Boys and Girls:

 Welcome to the next quarter of your journey through the Bible. We ended last quarter with the works of Paul up until his death.

 There are epistles written by other Apostles and men of the first century to enhance our life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

 If we all study hard we will learn a lot about the work of the apostles and other faithful men from the 1st century. We will also learn about our service in the Lord.

 There are some key verses that we will be learning to understand the importance of a relationship with God through His Son.

I am looking forward to being your teacher.

Lesson 1

James 1

Memory verse:

*1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

 In our last quarter we followed the life of Paul until his death around 66AD. Around the early 60AD, Paul had appealed to Caesar. With Paul on house arrest, the Jews turned their hatred toward James a prominent member of the church in Jerusalem (Gal. 1:19), the brother of our Lord. They will finally kill him before the intense persecution of the Romans began.

 The Book of James is written around 60AD. Paul is still alive. The persecution and hatred toward all Jewish Christians by the hardcore Jews was at its highest. The Jewish Christians were dispersed abroad. The letter from James is address to the faithful that had been scattered. He wrote this letter to encourage the brethren everywhere to:

* keep up the good *work*
* *to count is all joy to suffer trials*
* *know that the trails will help us learn faithfulness*
* *and our faithfulness will make us complete*

It is not enough just to believe in Jesus Christ. Things happen in our lives to test your faith. Faith will help us if we trust Him. The letter from James is one complete thought about exercising our fith to make our lives complete.

I. Faith seeks the blessings of God.

 If we lack wisdom, we are to ask God for it. But we must have confidence that God will provide the wisdom we seek. Whatever we ask for, we must not doubt.

II. Faith helps us accept the unfairness in life.

 Whether rich or poor our glory is being a child of God. The glory of this world will fade away.

III. Faith will help us endure temptations.

 Happy is the man who endures temptation, because he will receive the crown of life. We are not tempted by God, but by our own desires. God is the source of all good gifts.

IV. Faith helps us apply the principles of the word.

1. Be swift to hear. Always listen and pay attention, especially to God, to your parents, the preacher and your bible teacher.
2. Be slow to speak. If you are listening, you will not talk back to your mother and father. You will not talk during the assembly time. You will pay attention to your bible teacher and only talk when called on.
3. Be slow to wrath. James is telling them not to get angry quickly, as that is not the behavior of Christ.
4. Put away all filthiness.
5. Don’t be hearers only.
6. It is the one who does God’s will who is pleasing to God.

Lesson 1

With Paul on house arrest, the Jews turned their hatred toward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and all faithful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ scattered abroad.

Christians had to leave their homes, travel far away, but how does James encourage them?

The letter from James tells us that our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will make us complete.

Faith is the building block of our relationship with God. How can Faith help us?

Be swift to hear. What do you think that mean?

Be slow to speak. What do you think that mean?

Be slow to wrath. What does that mean?

What does he say about the man who looks in the mirror?

Remember to visit the widows and orphans. Why did he say that?

Lesson 2

James 2

Memory verse:

*1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

 James continues with his encouragements about faith:

V. Faith leads us to treat brethren equally.

1. Do not show respect for persons-rich or poor. You are under no obligation to honor the rich more than the poor. God hath chosen the poor to be rich in faith.
2. Love your neighbor as yourself. Do not show respect of persons. Love your neighbor, but love your enemy also.
3. You may keep almost every law, but if you break one you have broken the law. Count all laws as important.

VI. Faith is dead without works.

1. How can a person say he has faith if he does not demonstrate it?
2. The devil believed and trembled. But his actions do not reflect faith.
3. Abraham had faith. When called to sacrifice his only son, he offered Isaac on the altar. His example of obedience showed his faith. Because of his faith shown by his work, Abraham was called a friend of God.
4. Rehab, hid the spies from Israel and helped them escape. They had made her a promise. Her faith was seen in her actions.

Just as the body is dead when it is separated from the spirit, so faith is dead when it is separated from works. Hold on to your faith as you “do” the work of the Lord.

Lesson 2

The brethren who are scattered are fearful. James tells them their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with preserve them.

What does it mean to show respect of persons?

God and people will see your faith in your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Why were Abraham and Rehab a friend of God?

Just as the body is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when it is separated from the spirit, so faith is dead when it is separated from ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lesson 3

James 3

Memory Verse 4: 7-8a

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

 James continues on the importance of a strong faith. Faith can help us control our smallest member.

VII. Faith helps us use our tongues constructively.

1. If you are a teacher, be careful for your words will judge you with a heavier judgment. So exercise caution and use tour tongue wisely.
2. The tongue is a tiny member, but one of great power. We can see this all around us, a horse and its bridle, a ship and its rudder, a man and his tongue.
3. The tongue can ignite every kind of evil. Guard it well that it may not ignite the fire from hell itself.
4. The tongue cannot be tamed, it must be controlled. It remains a serpent full of deadly venom.
5. The tongue can pour out blessings and *cursings*, this ought not to be so.

Even though our tongue is very small, we can do big things with it good and evil.

