

GRADE 9 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

LESSON#1: THE PEOPLE & THE LAND FROM WHICH CHRISTIANITY ORIGINATED

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine the origin of Christianity

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define “Christianity”.
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify the people from whom Christianity originated.
3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to locate on a map the place where Christianity originated.

CONTENT:

1. “Christianity” is the Faith that Jesus of Nazareth is “the Christ” or “the Messiah”, foretold by Moses and the Prophets, and that forgiveness of sins and an inheritance in the Kingdom of God is possible only through Him (See Lk.24:44-47; Acts 4:12; and Jn.14:6)
2. Christianity originated from the People of Israel, known as the Israelites or the Jews. God made a Covenant, that is, an Agreement, with their Ancestor, Abraham, that he would be the founder of a great nation, which would have a special relationship with God, that is, they would be God’s People, and He alone would be their God. God promised Abraham that He would give to the Israelites the land of Canaan (which was later renamed the land of Israel). God promised Abraham that one of his descendants from Israel would bless all nations by bringing forgiveness of sins to them. This descendant of Abraham is Jesus Christ. He died on the cross to make it possible for people of all nations, who believe in Him and get baptized to receive God’s forgiveness and to be spiritually regarded as the descendants of Abraham, God’s People. Today, those people from all nations, who have been blessed by Jesus Christ, in fulfillment of God’s Agreement with Abraham, are known as “Christians”, that is, the Followers of Jesus Christ. They are also known as “the Children of God”. (See Gen.12:1-3; Gal. 3:6-9,13-14,26-29; 1st Pet.2:10)
3. Christianity originated in the land of Israel. Jesus was born in Bethlehem (See Matt.2:1-6). He grew up in Nazareth (See Matt.2:23). He was baptized in the Jordan River (See Matt.3:13-17). He preached in Galilee in the north (See Matt.4:23), Samaria in the middle (See Jn.4:4,40-42), and Judaea in the south (See Jn.2:23; 3:2).

Just as Jamaica is divided up into three Counties, Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey, even so Israel, west of the Jordan River, was divided up into three Provinces: Galilee in the north, Samaria in the middle, and Judaea/Judea in the south. A good way to remember these three Provinces is to say: “**God Sent Jesus**”. **G**, in **God**, should remind you of **Galilee**. **S**, in **Sent**, should remind you of **Samaria**. **J**, in **Jesus**, should remind you of **Judaea/Judea**. Judaea is the British spelling, and Judea is the American spelling. On the Map below, locate these three Provinces, west of the Jordan River. In which Province is the town of Bethlehem? In which Province is the town of Nazareth?

Jesus was assisted by twelve apostles, that is, messengers (See Lk.6:13-16). He did many miracles out of compassion and to prove that He is the Christ (See Jn.20:30-31). He suffered, died and arose from the dead three days after His death at Jerusalem (See Lk.18:31-33; 23:33,46; 24:1-7). Forty days later, He ascended into heaven from Bethany (See Lk.24:50-51; Acts 1:3). Then His apostles and other followers, spread the good news of God’s forgiveness through Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal life in the Kingdom of God, in Jerusalem, throughout Judaea, then in Samaria, and then to the ends of the earth (See Acts 1:8).

MAP OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL



So then, Christianity originated from the People of Israel in the Land of Israel. **Note Well:** Although Christianity started among the People of Israel in the land of Israel, the majority of Israelites did not become Christians. The majority of Israelites continued to hold on their own Faith, and they rejected Jesus as the Christ.

For a while, Christianity was thought by the Israelites to be a Sect of the Religion of Israel. The followers of Jesus Christ were called “the Sect of the Nazarenes”, since Jesus was known as Jesus of Nazareth, or the Nazarene. However, when more Non-Israelites than Israelites, from countries outside of the land of Israel accepted Christianity, the People of Israel realized that it was a different Religion altogether from their own Religion.

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LESSON # 2: THE ORIGIN OF THE BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine the origin of the beliefs of Christianity

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe five ways in which the beliefs of Christianity originated among the People of Israel.

CONTENT: 1. Jesus continued the belief that the People of Israel already had in The One True God (Jn.17:3).

