3. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Capital Punishment is punishment by death. Do Governments have the right from God to put a murderer to death, after a fair trial has been conducted, in which the accused has had the opportunity either to speak in his defense or has had a lawyer to argue his case, and the prosecution has had the opportunity to present the evidence? Churches have different views on this question. The Catholic Church believes that since God is the Source of life, then only He has the right to take that life away—not any human being. They also believe that since human beings are made in the image and likeness of God, no human being has the right to end another human being's life. They also believe that although capital punishment was commanded in the Old Testament, Jesus Christ abolished it in the New Testament. They also question whether the command to carry out capital punishment in the Old Testament was intended by God to be interpreted literally, since there was capital punishment not only for murderers, but also for those who worshipped idols, for those who practiced witchcraft, for those who spoke insultingly about God, for those who broke the Sabbath Commandment, for those who dishonoured their parents by either verbally or physically abusing them, for those who committed adultery, for those who practised homosexuality and for those who practised bestiality. The Catholic Church says that if capital punishment were to be actually carried out, no one would be left alive! Other Churches believe that no

human being has the right to end another human being's life, unless God has given them this right. They also believe that God has given the right to end another human being's life for murdering a human being who has been made in the image of God. Gen.9:6 reads: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, **by man shall his blood be shed**: for in the image of God made he man. Furthermore there are examples in the Old Testament of capital punishment being interpreted literally. Lev.24:23 reads: "And Moses spake to the children of Israel, that they should bring forth him that had cursed out of the camp, and stone him with stones. And the children of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses." Num.15:36 reads: "And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses." Jesus Christ did not abolish capital punishment in the New Testament. The apostle Paul wrote that the Government has the authority from God to punish evil doers even to the extent of using the sword on them. Rom.13:4 reads: "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; **for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.**"

However, God is merciful. There are examples in the Bible of God not using the death penalty in both the Old and the New Testaments. God did not punish Cain, the first murderer, with death; but He put a mark on Cain to warn other people against taking revenge on him (See Gen.4:13-15). God did not punish king David with death, although he had committed adultery and had indirectly murdered a man by setting the man up to be killed in battle with the Ammonites. Each of these crimes carried with it the death penalty; but God forgave David when he repented and confessed his sins, and He did not carry out the death penalty (See 2nd Sam.12:13). In the New Testament, Jesus Christ forgave a woman who was caught in the very act of adultery, and He did not condemn her to death (See Jn.8:1-11). Therefore although capital punishment is a right given to Governments by God, it is not that they **must** put the evil doer to death; but they may show mercy and try to change the person's attitudes and behaviour for the better, and the gospel may be shared with him by a Christian so that God may forgive him and empower him to live a new life of doing what is right. This is the ideal situation, for God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their wicked ways so that they may be forgiven and live (See Ezek.33:11).

4. **POVERTY**

According to Michael Pennock, in the **Catholic Social Teaching—Learning and Living Justice**, "God has blessed the earth with enough wealth to take care of the needs of each of His children...More than 80% of the world's population lives in developing nations which use only 20% of the world's wealth. The other 20% of the world's people live in industrialized nations that control 80% of the world's wealth...In the next 24 hours, over 40,000 children will die of starvation or diseases related to malnutrition. Over 1 billion people are chronically hungry, that is, hungry for long periods of time. Most of the world's poor are women. They perform 2/3rds of the world's work, but receive in turn only 1/10th of its income and own less than 1/100th of its property" (pages 159,161 and 162). In Jamaica, poverty is a cycle that takes place in certain communities—especially "inner-city" communities. The father is usually absent, and the mother is in a low-income job, such as a domestic worker or a baby-sitter, or buys and sells fruits and vegetables. The mother is usually very young, such as in her early teens. She might have more than one boyfriend. She thinks that the more boyfriends she has, the more money she will get. She ends up having a lot of children, but her "baby-fathers" tend either to leave when heavy demands are made on their little income, or if they stay in the relationship, they do not support the children adequately. Often the "baby-father" is part of a criminal gang, and he is either shot by a rival gang or by the police. So the mother ends up looking after her many children by herself, or with very little support from the "baby-father". The children do not concentrate on their studies because they are malnourished and because of frequent wars in their neighbourhood. Also they have difficulty reading, because their mother did not have enough money to buy books to stimulate interest in and familiarity with reading before the children went to basic school, nor did they have the time to read to the children. Since the children have difficulty reading, they have challenges understanding their different text books for their different subjects, and they end up failing the C.S.E.C. Exams or they end up getting pregnant as a teenager like their mother, and they drop out of school,

having no qualification for employment, and as a result the cycle of poverty continues. The “baby-father” is pressured by his girl-friend(s) for money, and some of them in their frustration might become gunmen and rob and kill people to support their families. Some gunmen rob and kill out of envy at what other people have which they do not have. It is the will of God that “he who has two shirts should share with him who has none, and he who has food should do the same” (Lk.3:10-11). Children in these neighbourhoods may break the cycle of poverty, if they avoid sex before marriage, concentrate on their studies, and ask God to help them to succeed.