1. We can teach the word of God.
2. We can praise God.
3. We can tell loving things.
4. We can tell lies.
5. We can talk back to our parents.
6. We can curse God.

When we do not use our tongue wisely, ask God to forgive us…

When we do use our tongue wisely, thank God for the strength that comes from His Spirit through the word.

 To show our faith, use our tongues wisely, live in wisdom and understanding before God, we must show it in our lives.

Remember we must “do”.

VIII. Faith seeks godly attitudes.

1. Seek wisdom from above- not the kind that causes strife and evil. There is a clear distinction between wisdom from above and the wisdom of the world.
2. The wisdom from the world is devilish. In it you find jealousy, factions, confusion and every kind of evil deeds.
3. The wisdom from above is first pure, peaceable, gentle, full of mercy and good fruits, constant and genuine.

Lesson 3

Tell how in everyday things we see the power of small things.

How can we use the tongue wisely?

How can we use the tongue unwisely?

We should pray about our tongue. What should we pray?

When you live by earthly wisdom, what do you find?

When you live by wisdom from above, what do you find?

Lesson 4

James 4

Memory Verse 4: 7-8a

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

 We continue in Chapter 4 about seeking godly attitudes.

VIII. Faith seeks godly attitudes.

 4. All strife and quarrels arise from lust and greed. Remember

 In Chapter 2:8-9 about loving your neighbor as yourself.

 When we do not, we become selfish. Our lust become un-

 controlled. We lust and covet and cannot obtain. Our

 prayers are not answered because ask for purely selfish

 reasons.

 5. Intimate friendship with the world makes you an adulteress

 toward God. You cannot be friends with the world and

 have a godly attitude.

 6. 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee

 from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

 If you humble yourself before God, He will exalt you.

IX. Faith keeps us from judging harshly.

1. He who judges another, sets himself up as the judge.
2. There is only one judge and lawgiver.
3. He is Jesus the one who is able to save or destroy.

X. Faith includes God in all our plans.

1. Who are we to say tomorrow I will do this or the other.
2. We do not know even if there will be a tomorrow.
3. Our life is a vapor- here today, gone tomorrow.
4. Put God foremost in your every plan.
5. To him who knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Lesson 4

What does it mean to be selfish? How can this cause wars and strivings?

In Exodus 20, what do the 10 commandments say about how they should love and respect God?

What did it say about how they were to love and respect each other?

Do we have to be aware that Satan is always watching us?

But God says if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us.

What will that do about the Devil always hanging around?

In the final day, who will be the Judge of everyone?

We are seeing how faith fits into our everyday life. When we make plans, what will we be sure to do?

Lesson 5

James 5

Memory Verse 5:13…16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. …….. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

 James like the apostle Paul is concerned over the brethren. They have been persecuted, but more and harder persecutions were to come. So James’s prayer for all the scattered Christians was that their faith would be strong until death. He finishes his letter to these brethren to encourage them to exercise their faith to make their lives complete. During the persecutions, James himself, while being stoned by the Jews, was beat to death by a man with a club. He continues.

XI. Faith condemns the ungodly rich.

1. Many put their faith in their silver and gold.
2. Silver and gold would rust and decay. It would be a testimony to kind of life.
3. If you live in the lap of luxury cheating others and ignoring the poor-you will face the judgment.
4. Riches do not condemn you. It is your actions and what you do with your riches and who you trust. So trust in the Lord. He is the one who blesses.

XII. Faith enables us to be steadfast.

1. As we wait upon the Lord, our faith will help us to be patient.
2. The farmer plants his seed. But he must wait upon the Lord to give the increase.
3. Those of old waited in patience, preached the word of God in faith that what God promised would come to pass.

XIII. Faith makes our word sure, without oaths.

1. Do not swear.
2. We as Christians should be known for keeping word.
3. When we say yes, we mean yes and live by it.
4. When we say no, we mean no and live by it.

XIV. Faith prays in times of distress.

* The heartfelt prayer of a righteous man brings good results.

 Finally here in the letter, James talks about our faith bringing us to one of our most important task.

XV. Faith seeks to save a wayward brother.

1. Primarily we are responsible for our own relationship with the Lord.
2. But secondly, we are to look out for each other, me after my brother and my brother after me.
3. 19 Brethren, if anyone among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.
4. We must develop faith to help save our brother who is in jeopardy of losing his soul.
5. We must develop faith to return to the Lord when a brother brings it to our attention.

 Truly we are saved by faith. We see here in the book of James that is a faith that is alive and active. It is the exercise of our faith is seen in resisting temptation, in seeking blessings from God, in practicing true religion, in our conduct towards others, in our demonstrating it through works, in teaching by our life in general, in planning ones affairs and in prayer. Our working faith can lead us down the path to heaven. A faith that is dead is no faith at all and will lead us down a path to destruction.

 The outline of the book of James is written here to help us remember the contents. It has been put together by June Guyton with the help of the Waldron’s book *GO TELL THE GOOD NEWS*

*History of the Early Church.*

Lesson 5

When James writes to these brethren, where were they?

What was the reason for writing the letter?

Do riches condemn you? If not, what condemns you? Who should we trust?