2. Jesus believed in the final authority of the Holy Scriptures, which were revealed to Israel (Matt.5:17-18; Jn.10:35).

3. The Israelites had the hope of the Messiah's Coming (Lk.3:15-16).

4. Some Israelites recognized Jesus as The Promised Messiah:

(i) He was a descendant of king David (Jer.23:5; Lk.1:26-33);

(ii) He was born of a Virgin (Isa.7:14; Matt.1:18-20);

(iii) He was born in Bethlehem of Judaea (Mic.5:2; Matt.2:1-6);

(iii) He grew up in Nazareth (Isa.11:1; in Hebrew, "Netzer", translated as "Branch", meaning a "descendant of ", also has the meaning of "Nazarene". The Messiah was to be both a descendant of king David, and a Nazarene, that is, a resident of Nazareth. See Matt.2:23);

(iv) He did many miracles (Isa.35:4-6; Jn.20:30-31);

(v) He taught in Parables (Ps.78:2; Matt.13:34-35); &

(vi) He died on the cross, was buried, and was raised from the dead on the third day (Isa.53:3-12; Lk.24:44-47).

5. God revealed the beliefs of Christianity through His Son's Teachings (Jn.7:16; Jn.12:49-50; Jn.17:8).

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LESSON #3: MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ORIGIN OF CHRISTIANITY—JOHN, THE BAPTIST

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To recognize John, the Baptist, as the forerunner of the Messiah.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain at least two ways in which John, the Baptist, was the forerunner of the Messiah.

CONTENT: John, the Baptist, was a major contributor to the origin of Christianity in that he was the forerunner of the Messiah. “Forerunner” means someone who goes before another to prepare or to make ready for that person’s coming. John, the Baptist, prepared for Jesus, the Messiah’s coming in the following ways:

- (i) **He called all Israel to repent**, i.e. to be sorry for their wrong doings, to change their minds from keeping on doing what is wrong, and to show this change of mind in a change of behaviour or conduct. For example, the common people, that is, all the people gathered to hear John, the Baptist, preach, were told to share with others: “he who has two shirts, must share with him who has none; and he who has food must do the same.” (Lk.3:10-11) Tax-Gatherers were to change their mind from being greedy and dishonest, and to show this change of mind by not collecting more taxes than what the Roman Government had assessed to be collected. (See Lk.3:12-13) The soldiers on active military service were to change their mind from bullying the people and from trying to get money by false accusation. They were also to be content with their pay. They were to show this change of mind in not doing violence to anyone, not falsely accusing anyone and in not complaining about their pay. (See Lk.3:14)
- (ii) **He baptized people as a “token of repentance”**. (See Lk.3:3) The baptism was an outward sign of the inward change of mind and of the decision to do what God wants. The baptism was also to prepare them for the Messiah’s coming and to save them from the coming retribution or punishment.
- (iii) **He announced to Israel that a person greater than himself was coming**, who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (See Lk.3:15-17) He also announced that this greater person would be God’s sacrifice by which the world’s sins would be forgiven. (See Jn.1:29) God Himself bore witness that Jesus is the “Messiah”, i.e. the “Anointed One”, by anointing Him with the Holy Spirit, when the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descended upon Jesus after John, the Baptist, had baptized Him. (See Lk.3:21-23)

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LESSON # 4: MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ORIGIN OF CHRISTIANITY—JESUS CHRIST

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine the contributions made by Jesus Christ to the origin of Christianity

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe four contributions which Jesus Christ made to the origin of Christianity.

CONTENT: Jesus made at least four contributions to the origin of Christianity:

1. **He is the Promised “Messiah” or “Christ”.** “Christian” means “Follower of Christ”. There would be no “Christian” without the belief that Jesus is the “Christ”. “Christianity” means “Religion of Christ” or “The Faith of Christ”. Without the belief in Jesus as the “Christ”, there would be no “Christianity”.

“Christ” is the Greek word that has been written and spelt in English letters. “Messiah” is the Hebrew word that has been written and spelt in English letters. Both of these words mean “Anointed One”. In the Old Testament Section of the Bible, kings of Israel and of Judah were anointed with oil to be a sign that God had chosen them to rule over God’s People. Therefore they were called “The Lord’s Anointed”. So then, “Christ” or “Messiah” means “King”.