5. UNEMPLOYMENT

A job is the means by which a father or a mother earns the money which is needed to look after their needs and the needs of their children. If a person is without a job, they may have to do without some of the necessities of life. They may have to do without food for a long period of time instead of taking their meals regularly. They may have to wear the same clothes and shoes long after they are no longer in a good condition, because they are not able to buy new clothes and new shoes. They may have to stay at their friend’s house because they do not have the money to pay rent. They may not be able to buy all of the recommended text-books for their children because the cost of the books are beyond their reach. They may not be able to buy a new school uniform either. The state of unemployment may cause a person to feel worried, frustrated, angry, helpless and ashamed. From the beginning of the creation, God expected adults to be occupied in work, which can help themselves and others. Gen.2:15, from the Good News Bible reads: “Then the LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it.” 1st Thess.4:11-12 from the Good News Bible reads: “Make it your aim to live a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to **earn your own living**, just as we told you before. In this way you will win the respect of those who are not believers, and **you will not have to depend on anyone for what you need.**”

6. PREJUDICE/DISCRIMINATION

Prejudice means to decide who a person is before you know them, and to treat them on the basis of your opinion about them, whether that opinion is right or wrong. Prejudice involves thinking of all persons of a certain class or kind as having the same attitudes and behaviour. For example, “all persons from the inner city are criminals”. This is why persons from the inner city many times change their address, when they apply for work, otherwise their application would not even be considered! Discrimination is the result of prejudice. Prejudice is the attitude, and discrimination is the expression of that attitude in behaviour. For example, even if a person from an inner city community were more qualified academically than a person from a middle class or an upper class neighbourhood, the person from either the middle class or the upper class would be preferred by the employer over a person from the inner city. Jesus did not accept sin, but He welcomed and ate and drank with all types of sinners in order to get them to turn from their sins. He also healed Jews as well as Samaritans. We are expected to follow His example.

There is a good kind of discrimination. We need to avoid the company of bad friends or they may ruin our good habits (See 1st Cor.15:33). Certain kinds of people should not be in positions of authority and influence, otherwise they may change the laws to approve of their evil lifestyles and to force the population not to speak evil about those lifestyles. If a homosexual, for example, were in the Senate, the law-making part of the Government, he may influence and pressure the Senate to remove the “Anti-Buggery Law” and to legalize homosexuality and to legalize same sex unions. This does not mean that you hate bad people, but you do not want their badness to rub off on you, and you do not want them to be in a position to make laws to pressure people to accept that which God is against!

7. MALE/FEMALE ROLES & RELATIONSHIPS

Males in the Caribbean are not performing as well as females in schools. Less males are qualifying themselves for jobs. An increasing number of females are earning more money than males, and are taking over jobs that used to be done by males only. Many males act irresponsibly in seeing females as “sex objects”, and in not treating them with respect and self-control. Some females encourage this popular male attitude by dressing in seductive clothing and/or allowing themselves to be used in making obscene musical videos. Many males and females commit fornication—sex outside of marriage. They have unwanted children. One woman may have multiple male partners instead of settling down to one partner in the marriage relationship. However, God wants the man to be a caring, responsible person, who can look after a wife and his children. He wants a woman to be a respectful and respectable person, who can take care of her household’s needs. Children produced in such a home, whether male or female, will learn both from their parents’ example and teaching, how males and females should relate to each other in a godly way.

8. VIOLENCE/VANDALISM/WAR

Violence is the deliberate hurting of one another. Vandalism is the intentional destruction of property. War is destroying lives and property, done either by an individual, a gang, a community, or a country. God wants people to live in peace. Matt.5:9 and Rom.13:9-10, from the Good News Bible, read: “Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!...The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery; do not commit murder; do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else’—all these, and any others besides, are summed up in the one command, ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’”

GRADE 10 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES**LESSON # 8: MANIFESTATIONS OF THE THREAT TO OR LOSS OF DIGNITY OF PARTICULAR CATEGORIES OF PERSONS**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To briefly examine ways in which five categories of people are treated as if they have no dignity.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to briefly describe how five categories of people are treated as if they have no dignity or honour.

CONTENT:**1. THE AGED**

The aged are not given seats on the bus, many times. Some motorists are impatient for them to cross the road. At times, some young people curse bad words at them. Sometimes they are robbed or killed.

2. THE POOR

The poor are shunned and avoided. The money given is often too little to little to meet their needs.

3. REDUNDANT WORKERS

Redundant workers may feel embarrassed when they cannot pay their monthly bills.

4. UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

Unemployed youth may turn to drug-trafficking or armed robbery for a living.

5. CHILDREN

Children are deprived of an education and are sent on the streets to earn a living.

The solution to all of these problems is to do the good to others you want them to do for you, and to love your neighbour as yourself (Matt.7:12; 22:39).

GRADE 10 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES**LESSON # 9: INDIVIDUALS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN FAMILY LIFE AND WORK**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine six roles and responsibilities

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, students should be able to describe individuals in six different roles and what responsibilities each role requires of them.

CONTENT:

1. **FAMILY LIFE**

In family life, **husbands** should love their wives as Christ loved the church, honour their wives, and the **wives** should respect and obey their husbands as the church is obedient to Christ, as well as being gentle and quiet (Eph.5:21-33; 1st Pet.3:1-7). **Parents** should train and correct their children with Christian Teaching, but they should not needlessly annoy them (Eph.6:4; Col.3:21). Parents should also provide for their children (2nd Cor.12:14). **Children** should obey and honour their parents, including looking after them when they are old (Eph.6:1-3; Col.3:20; 1st Tim.5:1-17).

2. **WORK**

In work, **employees** are to work enthusiastically and sincerely for their employers, **employers** are to be honest and fair with their employees, adults are not to be lazy, but work for their living, and workers deserve to get paid (Col.3:22-25; 4:1; Eph.6:5-9; 2nd Thess.3:6-14; 1st Tim.5:18).

GRADE 10 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

UNIT II: CONCEPT OF SIN

LESSON # 1: THE BASIC CONCEPT OF SIN

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine the basic concept of sin as described in the Bible

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe sin in six different ways, as presented in the Bible.