Even today many who obey the Lord in baptism fall away. This is because the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord has not found them to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while they wait on the Lord.

What is an oath?

Remember the tongue is a small member, but one of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (James 3:3-5) Use it wisely.

The heartfelt prayer of a righteous man brings good results. Who do the scripture here tell us to go to when we are suffering or cheerful? That is why we take such care to select good men to fulfill this role in the church.

The exercising of our faith is seen in what ways?

Exercising our faith will make our life complete in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And only in this way will we make our path sure to live with God in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 6

1 Peter 1-2:3

Memory Verse 1 Peter 1:15

but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

 As the letters from Peter, the apostle, are written outside the context of the history of the early church in the book of Acts, it is difficult to establish a date or even a particular order in which they were written. For a time reference, the letters are probably written before the death of Paul around 65-66AD. It is most like written around the early part of AD 64, after the persecutions by the Roman emperor Nero began but before Peter’s death in the latter part of AD 64. This all seems very much the favored timing as Peter addresses the first letter to those who are scattered because of the persecution. It is meant to encourage and strengthen the brethren in the face of persecution. Indeed, Peters words were to give the brethren “something to hold on to” during difficult times. These words should encourage and strengthen brethren today as we too are persecuted and tested by the devil today.

 Peter writes to Christians that have been scattered abroad. Their lives were turned upside down. With the acceptance of the belief in Christ and becoming followers of "the way", they needed new strength and courage. Peter writes to encourage and to give them "something to hold on to". They needed to know in their day to day changing lives that there were things that they could hold on to and count on. We follow Jesus and His teachings with what seems to be little social pressure, verbal abuse or sense of alienation. But day by day the struggle increases. We too need "*SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO*".

1***. From shifting sands to "Solid Rock".*** Do you ever wonder if it is worth the struggle to follow Christ under less-than-ideal circumstances? Peter was known throughout the first century as a pillar of the church, a man of faith. This was not always so. However, through all his lapses and failures, the Lord sought to keep Peter and to use him for the sake of righteousness. By the edge of the sea Peter was commissioned by Jesus to go feed my sheep". It appears that Peter's greatest strength was his ability to admit when he had failed, repent and go on trying. From this, he grew and continued to grow. In 2 Peter 3:9, he knew first hand that the Lord was patient and was not willing that any should perish. His faith went from shifting sands to solid rock. If Peter could hold on and transform, so could these struggling 1't century Christians and so can we. ***The solid rock is something to hold on to.***

*2.* ***The hope that sustains us.***Peter was writing to people whose lives were likely to get worse before they got better. 1 Peter 1:3-12, Peter reminds them that they have a salvation worth suffering for. God is worthy of praise no matter the external circumstances. Salvation had already been secured for them and it would not perish or fade away. Our trails are for the proving of our faith. Having been proven, we would share in the inheritance laid up for all eternity. Jesus on the night before His death said that He was going to prepare us a place and if He went He would return, Because of His death and resurrection from the dead, we have a firm foundation to our hope. The Word of God encourages us to see things this way-pain overshadowed by a great outcome, frustrations erased by fuller understanding*.* ***It is this very hope that all, during times of difficulty, must reach out to for something to hold on to.***

3. ***Be ye holy*.** 1 Peter l:13-2:3, Peter calls on the Christians to prepare themselves in mind and in actions. How and why? They were to transform themselves from their old lustful ways. They were to be obedient and holy. God is holy and they were now children of God. "Be ye holy, because I am holy". God will be the judge of how they measured up. In 1 John 3:2-3, John says that everyone who has hope in Him must purify himself, just as He is pure. As our mind is renewed, our lives will change and we will be different because of the commitment we have made. We will become special, not because of who we are, but because of what we are, His disciples. His holiness must be seen in us. This can be seen if we love our brethren, because we are born of seed, His seed that will not perish. ***This motivation of holiness will give us something to hold on to.***

Lesson 6

1. Who is 1 Peter written to and why?

2. Nero was the emperor during these persecutions, yet today as then who is the one that persecutes and tests the brethren?

3. Was Peter a perfect man? If not, what made him special?

What is important about our Rock, Jesus Christ?

4. What shall sustain us during difficult times?

5. In whom do we have hope, is it ourselves?

6. Because we have HOPE, the Word of God can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to see things this way-pain overshadowed by a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, frustrations erased by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.*

 7. How can we show we are holy?

Lesson 7

1 Peter 2:4-25

Memory Verse 1 Peter 2:9…10

9 But you *are* a chosen generation…. 10 who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

 Peter continues with *"SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO".*