God had promised king David that one of his descendants would always sit on the throne of Israel (2nd Sam.7:12,16,17). This promise was then narrowed down to one particular descendant of king David. This one Special King would be both Divine and Human, for He would be “the Mighty God” and “a child (who) is born” (Isa.9:6-7). He would be born in Bethlehem of Judah/Judaea (Mic.5:2). He would be anointed with the Holy Spirit (Isa.61:1). He would perform many miracles with the power of God (Isa.35:4-6). He would die on the cross, be buried in a rich man’s tomb, and rise from the dead to bring Salvation from sins to the world (Isa.53:3-12). He was called by the Israelites “Messiah” and by the Israelites who spoke Greek, “Christ”. Jesus is the “Messiah”, for He is a descendant of king David (Lk.1:26-33). Jesus is the “Messiah”, for He is by Nature “God”, being the “Son of God” (Jn.10:30,36). Jesus is the “Messiah”, for He is human by nature, being the “Son of man” (Lk.19:10). Jesus is the “Messiah”, for He was born in Bethlehem of Judaea (Matt.2:1-6). Jesus is the “Messiah”, for He was anointed with the Holy Spirit (Lk.4:16-21). Jesus is the “Messiah”, for He performed many miracles by the power of God (Jn.20:30-31). Jesus is the “Messiah”, for He died on the cross, was buried in a rich man’s tomb, and arose from the dead on the third day to bring forgiveness of sins to people from all nations who repent of their sins, believe in Him and follow His Teachings (Lk.24:44-47). He is a Spiritual King of a Spiritual Kingdom consisting of those who have been forgiven of sins, and who are practising righteousness, living in peace with others, and who have joy through the Holy Spirit in serving Him (Col.1:13-14; Rom.14:17-19). One day, this Special King, who is now in Heaven, ruling over His Kingdom at the right hand side of God, will return to take His faithful followers into the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt.25:31,34; 1st Thess.4:16-18).

2. **He is the “Redeemer”.** A “Redeemer” is one who pays a price for another person’s freedom. The price, which Jesus paid for our freedom from the charge of sin, from the enslavement or control of sin, and from the future punishment of sin, is His precious blood or the sacrifice of His own life on our behalf (1st Pet.1:18-19; Eph.1:7; Tit.2:14).

3. **He is the “Mediator of the New Covenant”.** A “Covenant” is an “Agreement” between God and human beings. In this New Covenant, God agrees to accept both Israelites and all other nations who believe in and obey His Son, as His own Special and Holy People, and to be their God. He accepts Christ’s Sacrificial Death on behalf of the world, and forgives people who follow His Son, of all their sins and remembers their sins no more. He puts His Laws in the hearts of His Son’s Followers, and gives them the Holy Spirit to enable them to

obey His Laws, as given by His Son, Jesus Christ, in the New Covenant (Heb.9:15; 8:6-13; Eph.2:14-19; 2nd Cor.3:6,17-18). This is also why there is a “New Testament” Section of the Bible. “Testament” is a translation of the same Greek word, “diatheke”, which may also be translated as “Covenant”. A “Testament” is a “Will”, which does not come into effect until after the death of the person who had made it. This is why the “New Testament” did not come into effect until Jesus Christ had died on the cross (Heb.9:16-17). Also some of the Laws which God had given to His People, the Israelites in the Old Testament, have either been abolished or expanded in the New Testament. We therefore know what Christianity teaches through Jesus Christ’s Teachings in the New Testament, and His applications of Old Testament Teachings and Principles.

4. He is the Founder of His Church. The Church of Jesus Christ is the Assembly of those whom Jesus Christ has saved with His own precious blood. They are expected to follow His Teachings in their daily lives (Matt.16:18; Acts 20:28; Matt.28:18-20). The Acts of The Apostles, the fifth book in the New Testament, tells you how to become a member of Jesus Christ’s Church. The Epistles/Letters to Churches and to Individual Christians, tell you how to live as a member of Jesus Christ’s Church.