CONTENT: 1. Sin is **Rebellion, Disobedience and Transgression**. **Rebellion is open resistance to authority or revolt**. God is the Highest Authority. When He created the first man, Adam, He told him not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (See Gen.2:15-17). However, Adam's wife was deceived by the devil and she resisted God's Authority by eating the forbidden fruit. Adam also resisted God's Authority by eating the forbidden fruit (See Gen.3:1-6). **Disobedience is not doing what God commands or doing what God commands one not to do**. Adam and his wife did what God commanded them not to do by eating the forbidden fruit. **Transgression is going beyond what God has said by not keeping within the restriction God has given. It is to cross over the limit God has placed on one's attitude and behaviour**. Adam and his wife did not stay within the restriction to eat every fruit of the trees of the garden of Eden except the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve's **rebellion, disobedience and transgression**, is what the Bible calls **sin** (See Rom.5:12).

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Christians who lived in the city of Rome, he explained why the whole world was in need of God's forgiveness and peace. In chapter 1 of this letter, he described how the nations of the world had **rebelled** against the True God by making and worshipping images looking like four footed animals, reptiles, birds and human beings, even though the True God had made Himself known to them through what He had made so that they had no excuse for not knowing who the True God is. Not only did they stop worshipping Him, but they stopped thinking about Him and what He had commanded. They ignored the Laws which God had written on their hearts, and they suppressed or held down the truth which their consciences were warning them to follow. Instead of following what the True God wanted them to do, they **disobeyed** Him and **transgressed** or broke His Laws by practising every sort of evil: idolatry, lesbianism, homosexuality, greed, robberies, murder, deceit, gossiping, disobedience to parents, unfaithfulness to promises, being unmerciful, not having natural love for one's family members, inventing new ways of doing wrong, and praising those who do wrong (See Rom.1:18-32)! The world's **rebellion, disobedience and transgression** is what the Apostle Paul calls **sin** (See Rom.3:23).

2. Sin is **Violation of God's Will**. Violation means to do what God says you should not do. God's Will is whatever God wants you to think, feel, say and do. All violations of God's Will start in the heart before it is spoken and done (See Matt.15:18-20). God's Law is not only written in the Bible; but it is written on the heart of every human being. The conscience is a spiritual nervous system that alerts you when you have thought, said or done something that is against God's Will. It also makes you feel good when you have done what God wants. Whenever we violate God's Law in our heart, and pay no attention to the conscience, we dull our sense of right and wrong, and sin is committed (See Rom.2:14-16).

3. Sin is a **Universal Phenomenon**. "Universal" means in every country throughout the world. "Phenomenon" means an action that is seen taking place. Sin has been seen everywhere. Rom.3:9-23 reveals

That although the Jews were God's People in the Old Testament, their own Old Testament Scriptures in the Psalms and in Isaiah, the Prophet, judged them as sinners. The Apostle Paul had already proven in Romans Chapter 1 that the Gentiles, that is, people of all other nations than the Jews, had stifled their knowledge of the One True God, worshipped and served the creature instead of the Creator, given themselves over to shameful passions, and broken every rule of conduct. Therefore in Romans Chapter 3, Paul concludes that "***all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God***" (Rom.3:23).

Why is sin in every country throughout the world? Rom.5:12-21 reveals that sin and death came into the world through Adam's disobedience, and passed on to all mankind. This is why we were "***made sinners***" through Adam's disobedience and are subject to death (Rom.5:12, 19). However, through Christ, those who are joined to Him through faith and in baptism and are born again, are "***made righteous***" and have the promise of everlasting life (Rom.5:1-2,17-19,21; 6:1-7, 23).

4. Sin is an offence, which **each person** has the **responsibility** to **confess** and to **turn away from** so that God may forgive them and renew His friendship and peace with them. If a person blame someone else for their wrong, how may they change from their wrong and do what is right in God's sight?

In Genesis Chapter 3, Adam and Eve did *not* accept as their responsibility the duty to confess that they had done what was wrong, for Adam blamed Eve for his sin, and Eve blamed the serpent (Gen.3:12-13).

In Ps.51:1-5, king David, having committed adultery with Bathsheba, and having indirectly murdered Bathsheba's husband, and then married Bathsheba, is confronted by Nathan, the Prophet of God, about his sins, and how he has given the enemies of God the opportunity to speak evil of Him. David then confesses his sins, expresses sorrow for his sins, and asks God for mercy and cleansing from sins.

In Lk.15:21, the lost son/the prodigal son, confessed his sin to his father. The lost son represents the tax collectors and sinners, who were drawing near to Jesus Christ to hear Him. Jesus Christ was criticized by the Pharisees and the scribes for receiving them and eating with them (Verses 1-2). The lost son also represents any sinner, who repents and returns to God, and who acknowledges his sin, and who is restored to God's friendship and peace (Verses 7, 10, and 32).

LESSON #2: CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine the consequences of sin from various Scripture Passages

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe four consequences of sin from various passages in the Bible. 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to connect the consequences of sin in the Bible with the consequences of sin in the world at the present time.

CONTENT: 1. **Sin separates people from God.** Even God's People, that is, the people of Jerusalem and of Judah, in the Old Testament, were separated from God because they kept on telling lies, stealing and murder, without repenting of these sins, but thought that God would still listen to their prayers! When people are not sincere in doing what is right, and they do not repent of insincerity and disobedience, their sin will be a barrier or a wall that will keep God from answering their prayers (See Isa.59:1-2).

The prodigal son/lost son left his father to live in a foreign country far away. He did not live by his father's teachings, but he followed his own sinful desires. He did not write to his father to tell him where he was and how he was doing. He was like one who is missing and cannot be found, or like one who is dead, whose chair at the table is empty, and whose bed is unoccupied. This is a picture of how sin separates a sinner from God, and initially the sinner has no plan to return to God (See Lk.15:11-19).

There are people in society who do not pray to God, read their Bible, try to apply the Bible to their lives, and go to Church. If they pray or read the Bible, they are not sincere, for their aim in life is to please themselves instead of God.

2. **Sin causes suffering and a degeneration of life.** In Gen.3:16-19, Eve was now going to bear children in a lot of pain, and Adam was going to have to work hard to produce food from the ground, for it was cursed, and not as fertile as before.