4*. The Savior's special people.* 1 Peter 2:4-25, Peter reminds the scattered Christians of what has been known since time began-the people of God are unique, separate and honored. The world does not always see this, but through their actions during times of struggles and persecutions the world will know that we are God's special people. The world will not honor us for our commitment to the Lord and they may even despise us. But the unique relationship that we have with our Lord Jesus and God the Father will build hope and courage to face what comes our way. Through our relation to Christ, we become a Royal priesthood chosen by God and special to Him. We only have this, as we strive and submit to the will of God. As Christians, Peter tells them that they are a called out people. When we obey His in baptism, we are added to a royal nation, a people for God’s own possession, a spiritual house of which Christ is the chief cornerstone. We are called to a higher expectation. We should live faithful before those who would accuse us. That by our faith the faithless might be won to glorify God. We should be subject to authorities that we might silence the ignorance of evil men .We should submit to masters, whether good or evil. Christ left us an example. As Christ suffered and was rejected so may we. But God calls us to submit to the powers that be on this earth even though they may not appreciate our behavior. We are God's special people and our citizenship is above. When our commitment to God calls for sacrifices to be made and hardships to be endured, ***the knowledge that we are His special people will give us something to hold on to.***

Lesson 7

In your own words, tell what it means to be a royal priesthood, a special people to God here in Chapter 2:4-25.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 8

1 Peter 3

Memory Verse 1 Peter 2:9…10

9 But you *are* a chosen generation…. 10 who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

 Peter continues with *"SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO".*

***5. Wives and husbands.*** 1Peter 3:I-7 For the benefit of man and woman, God created the marriage relationship in the garden of Eden. From that time to this time, when Peter was writing, the institution as God created it had suffered much. Divorce for any cause was common. Peter is now guiding men and women back to the relation that God intended. The holiness and deeper meaning of marriage was seen in the comparison of marriage to

Christ and His bride "the church". Christian women were not to be so concerned about their outer appearance. Their meek and quiet spirit; not the nagging, finger pointing or hatefulness; would even cause a non-believing husband to take notice and turn to the Lord. Husbands were instructed to be considerate of their wives, to understand them and treat them as joint heirs of salvation. A man whose relation with his wife was not what it should be would hinder his prayers to God. ***The homes that would come from a proper relation between husband and wife would certainly give them something to hold on to.***

6**. *Suffering for doing right.*** In 1 Peter 3:8-22 Peter instructions to love one another, have the same attitude of compassion as did our Lord, Jesus. We are to be kind and tender minded towards all men. Yet Peter knew of the on slot of violence that these Christians were facing. The one that they followed, Jesus Christ, suffered when He had done no wrong. Even death in the flesh is a small price to pay for the prize that we are pressing toward. Peter felt this was important for these scattered Christians and for us today. ***Endurance gives us something to hold on to.***

Lesson 8

From the very beginning, in Genesis, God gave man instructions on marriage. What did Gen. 2:23-25 say? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus discusses with the Pharisees in Matt. 19:3-10 this same topic. What did Jesus have to say? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Peter is only repeating things that Paul talked about in 1 Cor. 11:3. What is the line of authority? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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How important is a husband’s relationship to his wife in connection to his prayers? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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We are to be like Christ Jesus in every way. In Isaiah 53, it tells us how Jesus would suffer for doing right. He did this, even unto death, so that we might be saved. In the gospels, the writers tell how all this came about. But here Peter instructs us to endure the same. Tell what that means. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Lesson 9

1 Peter 4

Memory Verse 1 Peter 2:9…10

Peter continues with *"SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO".*

7. ***An attitude toward life***. 1 Peter 4:1-11 what is the meaning of life? You can choose to believe as many in the world. They are self-serving getting everything out of the here and now, not accountable to anyone but self.' Or you can take the creationist stand, that there is a God and we are accountable to Him. Remember Solomon surmised, "*To fear God and to keep His commandments is the whole of man*." So Peter warns them not to live for this life, to have a proper perspective on its brevity. Do not get yourself caught up in the cares and challenges of this life. Devote ourselves to doing the will of God. We need to ever keep our eyes fixed on the end. We need not use the frailties of live as an excuse to not do our very best. Managing life in purity and keeping ourselves unspotted by the world, ***this Christian attitude towards life gives us something to hold on to.***

8. ***Wearing the name Christian.*** 1 Peter 4:12-19 Peter speaks to his beloved brethren. He warns them not to be surprised if wearing the name of Christ, being a follower and disciple of His will bring about suffering. Endure suffering in anticipation of the glory to come. It is a blessing to be reproached for the name of Christ. However, it is not a blessing to be reproached as a wrongdoer and that should be against our nature as a child of God. Our reproaches may be different than the brethren that Peter was writing to, but there will be reproaches none the less. Judgment will begin with the family of God. God promises that those that wear the name "Christian" and are found faithful when He returns will go to heaven to live with Him forever. ***Wearing His name gives us something to hold on to.***

Lesson 9

Many of you have come and studied the work of God since you were born. Do you have an attitude towards life? What is it based around? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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When you think about the world, do you see the hand of God in its creation? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Should you devote your life to what God wants?

Or is life all about us and what we want?

What are things we do to show we are selfish? How can we change? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Your last name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Does it make you proud to wear that name?

Should we be proud to wear the name of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What are things we can do to show to show our faithfulness?