Therefore without Jesus being the “Christ”, there would be no “Christian” nor “Christianity”. “Christ” means the Special King, whom God promised to send from David’s descendants, to save people from their sins and to rule them as a Spiritual King. He is also the “Redeemer”, who paid the price with His own death on the cross to set people free from their sins. He is the “Mediator of the New Covenant”/ New Agreement between God and all of Christ’s Followers throughout the world. He is the Founder of the Church, a worldwide body of Christians, who have been saved by Christ, and who are expected to live a holy life in obedience to Christ’s Teachings. These are four basic contributions which Jesus Christ has made to the origin of Christianity.

GRADE 9 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES**LESSON # 5: MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ORIGIN OF CHRISTIANITY—NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS (RECORDERS OF EARLY CHRISTIAN HISTORY AND TEACHINGS)**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine the contributions made by the New Testament Writers to the Origin of Christianity

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe **TWO** kinds of New Testament Writers. 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to give **THREE** reasons for accepting the genuineness and accuracy of the Records these New Testament Writers have left behind. 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to list the New Testament Writers and the Books they wrote. 4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to give **FOUR** reasons these Records the New Testament Writers have left behind are valuable.

CONTENT: 1. There are **two** kinds of New Testament Writers: (i) Eye-Witnesses and (ii) Those who knew the Eye-Witnesses. Among the eye-witnesses are the Apostles, that is, the hand-picked Messengers, whom Jesus had personally taught, trained and sent out into all the world to make people of all nations His followers (See Matt.10:2-4; 28:16-20). Those Apostles, who wrote New Testament Books, were Matthew, John and Peter. After Jesus' ascension into heaven, Paul, and James—the Lord's brother, became Apostles (See Acts 26:16; Gal.1:1,19). They also wrote New Testament Books. Another eye-witness is Jude, the brother of James. He wrote a short Book in the New Testament (See Jude 1:1). Those who knew the eye-witnesses were Mark and Luke (See 1st Pet.5:13; Lk.1:1-4). They also wrote New Testament Books.

2. There are **three** reasons we may accept the genuineness and accuracy of the Records these New Testament Writers have left behind: (i) The eye-witnesses saw and heard for themselves the miracles, the teachings, the sufferings, the death, the burial, the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven (See Jn.20:30-31; 19:35; 1st Jn.1:1-4; 2nd Pet.1:16-18). (ii) The eye-witnesses were reminded by the Holy Spirit of all that Jesus Christ had taught them, and they were guided by the Holy Spirit into all other truth which Jesus Christ had not taught them while He was on earth (See Jn.14:25-26; 16:12-15). (iii) Those who knew the eye-witnesses got their information from the eye-witnesses, and they were also guided by the Holy Spirit in all that they had written (See Lk.1:1-4; 1st Cor.12:7, 11).

3. Matthew wrote the Gospel according to Matthew, Mark wrote the Gospel according to Mark, Luke wrote the Gospel according to Luke and also the Acts of the Apostles, John wrote the Gospel according to John, the 1st Letter of John, the 2nd Letter of John, the 3rd Letter of John, and The Revelation of Jesus Christ, Paul wrote a Letter to the Romans, two Letters to the Corinthians, a Letter to the Galatians, a Letter to the Ephesians, a Letter to the Philippians, a Letter to the Colossians, two Letters to the Thessalonians, two Letters to Timothy, one Letter to Titus, one Letter to Philemon, and possibly a Letter to the Hebrews, James—the Lord's Brother, wrote a General Letter to the Churches, and Jude also wrote a General Letter to the Churches.

4. There are **four** reasons these New Testament Writings are valuable: (i) **they are written by men who personally knew Jesus, or who knew the men who personally knew Jesus, and they give an authentic account of who Jesus of Nazareth is** (See Lk.1:1-4); (ii) **these Writings give good reasons for believing in Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah**, such as, He fulfilled prophecies of what the Messiah would do when He came, He worked miracles that no other man was able to do, He was the kindest man who ever lived, and God raised Him from the dead never to die again (See Lk.24:44-47; Jn.20:30-31; Matt.20:28; Lk.24:1-7); (iii) **these Writings tell readers how Jesus of Nazareth expects us to live**, such as to love God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our might (See Matt.22:37-38), and to love others as we love ourselves by doing to others what we want them to do to us (See Matt.22:39; 7:12); and (iv) **these Writings tell readers what to look forward to at Jesus Christ's return, if we become Christians and are faithful to Him**, that is, to a place in God's Kingdom, where there will be no death, sorrow nor pain (Jn.14:1-3,6; Rev.21:4)!