In Lk.15:11-19, the prodigal son/the lost son, spent all of his money, became so hungry that he wanted very much to eat the food which the pigs ate, his clothes were now torn and dirty, and his feet had no sandals. The only job he could get, was to feed pigs, which the Jews in the Law of Moses considered to be unclean. His life had degenerated or deteriorated or had gotten from bad to worse. At home, even the paid servants used to get more than enough food to eat. At home, he was adequately clothed. At home, he had a comfortable bed in which to sleep. At home, he was well loved and cared for by his father.

When children are disobedient to their parents, they put stress on their parents, and the children may end up being shot by the police for joining a criminal gang, being addicted to cocaine, contracting sexually transmitted diseases, becoming pregnant outside of the marriage relationship, dropping out of school, and not becoming the teacher or nurse or physician or lawyer they had hoped to be as adults.

3. **Sin causes guilt or shame.** In Gen.3:1-11, Adam and Eve showed guilt and shame by hiding from God. In Dan.9:4-8, Daniel, having read in the books of the Scriptures that the Jews would be in Babylon as exiles and captives for seventy years, and knowing that the time had now come for the Jews to return to the land of Judah and to the city of Jerusalem, confessed his sins and the sins of his fellow-Jews, and the sins of their fathers/ancestors, and the justice of God in having punished them. He expressed his shame over the sins that the Jews had committed, but he asked God to have mercy on them.

When children do not live by godly principles, they will feel guilt, if their consciences are alive, and they will feel ashamed when they think how they have let God, their parents, their teachers and themselves down.

4. Sin ultimately leads to both physical and spiritual death. Physical death is the separation of the spirit from the body (James 2:26). This occurs because our body is made up of a perishable material—dust (Gen.2:7,19; Ecclesiastes 12:7). The only way Adam and Eve in the beginning did not die, is because they had access to the Tree of Life, and the fruits of that tree kept them from aging and dying (Gen.2:8-9; 3:22). However, when God drove them out of the garden of Eden, and prevented them from ever again eating from the Tree of Life, they began to age and eventually died (Gen.3:23-24). None of us has access to the Tree of Life, and therefore the body eventually dies. This is a direct consequence of Adam’s sin (Rom.5:12; Heb.9:27).

Spiritual death is the separation of the human spirit from God in hell-fire, away from the Kingdom of God. Although the body will be no longer able to know, nor to feel, nor to do anything, the human spirit will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Ps.146:4; Rev.20:10). This condition is spoken of as spiritual death, because the human spirit has been kept from the real life of the Kingdom of God, where there will be no more pain, sorrow nor crying (Rev.21:4). People who keep on following their sinful human nature, that is, their natural way of thinking, feeling and behaving, which wants to please themselves instead of pleasing God, whether it is sex before marriage, sex with someone else’s marriage partner, lustful imaginations, indecent dressing, indecent bodily movements to stir up lust, the worship of false gods, stealing, robbing, drunkenness, witchcraft, quarreling, selfish ambition, divisions among Christians, gluttony, and things like these, without turning away from these things and receiving God’s forgiveness, will experience spiritual death (1st Cor.6:9-11; Gal.5:19-21).

We never get accustomed to death. It is an enemy that many dread to face. However, if our sins have been forgiven, we do not have to fear death, for we are promised a resurrection from the dead and eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Some people do not take sin seriously. They think that because the sin feels good, and that they suppose no eternal punishment will come, that they can give themselves up to doing what is wrong. However, the patience of God is meant to bring us to repentance (Rom. 2:4; 2nd Pet.3:9). If there is no repentance, then God’s anger will come on them on the last day (2nd Thess.1:7-9)!

LESSON # 3: HOW SIN AFFECTS THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE SOCIETY

GENERAL OBJECTIVES: 1. To examine ways in which sin affects the individual. 2. To examine ways in which sin affects the society.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe four ways in which sin affects the individual. 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe four ways in which sin affects the society. 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explore factors which result in similar expressions of sin in local society.

CONTENT: 1. Sin affects the individual in four ways: (i) **Sin deceives**, for the devil is “the father of lies” (Jn.8:44). The devil tries to make you think that what God forbids you from having or doing is good or at least harmless. For example, the devil told the first woman that God told her not to eat of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil because He did not want her to become as wise as He is (Gen.3:5). The devil also told the first woman that if she did what God told her not to do, she would not get hurt (Gen.3:4). God forbids sex before marriage; but the National Family Planning Board of Jamaica is telling young people that they may go ahead and have sex before marriage, if they cannot abstain, so long as they use a condom. In this way, the devil is saying that sex before marriage will not hurt you so long as you wear a condom. A condom may protect from sexually transmitted infections and from unwanted pregnancies, but it cannot protect anyone from being punished in hell for committing fornication (Heb.13:4; Rev.21:8)! The devil also deceives by convincing people that God in the Bible supports sin. The devil told Jesus that the Bible says that God would send His angels to protect Him from dashing His feet against a stone if He were to jump down from the highest point of the Temple Buildings (Matt.4:5-6; compare Ps.91:11-12)! Jesus knew that Ps.91 dealt with God’s protection of those who love God, who are overtaken by danger (See Ps.91:9-10)! Ps.91 does not deal with God protecting those who foolishly put themselves into danger! The devil had not applied Ps. 91 in the right way, for he wanted Jesus to put God to a foolish test by jumping off the highest point of the Temple Buildings! The application of Ps.91 by the devil, contradicted Deut.6:16, “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test...” This is why Jesus used Deut.6:16 to reply to the devil’s misapplication of the Bible (See Matt.4:7)! This is the most popular way in which the devil deceives, and the most effective, for if the Bible approves of what I thought was a sin, I might do what God forbids, and think that He is pleased about it! There are those, for example, who say that the Bible teaches that we may pay back evil with evil, for it says: “Eye for eye, tooth for tooth...” (Ex.21:24); but God does not apply this teaching in the New Testament (See Matt.5:38-39), but instead God teaches us to overcome evil by doing good (See Rom.12:17-21; 1st Thess.5:15). God has given two testaments/wills: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The New Testament is God’s Last Testament/Will. It cancels the First Testament/Will. In other words, not every command God gave in the Old Testament is given or applied in the New Testament. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, the Old Testament was done away with, and replaced with the New Testament (Heb.8:6-7,13; 9:15-17; Eph.2:15; Col.2:14).