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Lesson 10

1 Peter 5

Memory Verse 1 Peter 2:9…10

Peter continues with *"SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO".*

9. ***Right relationships are important***. I Peter 5:1-14 The great commandments from God are to love God and to love your fellowman as yourself. It is important to get "right with God". This is certainly the foundation of Christianity. Sometimes we neglect the second part. It is equally as important to "get right with our fellowman". God designed the church to help us do both. He placed the flock under the care of men, elders, to encourage growth in both directions. . Elders are directed here to encourage love, willingly and not forced. They are to lead and direct by example. We are to humble ourselves and be servants to one another. We are to be on guard against Satan and the things he would use to pull us away or cause dissention among the brethren. Know that brethren everywhere face the same problems. Take care and concern for brethren everywhere. Be at peace and extent a holy kiss to them. ***Nurture these right relationships to have something to hold on to.***

***The first letter from Peter was written to brethren under difficult circumstances. Peter wanted to remind them of all the ways that being strong and faithful would encourage and sustain them.***

***Times are not very different today. Peter’s letter is written to us to remind us how being strong and faithful would encourage and sustain us.***

***We will find a few more way in the second letter from Peter. Let us remember – the reward God has for us is worth any amount of suffering.***

Lesson 10

Peter tells these brethren that he is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and he exhorts the elders to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the flock that is among you. What does that mean?

 The warnings here to the elders are mindful of the qualifications set forth in what other two books that we have recently studied?

As Paul wrote Timothy and Titus, Peter writes these scattered brethren how to treat each other. What does he say about the younger and the older relations?

Every day we are to be on guard against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

How do we do that?

1. Remember to pray.

2. Love one another.

3. Be hospitable towards each other.

4. Count it joy to suffer with Christ.

5. Obey those who have rule over us.

6. Be humble.

7. Cast all our worries on God.

8. Be alert, for Satan looks to devour us

***The tools we are learning here-the things to hold on to- will help us keep our faith***

Lesson 11

2 Peter 1

Memory Verse 1 Peter 2:9…10

Peter continues with *"SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO".*

10. ***Your calling and election.*** 2 Peter 1:3-11 As with all good thing, salvation begins with the generosity of God. It is by grace and has been made possible only by the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross. God has done the hard part. The people that Peter wrote to were baptized believers who needed reassurance. We too need the same reassurance, that we have the ability to live a godly life and to get safely home to heaven. Believing is not enough. All men will not be saved. To make your calling and election sure, we must grow spiritually. Peter instructs them and us to add to the knowledge of the Son of God certain characteristics in order to share in the nature of God. And if we have these things, we will bear fruit for the Lord in our lives. Grounding ourselves in the word of God, transforming our old self into the new one that He would have us be, ***makes our calling and election sure and gives us something to hold on to***.

***11. The Certainty of the word of God.*** 2 Peter 1:I2-2I This is most powerful. Peter assures the brethren that the gospel, which they believed is not based on cunningly, devised fables. Before Peter died, he wanted to remind them that the things that the apostles shared with them were things that they themselves saw and heard. The prophecy of God was well established. They should have no doubts or second thoughts about the doctrine that they followed. Pay close attention to the words of God. God will keep His promises. ***This will give you something to hold on to.***

Lesson 11

Peter tells us that as Christians we have to grow just like you do as children. Do you remember when you were learning to walk? First you took one step, then two and before you knew it you just took off walking everywhere. What about when you began to talk? First you said "Dada" then "Mama and before long you were saying any word and all kinds of sentences. God has given us everything we need to grow up to be a strong Christian. How do we go about that?

 1st We hear the words of God, which brings about

FAITH

2nd Exercise your faith to develop and add

VIRTUE

3rd Exercise your virtue to develop and add

KNOWLEDGE

4th Use your knowledge to develop and add

SELF.CONTROL

5th In self-control you will develop and add

PATIENCE

 6th In patience, we will learn

GODLNESS

7th As we become more like God we develop

BROTHERLY KINDNESS

8th When we are full grown, we develop true

LOVE

Lesson 12

2 Peter 2

Memory Verse 1 Peter 2:9…10

Peter continues with *"SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO".*

12. ***Perils from false teachers***. 2 Peter 2:1-22 Knowing the certainty of God's word, Peter warn them of men who would come among them and teach another gospel. He spends an entire chapter about these teachers. These had come through every age from creation to now. They would come and God had reserved certain judgment for them and their followers. We should continue to build on the foundation that was laid by Christ and his apostles.  ***The words of God alone will give us something to hold on to.***

Here in chapter 2, Peter warns of the false prophets. How does Peter describe them? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Lesson 13

2 Peter 3

Memory Verse 1 Peter 2:9…10

Peter continues with *"SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO".*

13. ***He is coming again.*** 2Peter 3:1-18 Peter closes with this special warning. Hold on to what you have been taught. There will come those who will mock at the coming of the Lord, in the days of Noah, the world, save Noah and his family, ignored the words of the Lord. Know that the

Lord sent the flood in Noah's day. It took 120 years. God does not look at time the way that we do, but know assuredly that God will come again. He delays His coming so that more may come to know Him and be saved. But know the day of the Lord will come. This world will be destroyed. Therefore we know what kind of people we should be. Work hard to remain faithful. Peter says that Paul had warned of these things also. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ***Understanding all these things will give us something to hold on to.***

Let us look to Peter and to all the scriptures

to find the tools to build a firm foundation.