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LESSON# 6: GOD—THE SUPREME BEING, THE CREATOR, AND THE BLESSED TRINITY

GENERAL OBJECTIVES: 1. To examine God as the Supreme Being
2. To examine God as the Creator
3. To examine God as the Blessed Trinity

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe six ways in which God has revealed Himself to be the Supreme Being. 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to briefly list what God created in the six days of creation. 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define “Trinity”. 4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to give two examples in which God revealed Himself as the Trinity.

CONTENT: 1. God is **the Supreme Being**. “Supreme” means the greatest or the highest or the one who is above all others (See Eph.4:6). God is Supreme in **Knowledge**. He does not need someone to direct Him, counsel Him, and teach Him (See Isa.40:13-14). His understanding is unfathomable or unsearchable (See Isa.40:28). His wisdom is beyond all telling (Ps.147:5). God is Supreme in **Power**. He has gauged/measured the waters/seas in the palm of His hand, set limits to the heavens, held all the soil of earth in a bushel, and weighed the mountains on a balance and the hills on a pair of scales (See Isa.40:12). The nations are but drops from a bucket, and the islands weigh as light as specks of dust (See Isa.40:15). He performed miracles through His Son, Jesus Christ. Christ turned water into wine, made a crippled man walk at Jerusalem, fed 5000 men with 5 barley loaves and two tiny fishes, walked on the Sea of Galilee, gave sight to a man who was born blind, and raised Lazarus from the dead, as recorded in the Gospel of John. God is Supreme in **Love**. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross, to save ungodly sinners, who were His enemies, from everlasting punishment. Humans do not naturally love their enemies, and even when some try to love their enemies, they do not love them to the extent of dying to protect them (See Rom.5:6-8). God is Supreme in **Holiness**. He has no fault. Others who are holy, have some fault. In that sense, God alone is Holy (See Rev.15:4). God is Supreme in **Life**. No one made God. He has always existed (See Isa.43:10). God does not age, but He remains the same. God will not die (See Ps.102:25-27). God is Supreme in **Authority**. He rules the heavens and the earth, and does what He wishes (See Dan.4:34-35). We are to show respect for His authority by obey Him (See Matt.22:37-39).

2. God is **the Creator**. On the first day, God created light. On the second day, God created the atmosphere and space. On the third day, God created the dry land and the seas, and on the dry land, grass, plants and trees. On the fourth day, God created the sun, moon and stars. On the fifth day, God created the water-creatures and the birds. On the sixth day, God created the four-footed animals, crawling creatures, and man and woman. On the seventh day, God rested from His work of creation (See Gen. Chapters 1 and 2).

3. God is **the Blessed Trinity**. “Tri”= Three, and “nity”= Unity. There are Three Spiritual Beings, who have the same Nature of Godhood, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (See Matt.28:19). Their relationship is seen at Jesus’ baptism. Jesus was in the river Jordan. The Holy Spirit came down on Him in the form of a dove. The Father spoke from heaven (See Matt.3:16-17). Their relationship is also seen in the Son asking the Father to send **another** Advocate/Helper, i.e. the Holy Spirit (See Jn.14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:12-15).

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LESSON # 7: JESUS CHRIST IN RELATION TO GOD AND HUMAN BEINGS

GENERAL OBJECTIVES: 1. To examine Jesus Christ in relation to God.
2. To examine Jesus Christ in relation to Human Beings

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe four ways in which Jesus Christ shows His Nature as God.
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe four ways in which Jesus Christ shows His Nature as man.