(ii) **Sin stifles the conscience and ruins good judgement.** To stifle means to hold down or to suppress the truth that God has revealed in your heart and in the Bible. It is to knowingly keep on doing what your conscience warns you not to do. It is to do this until you do not feel guilty doing what is wrong. Whenever you reach this point, you give up yourselves to do anything that you want without any feeling of sorrow. Your mind also becomes darkened, that is, unable to clearly distinguish between what is right and wrong (See Rom.1:18-19, 21; Eph.4:18-24). For example, some people ignore the guilt feelings of their conscience when they begin a life of prostitution; but as time goes on they feel less and less guilty until they feel guilty no more. Some people call evil good and good evil (See Isa.5:20)! For example, a lot of people in Jamaica used to look down on losing one’s virginity; but nowadays, there is a tendency to look down on those who keep their virginity! Keeping one’s virginity until one has been married is what God wants and expects; but a lot of people want to please themselves rather than God, and they try to make themselves feel good by not calling a sin a “sin”!

(iii) **Sin enslaves.** Sin becomes the Master of anyone who willingly obeys it. It controls that person's thoughts, feelings, motives, words and actions. This happens whenever a person who knows what is right, does not want to do what is right, but prefers to what is wrong and pleasing to themselves! It also happens when a person knows what is right, and wants to do what is right, but their sinful human nature overpowers their mind and keeps them from doing what is right (See Rom.6:16,19 &20; Rom.7:14-15,18-19,21-23; John 8:34)! For example, a drug addict might know that the drug is not good for his/her health, but because it makes him/her feel so good, they want to keep on taking it. So then, a person might know that they should control their anger and forgive, but the angry feeling might so take control of the person's mind that they refuse to forgive for a long time! Or a person might know that they should not tell lies, but because they fear that telling the truth might get them into trouble, or because they think that no one will ever find out the truth, and they think it is to their advantage at the time to tell lies, they develop the bad habit of being dishonest! Or a person might take a look at a pornographic magazine, and find it so enjoyable that they keep looking at more pornographic magazines over a period of time. When we sin, one of two things will happen: (i) we either turn from the sin and receive God's help to overcome the power of sin; or (ii) we continue in the sin and find it very difficult to give up the sin after a short while of practising the sin.

(iv) **Sin robs an individual of true happiness.** True happiness is real joy that lasts and which does not lead to regret in the end. The prodigal son/the lost son thought that his happiness lay in leaving his father and in wasting the money which he had gotten as his share of his father's inheritance. He eventually found himself without money, without food, without good clothes, without sandals and without a decent job. He was so desperately unhappy in the end that he wanted to come back home to his father (See Lk.15:11-17)! While king David was on the Palace Roof, lusting at Bathsheba, who was taking a bath in her yard, he was enjoying himself. When he sent for her to come to the Palace, and he committed adultery with her, he was feeling good. However, when Bathsheba told him that she had become pregnant, and he tried to cover up his adultery by trying to get Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, to leave the battle and to go home to his wife, and he did not go home to his wife, and the king in desperation sent Uriah back to the battle with the plan that the soldiers go near the city wall of Rabbah in the country of Ammon, and then quickly withdraw from him so that he might be shot with arrows and killed, and Nathan, God's Prophet, pointed out his sins of lust, adultery and murder to him, David regretted all the evil he had done. He had tried to cover up his sins, and had felt terrible about doing so, but now he confessed his sins and asked God to forgive him (Ps.32:1-5).

2. Sin affects the society in four ways: (i) **Sin breaks up friendships.** Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples and apostles, betrayed Jesus with a kiss for thirty pieces of silver (See Matt.26:47-50). Judas was supposed to have been Jesus's friend, for Jesus had taught him, equipped him with power to perform miracles, and sent him out to preach, heal, cast out demons, and raise the dead to life; but he identified Jesus to Jesus' enemies with a kiss, and they arrested Jesus, tried him, imprisoned him, and later with the permission of the Roman Government, had him nailed to a cross! A true friend is one who is willing to stand by you to help you. A true friend does not put his own interests above your own! A true friend does not value material things above your own welfare and good! Judas Iscariot was later so overcome with the guilt of handing over an innocent man to his enemies, that he committed suicide. Matthias was later chosen to replace him as an apostle of Jesus. Friendships may only last if there is faithfulness and unselfishness, coming from a sincere care for the other person's welfare!

(ii) **Sin breaks up marriages and families.** A marriage is God joining together a man and a woman as one flesh. God does not want this union to be ended by divorce (See Mk.10:6-9). However, there are different reasons marriages might break up. A couple may be impatient with each other (See Eph.4:31). They may refuse to forgive one another (See Eph.4:32). They may see someone else that they would prefer to be with (See Matt5:27-32). If both husband and wife were to sincerely care for each other's welfare, they would try their best to be patient with each other, to forgive each other, and they would not allow someone else, whether man or woman, to get between them and to spoil their union. Marriages break up not because marriages cannot work, but because a lot of people are not allowing God to direct their marriages, but they are allowing Satan to

influence them in a deceptive and destructive way! When marriages fail, it hurts the families—children feel insecure, income drops, needs are not taken care of adequately, children might not be able for a period of time to concentrate in school, or children may miss both parents being together at home!