***Every day may we add to our***

***“something to hold on to***”.

Lesson 14

REVIEW

Lesson 14

 James and Peter were trying to encourage those of old, scattered, afraid, and uncertain of the future and persecuted brethren. Both gave them tools to do so. So these tools are available to us today. Name some. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Lesson 15

Hebrews 1-2

Memory Verse. Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

 Welcome to the book of Hebrews. Very quickly we will see how important this book was in the first century to those Hebrew Christians and how it is important to us even today. The book of Hebrews does not depend upon who wrote it, or exactly when it was written, for we know neither. What is important is what the book is about. The book will prove once and for all time that Jesus is superior to anything you might use as a comparison, so do not turn away. These Christians face much opposition in the first century. The temptation to turn back to Judaism must have been great.

 Here in the beginning, God establishes Christ’s authority to reveal His word to man. No one could ever compare. He was the heir of all things; the creator; the very shining forth of God’s glory; the exact likeness of God; reigning at God’s right hand.

 In the beginning, God used various ways to speak to men. Angels, the messengers of God, brought God’s words to man. They were special servants of God. But Christ was made higher than the angels. He inherited a more excellent name than the angels. Christ is “superior” to the angels. He is the Son of God and angels are told to worship Him when he came into the world as God’s Firstborn.

 Sitting at the right hand of God, He rules from His throne. He laid out the foundations of the earth. He is eternal? Angels are mere servants; therefore we must pay even more attention to the word that came from Jesus Christ.

 This incomparable Jesus, son of God, became a man to accomplish a divine purpose through death. He became lower than the angels. He gave up much, but why?

1. So he could die for us, and be exalted
2. To be made complete through suffering
3. To be our brethren
4. That His death could make the devil powerless
5. His death could deliver the descendants of Abraham
6. He became human so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest

*Christ “is” superior to the angels.*

Lesson 15

1. What was the problem that these early Jewish Christians faces?

2. In times past, how did God speak? How does He speak to us today?

3. In the first three verses, what does the writer reveal about Christ?

\*4. Starting here, please make note of the ways that Christ is superior to angels. (Or better than)

5. What was the most important reason for Jesus to become a man?

Lesson 16

Hebrews 3

Memory Verse. Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

 These Jewish Christians were very familiar with Moses. He was a great deliverer of the nation of Israel from Egypt. Moses was faithful to God. But Christ was counted worthy of more glory than Moses. Jesus Christ is superior to Moses. Jesus build the house of God, Moses was only a part of the house. Moses was faithful as a servant, but Christ was faithful as a son, able to supply blessings. Christ was counted worthy of more honor.

 We are of His house if we remain faithful. So beware of unbelief. The writer of Hebrews did not want these Christians to turn back. He told them to remember their fathers who under Moses did not enter the Promised Land because of unbelief. Be watchful of yourself and your brethren lest anyone becomes hardened to the deceitfulness of sin. If those who followed Moses fell away and were turned away, it will be worse for us who follow the Son of God and fail because of unbelief. Let us hold our confidence steadfast to the end as we did in the beginning.

*Christ “is” superior to Moses.*

Lesson 16

1. How much did the Jewish people love and respect Moses?

2. Look up the word deceitfulness. Why is sin deceitful?

3. Why must we hold fast to our faith?

Lesson 17

Hebrews 4-6:12

 Those who failed to believe, under Moses, did not obey. So they did not enter God’s rest because of unbelief. That rest is being at peace with God. Let us fear, therefore, lest through unbelief we also fail to enter our promised rest. The writer wants them and us to make every effort to enter that rest.

 The Hebrew Christian had understood about the High Priest. He interceded between God and man. Now we have a High Priest who has passed through the heavens and sits on the right hand of the Throne of God. That one is Jesus Christ. He is worthy of that position because He came to earth lived as a man and never sinned. He understands our weaknesses. He Is Worthy!!! And now because of Christ, we can approach boldly, the Throne of God for grace and mercy. We need both.

 High Priests are appointed. Aaron was appointed by God. Jesus was appointed by God. The difference- when the Priest went to sacrifice for the people, he first had to make sacrifices for himself. He had sinned. Jesus went to the cross pure and spotless as a perfect sacrifice for man for all time.

 Christ experienced obedience through the things He suffered. He provided eternal salvation to all who obey. God appointed Christ High Priest through the order of Melchizedek.

 There were many more things that the writer wanted to say about Melchizedek. But first he mentions to them that they are not ready to understand. They were like babes only able to understand the elementary things of the word. By reason of time they should have grown to comprehend the met of the word. To be strong, grow and be diligent to press on to maturity. To remain faithful they must grow in the word.

 Same is true of us today. We are to imitate those who through faith and steadfastness inherit the promises of God.

Lesson 17

What is God’s rest?

What is the main reason why the children of old did not enter their rest? How can we miss our rest?

Do you remember the difference between “grace” and “mercy”?

Why is Christ a better High Priest?