CONTENT: 1. JESUS CHRIST IN RELATION TO GOD

LORD: Jesus shows His Nature as God, in that He is Lord. In the Hebrew Bible, “Lord” is often used in place of “Yahweh”, God’s Personal Name. “Yahweh” was written in the Hebrew Bible, but it was mostly read in the Synagogue as “Lord”, and a few times read as “God”. This practice started about three centuries before Jesus Christ was born, because the Jews were afraid of misusing God’s Personal Name, “Yahweh”, and bringing on themselves punishment from God.

Therefore when Jesus is revealed as “Lord” and “God” in the New Testament, it shows that as the Son of God, He has all of God’s Characteristics in a human body, (Col.2:9). In Jn.20:28-29, Jesus accepted being called by Thomas, one of His disciples, as “Lord” and “God”. If Jesus were not by Nature God, He would have corrected Thomas, and He certainly would not have accepted those titles for Himself. In Jn.14:7-11, Jesus said that there was no need for Him to show God, the Father, to His disciples, since they could see God, the Father, in Him through His Teachings and through His miracles.

“Lord” also means “Master” and “Owner”. Jesus is Master of the whole creation in heaven, on earth and in the seas, for He is by Nature “God”, who did not consider equality with God, the Father, something to be held on to, but humbled Himself by becoming a human being, and humbled Himself further by dying on a cross. This is why God, the Father, has exalted Him to the highest position in heaven and made Him the Lord of all who are in heaven, on earth and under the earth (See Phil.2:5-11). Jesus is also Owner of the whole creation, for God, the Father, made all things through Him. What you make belongs to you. Jesus made all things in the Universe, therefore all things in the Universe belong to Him (See Col.1:15-17).

WORD OF GOD: Jesus shows His Nature as God, in that He is the Word of God. In John 1:1-4, it is revealed that the Word was “in the beginning”, that He is “God”, that He made everything, and that He is the Source of life. In John 1:10 and 14, we learn that although the Word came into the world as a human being, they did not generally recognize Him as the Creator. In John 1:11, we learn that His own people did not accept Him. Jesus is called the “Word” because He reveals all of the characteristics of God, the Father, just as a word we may speak reveals what we think, how we feel, and our personality. Jesus came into the world to make known who God, the Father, is since no one has seen God at any time.

SON OF GOD: Jesus shows His Nature as God in that He is the Son of God. Jesus is called by the apostle John in his writings, “the only begotten Son of God”. “Only begotten” means that Jesus is “Unique” or “One of a kind” as God’s Son. He is different from human beings, who are called “the offspring of God” in Acts 17:29. He is different from angels, who are called “sons of God” in Job 38:7. He is different in that He has all of God’s Characteristics, but human beings and angels have some of God’s Characteristics. For example, the Son of God has always existed, but neither human beings nor angels have always existed (See Jn. 8:58). He created all things, but neither human beings nor angels have created all things (See Col.1:15-17).

Jesus is also the Son of God because He was begotten by God, the Father, through the Holy Spirit, in the womb of Mary. Jesus was not begotten by any human father. God, the Father, is the One who produced Jesus in Mary’s womb. Since God, the Father, got Mary pregnant, Jesus, God’s Son, has all of God’s Characteristics. Since Mary was Jesus’ Mother, Jesus, Mary’s Son, has all the characteristics of a human being, with the exception of sin. (See Matt.1:18, 20; Lk.1:35)

Jesus was declared by God, the Father, to be His Son at His baptism and at His transfiguration. (See Matt.3:16-17; 17:5) His miracles and His resurrection prove that He is the Son of God. (See Jn.20:30-31; Rom.1:4)

SERVANT OF GOD: God is a Servant of His Creation, in the sense that He looks after every living thing by providing them with the breath of life, rain, sunshine, and crops. Every day we call upon God for help, and He serves us by giving us what we need and what is best.