(iii) **Sin neglects loving care and concern for those for whom we ought to be responsible and for the poor** Parents are expected to take care of their children. 2nd Cor.12:14 reads: “...children ought not to lay up for their parents, but parents for their children...” Parents are expected by God not only to reproduce offspring, but to look after their children. Parents need to work to earn money to buy food for the children to eat, clothes for the children to wear, to send their children to school, to take them to the doctor when they are sick, and to protect their children. When parents just reproduce and do not provide for their offspring, their offspring will feel unloved and unwanted, and will take out their anger on other people by getting involved in criminal activities.

God also expects people to share with others who are in need. If we neglect those who are in need, the needy will continue to suffer, and we will have lost an opportunity for God to work through us to help such people. The sin of the rich man was not in his riches, but in his selfishness in not helping Lazarus with food and medical attention (See Lk.16:20-21).

(iv) **Sin brings widespread immorality and lawlessness.** Rom.3:10-18 and 1:26-32 reveal that sin is expressed in unkindness, cursing bad words, murder, destruction of property, lack of peace, lack of reverence for God, lesbianism, homosexuality, injustice, envy, gossip, pride, disobedience to parents, untrustworthiness, no mercy, no natural affection and even approving those who practise evil.

GRADE 10**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES****UNIT III: GOD****INTRODUCTION**

In Biblical thought, a Name is very significant, for it is not only a label, but it represents the character or personality of the person. God is invisible, but we know Him by what His Names reveal about His Personality or Character. We know God also by what He does and says.

We know God through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is called “the Word” because He reveals God to us in what He has done and in what He has taught.

We know God through His Relationships with people. Israel was referred to as God’s son. Prophets were God’s Spokespersons. Kings were God’s Anointed Representatives to rule on His Behalf.

LESSON # 1: GOD—OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine God as our Heavenly Father

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe four ways in which God has revealed Himself as our Heavenly Father.

CONTENT: 1. The first way in which God has revealed Himself as our Heavenly Father is that He is the **Creator** of everyone and everything. Gen. chapters 1 and 2 tell of God creating the heavens, the earth (dry land) and the seas in six days and resting from His work of creation on the seventh day. Ps. 8 is David’s wonder that God has made man ruler over all the material creation, though in comparison to the vast universe, man seems so insignificant. Acts 17:16-31 is the apostle Paul’s attempt to convince the Athenians, who made and worshipped their gods, that the True God is the Maker of everyone and everything, who gives life, and who is the Father of the whole human race. Since humankind is God’s offspring, God could not be a lifeless image made out of wood and stone, shaped by human craftsmanship. There was a time in the past when God overlooked the nations of the world’s practice of worshipping man-made gods, but now God wants the whole human race to give up the worship of man-made gods and worship the One True God. If there is no change of mind, such persons will be sentenced to punishment by Jesus Christ at his return.

2. The second way in which God has revealed Himself as our Heavenly Father is that He is the **Provider**. In Ps.23, David compares God with a Shepherd. A Shepherd looks after all the needs of his sheep. He gives the sheep food, water, rest, healing, guidance and protection from danger. In Lk.12:22-34, Jesus Christ teaches that God feeds the birds, clothes the grass with pretty flowers, and that God will even more provide for human beings who are more important than the birds and the grass.

3. The third way in which God has revealed Himself as our Heavenly Father is that He is the **Protector**. In Josh.24, Joshua recounts how God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt, protected Israel from hostile nations in the wilderness, defeated the local inhabitants of the land of Canaan, and gave to Israel their land. He then encourages Israel to worship and serve the God of Israel only. Ps.91 teaches that God will protect His people when danger pursues, overtakes and surrounds them. Lk.13:34 expresses Jesus Christ’s wish to have protected the Jews from their enemies like a hen gathering her chickens under her wings—but they refused His protection.

4. The fourth way in which God has revealed Himself as our Heavenly Father is that He is the Sovereign, that is, He rules over all. Ps.6 teaches that God has the power to stop from taking place whatever plans the enemies of God's people make against them. Ps.47 teaches that God is King over all the nations, and that in the past God caused His people Israel to defeat those nations which rose up against them. Ps.97 teaches that the God of Israel is the "most high over all the earth", that both the nations and their false gods are under His authority, and that He will rescue His loyal servants from the wicked. In Lk.10:21-22, Jesus Christ addresses God as the "Lord of heaven and of earth", which means that God is the Supreme Ruler everywhere.

Therefore just as a good father produces a family, God, our Heavenly Father, created everyone and everything. Just as a good father provides for the needs of his family, God, our Heavenly Father, provides for the needs of everyone and everything. Just as a good father protects his family, God, our Heavenly Father, protects us from danger. Just as a good father rules wisely and kindly over his family, God, our Heavenly Father, rules over all the creation in a wise and kind way.

UNIT III: GOD**LESSON # 2: GOD REVEALED IN HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine the characteristics of God revealed in God's Son, Jesus Christ

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe eight characteristics of God revealed in God's Son, Jesus Christ.