What did the writer say was wrong with these Hebrew Christians?

How is that a warning for us?

Lesson 18

Hebrews 6:13-7

 The writer of Hebrews is talking to the people who should understand the promises of God. Going all the way back to their father Abraham, the writer reminds them of the promises made to him back in Genesis 12:1-3. In Genesis 22:15-18, God made the promises again and then He swore by Himself that He would keep His promises (for there was no one greater than God Himself). They understood how God had kept His promise of the land and the nation. They had also accepted the promise of a Savior, God’s son-Jesus Christ. Christ, as the first one, has gone before to heaven and is now our HOPE, our only HOPE.

 Beginning in Chapter 7, the writer goes back to his thoughts about Jesus being a priest after the order of Melchizedek. In the days of Abraham, he met Melchizedek along the way in Genesis 14:18. Yet Abraham recognized him as one higher than himself. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. It was a representation of how the priests to come through Abraham’s loins, in Aaron, was lower than the order of Melchizedek. Then Melchizedek bestowed blessing upon Abraham. Without dispute, the greater always bestows blessings on the lesser.

 The Levitical priesthood served a purpose in the plan of God. Yet if it had been perfect, why would God require a priest after a higher order? With the new order, there would necessitate a change of “the Law”. This is exactly what happened because our Lord was from the tribe of Judah and not Levi. But His priesthood was of a higher calling.

 Under the priesthood through Levi, the High Priest would be High Priest as long as he lived. Upon his death someone of his descendents would be appointed High Priest. Christ was made priest by virtue of His death and His resurrection to eternal life. He would be the High Priest forever. Therefore we have a better High Priest, forever. Our hope is based on His eternal life and our hope to attain it. Hope built on better promises. These Hebrew Christians could trust God’s promises based on how He had kept He promises in the past. Now through the life of Jesus Christ, His death and His resurrection, we too can trust the promises of God-eternal life.

Lesson 18

Can you tell the three promises of God to Abraham?

How is Jesus Christ our HOPE?

What can you tell about Melchizedek here in Hebrews that you did not see in Genesis?

Aaron was from what tribe?

Therefore the Priest was from what tribe by “the Law”?

Jesus was from what tribe?

For Jesus to be the Priest there had to be a change of

the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

How were Jesus and Melchizedek alike in some unique ways?

Can you try to explain from what you know now, how we can learn to trust God?

What is the great promise made to us?

Jesus being the answer to the last promise to Abraham is our hope.

Lesson 19

Hebrews 8-9

 The writer of Hebrews is writing to an audience that understands all about the old covenant, the law, the priest, the things related to a physically based religion with earthly symbols. But he wanted them to get a true grasp of the new and better covenant based in the heart and the heavenly. God said, “I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.” The Jews were His children by birth into Abraham’s family. They were taught of God as they grew. We are taught of God and then we are added to children of God after we come to know Him and are baptized into the blood of Christ. To be a child of God, it must be through blood.

 The promise of a new covenant implied a fault with the first. The first would become obsolete. We have already seen that Jesus is the author of the new covenant. Jesus is now in heaven our High Priest forever. If Jesus was still on earth he could not be our High Priest.

 The high priest under the old covenant offered sacrifices in the tabernacle, a physical sanctuary for physical rituals. These sacrifices were made daily. It was a physical reminder of the separation between God and man. The High Priest acted as a meditator between God and man. Only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holies of Holy, once a year, where the essence of God dwelt. There he offered a sacrifice for himself and the people. This did not make full atonement.

 But Christ, since He has become a high priest of the good things to come, has entered once for all into the holy place of heaven itself. He has gone in with His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption once and for all. The blood of animals could only cleanse the flesh, but the blood of Christ cleanses the soul.

 With the death of Jesus Christ, the first covenant was nailed to the cross. The first covenant was dedicated with the death and blood of animals. The second covenant was dedicated with the death and blood of Jesus Christ. With that blood, because he was not from the tribe of Levi, He did not enter the Most Holy Place. Instead, He entered heaven itself. His sacrifice put away sin. Jesus will return again, not to be offered for sin, but to take those who eagerly await His return to heaven

Lesson 19

1. How did the Israelites become children of God? How do we become children of God?

2. What does it mean to be obsolete?

3. Think back. If Jesus was still on earth he why could not be our High Priest?

4. Look here and describe things in the tabernacle.

 1. 2.

 3. 4.

 5. 6.

 7. 8.

5. Why were there constant washings by the Priest?

6. Does the tabernacle of the Jews stand today?

7. Does the “tabernacle of Christ” stand today?

8. Is there a need for sacrifices today?

9. The sacrifice of Christ was made \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for all times.

10. How special is the blood of Jesus?

11. Why is the only reason Jesus will return?

Lesson 20

Hebrews 10

 What the Hebrews did not understand was “the law was only a shadow of good things to come and not the reality itself”. The sacrifices of the blood from bulls and goats could not purge the body of sin. God was not satisfied with these sacrifices. Jesus came to offer the sacrifice God required. Finally, we can be redeemed from our sins. Where sins are forgiven, there is no further need for sacrifices.