Jesus shows His Nature as God in that He is a Servant also. He came into the world to do the will of God, the Father, not His own will. (See Jn. 6:38) He served the needs of people by healing every kind of disease among the people, feeding the hungry, raising the dead to life, and casting out demons. His greatest act of service was to give up His life so that people may be forgiven of sins and have everlasting life. (See Matt.20:28; Isa.53:5-12)

2. JESUS CHRIST IN RELATION TO HUMAN BEINGS

HIGH PRIEST: Jesus Christ shows that He is like us in that He can feel sorry for us when we give in to temptation and sin. He has had experiences of being tempted in every way as we are, except that He did not give in to any temptation. Since He knows the weaknesses of human nature, He is already eager to help people who have sinned, to get forgiveness of all their sins from God. For this reason, as our High Priest, Jesus Christ pleads with God on our behalf to forgive us. (See Heb.4:14-16; 9:24) He will always be alive to intercede with God for those who come to God through Him for Salvation from sins. (Heb.7:25)

SON OF MAN: Jesus Christ shows that He is like us in that He is a human being. “Son of man” is a Hebrew way of saying a human being. Jesus got his human nature from His Mother, Mary. (See Ps.8:4)

PROPHET: Jesus Christ shows that He is like us in that He is a Prophet of God. A prophet was a human being to whom God gave messages to pass on to other human beings. Jesus was a Messenger from God, passing on God's Messages to other human beings. (See Jn.17:8)

SAVIOUR: Jesus Christ shows that He is like us in that He came as a human being to save us from our sins by dying on the cross for our sins against God. He had to come as a human being so that He would be able to die for us. Before Jesus came into the world as a human being, He did not have a human body, nor could He die. God gave Jesus a human body in Mary's womb so that He would be able to die for the sins of the world. (See Phil.2:5-8; Heb. 2:11-18)

MESSIAH: Jesus Christ shows that He is like us in that He had to be a physical descendant of Abraham to bring the blessing of salvation to the world. (See Gen.12:1-3; Gal.3:13-14) Jesus Christ had to be a physical descendant of king David in order to qualify as the Messiah. (See 2nd Sam.7:16-17; Jer.23:5-6; Lk.1:31-33) The Messiah had to die for the world's sins before He could begin His reign. This is why Jesus had to be a human being in order to be able to die for the sins of the world. (See Lk.24:26,46)

CONCLUSION

Jesus Christ is both God and man. He has all of the Characteristics of God, the Father: eternal, creator, revealer, performer of supernatural works, sinless, loving and kind. He was called by His followers "Lord", a title frequently used in reference to God, when Jews read from the Hebrew Bible or its Greek Translation. Jesus accepted being called both "Lord" and "God". However, He also called Himself "the Son of God", and often said that His Teaching did not come from Himself but from God, the Father, who sent Him. The miracles which He performed, were said to be done by the power of the Father in Him, and that He could do nothing on His own authority or initiative. He often prayed to God, the Father. He said that He came to do the will of God, the Father, and not His own will. Therefore although Jesus is God, this does not mean that He is the Father Himself, but as the Son of the Father, He has all of the Father's Characteristics.

Jesus is also human. He could get hungry and tired. He was moved to weep on more than one occasion. He could feel pain. He also could die. Jesus was human except in the matter of being sinless. It is through Jesus Christ as a human being that people could see all of the Characteristics of God in Him so that it was not necessary for the Father to come down from heaven and to show Himself to the disciples, but the Father could be seen in the Son.

GRADE 9RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTESLESSON # 8: EXAMPLES OF HOW PEOPLE BECAME CHRISTIANS—TAKEN FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine how people became Christians, as recorded in the Acts of The Apostles.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to outline FIVE examples of how people became Christians, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify FIVE steps people took to become Christians, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

CONTENT: 1. Cornelius was a non-Jewish Captain of 100 soldiers. He was not an idolater, but he believed in the One True God of the Jewish people and worshipped Him. He was also a good man. He gave gifts to the poor and needy among the Jewish people, and he prayed to God three times a day at least. Yet Cornelius could not save himself by his own goodness, for no one is perfect. He needed to hear the words by which he and his household may be forgiven of sins. An angel of God directed Cornelius to send for the apostle Peter, who would tell him what God wanted him to do. When Peter came to Cornelius, he told him the Good News of God's forgiveness of sins through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, His burial in the tomb, and His resurrection from the dead. Thus **the first step a person needs to take to become a Christian is to hear the words by which they may be forgiven of sins or saved.** (See Acts 10:1-6, 34-43; 11:13-14)