CONTENT:**Introduction**

Jesus was a human being. However, He revealed that He was more than a human being. He said that He and the Father are ONE, and that to see Him is to see the Father, for the Father is in Him and He is in the Father (See Jn.10:30-39; 14:7-11). The Apostle Paul wrote that ALL of God's Characteristics or the Nature of God, dwells or resides in Jesus bodily (See Col.2:9). As the only begotten or unique Son of God, Jesus, unlike anyone else who is called "son" or "daughter" of God, has ALL of God, the Father's Characteristics. This does not mean that there is no difference between the Father and the Son, for Jesus said that "the Father consecrated and sent (Him) into the world" (See Jn.10:36). To be consecrated means that God, the Father, set Jesus, His Son, apart for His Work of being the Saviour of the world. To be sent means that God, the Father, sent Jesus, His Son, into the world to speak and to act on His Behalf to bring Salvation to the world. Also when Jesus said that he who has seen Him has seen the Father, Jn.14:10 explains that Jesus was not speaking on His own authority, nor were the supernatural works done by His own authority, for the words and the power came from God, the Father. If there were no difference between the Father and the Son, then Jesus would have consecrated Himself, He would have come from heaven on His own Authority, His words would have originated from Himself, and the Authority and the Power to do supernatural works would have come from Himself. When the Apostle Paul wrote that all of God's Characteristics or Nature resides in Jesus in bodily form, he does not use the Greek word, "Theos", which means "God", but he uses the Greek word, "Theion", which means "the characteristics of God/ the nature of God/ qualities of God/ attributes of God". Let us now look at eight characteristics of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ.

1. The first characteristic of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, is that **He created all things**. Without Him, there would have been no Creation. Not even ONE THING would have been created (See Jn.1:3,10; Col.1:16)! This took place BEFORE Jesus became a human being. Jesus already existed before He became a human being. In fact, Jesus existed before there was any Creation. In His Spiritual Form, Jesus worked on God, the Father's behalf, in bringing everything, which the Father wanted, into existence. In 1st Cor.8:6, there are two Greek prepositions which show the relationship between the Father and the Son in Creation: "ek" and "dia". "Ek" means the Source or Origin of; but "dia" means the Agent by whom something is done. God, the Father, is said to be the Source of the Creation, and Jesus Christ is said to be the Agent through whom all things were created.

2. The second characteristic of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, is that **He has always existed** (See Col.1:17). This Scripture says that Jesus existed before all things were created. In Jn.8:58, Jesus uses the present tense of the verb "to be" to describe His existence. In the Greek language, the present tense not only describes an action going on at the present time, but it describes the kind of action which is continuous. In the case of the verb "to be", it describes a continuous state of existence. However, there are some people who say that since Jesus is called "the firstborn of all creation" that He could not have been eternal. However, in the Bible, "firstborn" does not only mean the first in time to be born, but it also means the first in position, and this is what the context of Colossians requires for Col.1:15.

3. The third characteristic of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, is that **He knows what is in the hearts of everyone**, that is, he knows what they are thinking, imagining, judging and plotting. There is no secret that is hidden within our hearts that Jesus does not know already (See Jn.2:24-25; Matt.9:4).
4. The fourth characteristic of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, is that **He is sinless** (See 1st Pet.2:22; Heb.4:15). Jesus was tempted in every way as other human beings are tempted; but He never gave in to temptation. He always did what God, the Father, wanted Him to do.
5. The fifth characteristic of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, is that **He forgives sins** (See Matt.9:2; Lk.7:48; Jn.8:11; Lk.23:43). He forgives sins so that a person is saved and has eternal life.
6. The sixth characteristic of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, is that **He has Authority and Power over the forces of nature** (See Matt.8:23-27). The winds and the waves obeyed Him!
7. The seventh characteristic of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, is that **He has Authority and Power over death—He even gave life to His dead body** (See Jn.10:17-18; 20:26-29)!
8. The eighth characteristic of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, is that **He is the Lord of Heaven and of Earth, of the living and of the dead, in other words, He rules over the whole creation** (See Phil.2:9-11)!

Therefore Jesus, the Son of God, has all of God, the Father's Characteristics. God has revealed Himself fully and perfectly in His Son, Jesus Christ.

UNIT III: GOD**LESSON # 3: GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine selected Biblical Sources which acknowledge God's Presence in the Holy Spirit.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe three ways God's Presence is revealed in the Holy Spirit.

CONTENT:**Introduction**

The Holy Spirit is called by different titles in the Bible. He is called the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ, for example (See Rom.8:9; compare Rom.5:5). He is called the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ because He has all the Characteristics of God and of Christ. However, the Holy Spirit is not God, the Father Himself, for He intercedes with God on behalf of Christians (See Rom.8:26-27). To intercede means that the Holy Spirit speaks to God, the Father, on behalf of Christians. If the Holy Spirit were God, the Father, Himself, why would He be speaking to God, the Father, on behalf of Christians? The Holy Spirit is not God, the Father, for He was not going to teach anything on His own Authority, but He was going to teach whatever He heard God, the Father, speak to Him (See Jn.16:13). If the Holy Spirit were God, the Father, Himself, would He not teach on His own Authority? The Holy Spirit is not Jesus Christ, for Jesus Christ had to leave the world in order for the Holy Spirit to come down from heaven to be with Jesus Christ's disciples (See Jn.16:7). Notice the Holy Spirit is called "another" Comforter, not the same Comforter (See Jn.14:16,26).

There are at least three ways in which God's Presence is revealed in the Holy Spirit.

1. **The Holy Spirit took part in the Creation of everything.** Gen.1:1-2 reads: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters." In verse 26, it reads: "...Let us make man..." "Let us" includes the Holy Spirit in the work of the Creation. Job 33:4 reads: "The Spirit of God has made me..." Therefore the Holy Spirit took part in the Creation of everything.

2. **The Holy Spirit was involved in speaking God's Words through Prophets of God, some of whom wrote down God's Words in the Bible.** 2nd Pet.1:20-21 reads: "First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." The Holy Spirit spoke God's words to the writers of the Bible. This is what "inspired by God" means, as written in 2nd Tim.3:16-17: "All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." "Inspired by God" is from the Greek word, "Theopneustos". "Theo" means "God", and "pneustos" means "breathed". When a person speaks, breath is used to produce the sounds and to let the sounds be heard. The Holy Spirit took God's Words and revealed them to God's Prophets. Therefore the Holy Spirit was involved in communicating what God wanted to know to human beings.

3. **The Holy Spirit was involved in the Salvation of human beings.** God's greatest desire is to save people from the guilt, control and punishment of their sins. The Holy Spirit revealed through the Old Testament Prophets, God's Plan to save the world through His Son, Jesus Christ's sufferings and death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead . The Holy Spirit was involved in begetting Jesus Christ

in the womb of the Virgin Mary, so that Jesus Christ could come into the world with the nature of God and of a human being. As God, Jesus Christ would be sinless, teach righteousness, heal people of all kinds of diseases and sicknesses, deliver people from demons, raise the dead to life, forgive people of sins, and show God's love especially to those who are unloved or to those who knew that they were sinners and needed a Saviour, and conquer death, first for Himself, but eventually for all who believe in Him and follow Him. As a human being, Jesus would be tempted in every way as we are, be compassionate and merciful to those who are tempted, suffer for our sins and die (See Lk.1:35). The Holy Spirit is involved in giving people a spiritual rebirth so that they are not only cleansed from their sins, but they share God's Own Nature/ Personality and the Power to live righteously (See Tit.3:5-7).

Therefore God has revealed His Presence in the Holy Spirit in at least three ways: (i) Creation (ii) Communication of His Will and (iii) the Salvation and Transformation of people who believe in and follow Jesus Christ.

UNIT III: GOD**LESSON # 4: EXPERIENCES OF GOD IN EVERY DAY LIFE**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine the experiences of God in every day life

- SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**
1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe ways in which they have experienced God as their Creator, Provider, Protector and Ruler.
 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe ways in which they have experienced the Son of God as their Saviour and Lord.
 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe ways in which they have experienced the Holy Spirit in empowering them to live a new life of righteousness and in helping them to understand the Bible as they prayerfully read through it.

CONTENT:

Introduction

There are many different ways in which you may find out for yourself that there is a God. Firstly, you may ask, “Where did life come from?” If there were no life in the beginning, there would be no life now, for life comes from life which was there before it. Life does not come from that which has no life. Secondly, you may ask, “Does my own body show signs of intelligent design?” For example, just one cell of the human body is so small that you cannot see it without the help of a microscope; yet it has its own brain, its own factory for making proteins by which it grows, its own garbage disposal system to get rid of waste materials that could poison the cell if they were not removed, it has its own transportation system to move materials from one part of the cell to another, and it has its own protection system to fight infections. Could one microscopic cell have happened by accident, and it shows signs of intelligent design? Thirdly, if there is a God, would He not communicate with people? Is there a Book that records information which is said to have come from God? Does that Book show evidences of coming from a Being higher in intelligence than human beings? How did Job know that the earth hangs on nothing, at a time when everyone else believed that something was under the earth to keep it up? (See Job 26:7) How did Isaiah know that the earth was not flat, in a time when people thought that it was? (See Isa.40:22) Fourthly, if there is a God, are we not able to communicate with Him? May we not talk to Him? May we not see if He is answering our prayers?

1. How may we experience God as Creator? How did everything get here? How did the Sun get here along with the different planets? How did we get an atmosphere around the world, in which we may breathe? How did we get gravity, which keeps everything, including the atmosphere, from floating off into space? How did we get various forms of life—vegetable, animal and human? (See Ps.19:1; Rom.1:20)

How may we experience God as Provider? If there were no sunlight, air, water and minerals, would there be any life, or if there were any, would it continue for long without these things? Who makes the soil to be able to produce grass, plants and trees? Who made the animals? When you are in need, do you call on the Lord to give you what you need? (See Matt.6:11; 7:7-11; Acts 17:25; 14:17)

How may we experience God as Protector? Are there any plants that may be used to heal the body? Why is the brain covered with a skull? Why are there tiny hairs called "cilia" in the nostrils? Why are the eye brows directly above the eyes? Why does the body have an immune system? Have you ever been in trouble and prayed for God's help? What did God do for you? (See Ps.34:4,8)

How may we experience God as Sovereign/Ruler? Do you try your best to keep God's Commands in the Bible? Or do you just hear or read the Bible without doing what God says in every day life? (See James 1:22-25)

2. Have you received Jesus Christ's Salvation from sins as yet? Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross to save you from your sins and to give you eternal life? Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead so that you may be forgiven of your sins against Him and be allowed to go to heaven one day? (See Jn.3:16) Have you felt sorry that you sinned against God so that you wanted to turn away from your sins and to do what God wanted you to do from now on? (See Acts 3:19) Have you called on the name of the Lord Jesus by confessing Him as your Lord, believing in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead? (See Rom.10:8-13) Have you been buried with Jesus Christ in baptism and been raised up with Jesus Christ to walk in newness of life? (See Rom.6:3-7, 17-18)

Is Jesus Christ the Lord of your life? Are you being obedient to His Teachings? (See Lk.6:46) Since your water baptism, have you attended Worship Services with other Christians, who want to please the Lord by obeying His Teachings? (See Acts 2:41-42; Heb.10:25) Do you feed on the word of God as a baby feeds on milk, so that you may become a mature follower of Christ? (See 1st Pet.2:1-2) Are you abstaining from fleshly lusts which war against your soul? (See 1st Pet.2:11) Are you demonstrating genuine Christian Love in your life? (See Jn.13:34-35; 1st Cor.13:4-7) Are you trying to influence others to become Christians? (See Matt.28:19-20) Are you being faithful to Jesus Christ, or have you turned away from Him? (See Heb.3:12-14; 10:35-39)

3. Have you experienced a spiritual rebirth? Do you feel the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your mind and body to help you to become a better person than what you used to be? (2nd Cor.3:18) When you read the Bible and do not understand what it says, do you pray for wisdom? (See Ps.119:18; James 1:5)

God is real. He is more real than you and me, for He has always been around and He will always be around! (See Isa.43:10; Ps.102:25-27)