2. The Philippian Jailor had locked up Paul and Silas in an inner cell of the prison, for doing missionary work in Philippi. About midnight, there was a violent earthquake, and the jailor fell down before Paul and Silas, and asked them what he should do to be saved. They told him to believe in the Lord Jesus and he would be saved. Thus **the second step a person needs to take to become a Christian is to believe in the Lord Jesus.** (See Acts 16:16-31)

3. The Jews, who had witnessed the healing of a lame man in the name of Jesus Christ, were told to repent of their sins in order to have them removed, that is, forgiven. Thus **the third step a person needs to take to become a Christian is to repent of their sins.** (See Acts 3:1-6, 12-19)

4. The Ethiopian Eunuch, who had heard the Good News of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, confessed his belief in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, in order to be saved. Thus **the fourth step a person needs to take to become a Christian is to confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.** (See Acts 8:26-37; compare Rom.10:9-10)

5. The Jews, on the first Pentecost following Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven, were convinced by Peter that Jesus was the Christ since He had performed many miracles, died on the cross, was raised from the dead, and ascended into heaven to sit at God's right hand. He also was responsible for pouring out the Holy Ghost and causing the apostles to speak in foreign languages. When the Jews wanted to know what they should do, one of the steps Peter told them to take, was to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Thus **the fifth step a person needs to take to become a Christian is to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.** (See Acts 2:22-38, 40-41)

6. Thus to become a Christian, a person needs to take the following steps: (i) **hear** the Good News of Jesus Christ, (ii) **believe** it, (iii) **repent** of sins, (iv) **confess** Jesus as Lord and (v) **be baptized** into Jesus Christ.

GRADE 9RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTESLESSON # 9: EXAMPLES OF HOW PEOPLE PRACTISED CHRISTIANITY—TAKEN FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES AND FROM THE EPISTLES

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine what Christians are required by Christ to do

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe **THREE** activities which Christians are required by Christ to do.

- CONTENT:**
1. When people hear the Good News of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ's death on the cross, burial in the tomb and resurrection from the dead, believe the Good News with all their heart, repent of their sins, confess their belief in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and are baptized in water, they become members of the Church. The Church is an Assembly made up of all who have been forgiven by God of their past sins, and who have received through the Holy Ghost the power to live a new life of obedience to God. (Acts 2:37-41,47)
 2. Therefore when a person becomes a Christian, they are not alone. They become part of a body of people who follow Jesus Christ. There are **THREE** activities which every Christian is required by Christ to do, after their baptism:
 - (i) **Meet weekly with other Christians for Worship.** (Acts 2:41-42; 20:7; Heb.10:25) Weekly Worship gives the Christian the opportunities to learn from the Writings of the ancient Apostles of Jesus Christ and other inspired Writers of the Bible on how to live as a follower of Jesus Christ in one's daily life, to get to know other Christians and become their friend, to encourage them and to receive encouragement from them, to break the bread of the Lord's Supper to remember and to proclaim the death of Christ in a special way, to pray for one another, to sing praises to God for the Salvation He has given, and to give as one has been prospered. Weekly Worship with other Christians is a habit which we should keep for the rest of our lives, so that we may be encouraged not to give up the Christian life, especially when we are being faced with tests to our faith in Christ.
 - (ii) **Live a holy life every day.** (1st Pet.1:14-16; 4:1-2) To be holy means to separate yourself from sinful thoughts, desires, words and actions, and to draw close to God by setting your mind on what He wants, reading the Bible daily to find out what God wants you to do, praying to God for the strength through the Holy Ghost to resist temptations to be unholy, and making every effort all the time to please the LORD. It means to be pure in heart, to hunger and thirst to do what is right in God's sight, to avoid bad company which pressures you to do what is wrong, and to look out for friends who can influence you to remember to do what pleases God. When you sin, repent of the sin, confess it in prayer to God, and ask Him to forgive you. (1st Jn.1:8-9) You may also ask a faithful Church-Leader or some other dedicated Christian to pray for you. (Acts 8:22-24; James 5:16)
 - (iii) **Try to influence non-Christians to become Christians.** (Acts 8:4) It is God's wish to save everyone. (1st Tim.2:4) This is why God wants those He has saved, to let others know how they may be saved also. (Mk.16:15-16; Matt.28:19-20)