 Christ has made it possible to come freely into the holy place by the way which He made for us. Jesus made this possible through His sacrifice and His priesthood. Under the old law this would have never been possible. He encourages us all to come with a true heart, full of faith, a conscience cleansed of its guilt and a body washed with pure water.

 As His children we are to encourage one another. We come to the assembly of the saints to do that very thing. It lifts you up when you see me there and it lifts me up when I see you there. Each of us faces trails. Let us all come together as we see evil days approaching. Through the church, we learn how to exercise love and good works.

 The Jews had a sacrifice for every kind of sin. Now there is the sacrifice once and for all. If one despises and rejects Jesus, there is no other sacrifice for sins. There will only be the fierce judgment. One who despised Moses’ law was executed at the word of 2 or 3 witnesses. How much severer will be the judgment upon one who despises and rejects the witness of Christ.

 Finally here in chapter 10 he encourages them to endure to receive the reward. When they first were converted, they had given up much-family, friends, the law and much more. He asked them to remain faithful and not to cast away their reward.

Lesson 20

1. Hold your hand up in front of the light. Look for the shadow.

What is real, the shadow or the hand?

2. Can you see the shadows of the old law and the real things of the new covenant?

3. Christ made it possible to come boldly before God. What are we to bring when we come before God?

 1.

 2.

 3.

 4.

4. Do we assemble together to be counted on the roll? Or are there other reasons we come together?

5. Where will we go for salvation if we reject Jesus Christ?

6. These Jews had already accepted Jesus. What kind of things had they given up to follow Jesus?

7. They were encouraged to keep the faith to save their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lesson 21

Hebrews 11

 The writer of Hebrews finished chapter 10 by telling the brethren to remain faithful. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen. By it the ancients gained approval of God. There is faith and there is sight. If you see something then it is easy to believe. If you have not seen something and you believe anyway, then that is faith.

 Chapter 11 is all about the people who had the kind of faith that would please God. Verse 6 says it all: 6But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him,* for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. You have heard the old stories of the faithful men and women of old. The Hebrews had forgotten what made these men and women memorable. In God’ eyes, what make a person great. Can you see why these ones are mentioned here in this chapter.

1. 11:2 the ancient ones \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.11:3 We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. 11:4 Abel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. 11:5-6 Enoch \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. 11:7 Noah\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. 11:8-10 Abraham, Isaac and Jacob \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. 11:11-12 Sarah \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

These people died in faith. They left everything for God. They could have turned back, but they did not. They knew wherever they were; they were just sojourners searching for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. They continued even though the promise was a far off. There were those who were triumphs of faith.

1. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, he offered up his son\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. But he reasoned that the promises made to him by God would be kept even if \_\_\_\_\_\_ would raise his son back from the dead.

2. By faith Isaac blessed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ regarding things that were yet to come.

3. By faith Jacob blessed each of the sons of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and worshiped leaning upon his staff.

4. By faith, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, at the end of his life, referred to Israel’s departure from Egypt, and commanded them to take his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with them.

Lesson 22

Hebrews 11 continued

 The faithful continued to be seen through the history of the Jews. They were all too familiar with the stories of their ancestors.

Moses their great deliverer: 11:24-28

1. When he was born he was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. His parents were not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the king’s commandment.

3. When he was grown, refused to be called the son of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

4. He chose to share \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ instead of the pleasures of sin for a season.

5. By faith, he turned his back on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. By faith he led the children of Israel forth.

7. By faith, he kept the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the sprinkling of the blood that kept the destroyer of the first born from touching anyone.

 Israel had times of faithfulness and God was with the.

1 .By faith, Israel passed through the \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on dry ground. When the Egyptians tried they were swallowed up by water.

2. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after Israel walked around the walls for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days as instructed.

3. In Jericho, Rahab the harlot did not perish with those who were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, because she had received the spies peacefully.

 A host of Old Testament characters were faithful to God at great cost. They endured unspeakable suffering because of their faith. Yet the fulfillment of the promises of future blessings made to them was delayed until our time. They believed that they would at this time be made complete. Faith certainly is looking off to the future to things we cannot see in hope of someday receiving them. God has promised………… Have faith and we too shall reap the rewards of the promises.

Lesson 23

Hebrews 12

 The Hebrew brethren were surrounded by a great host of witnesses of faithful servants to the Lord. They act as an encouragement to the and to us. They and we too are encouraged to lay aside everything and anything that would pull us down and deter us. We all should run with determination the race set before us. Be motivated by the example of Jesus Christ. He was looking forward to going back to heaven to be with his Father. Therefore He endured even the death on the cross to be sat on the right hand of the throne of God.

 The writer was aware of the difficult time that these brethren were having. The Jews hated and despised them causing them grief. But be encouraged, for they had not died as yet. The suffering allowed by the Father was for their training and discipline. Though it was not pleasant, it would yield good fruits. Lift up your countenance and make your path straight.

 Be led by peace and holiness with all men. For without peace and holiness no man shall see the Lord. Be respectful of the things that God recognizes as holy. Do not be like Esau, who was not respectful of his birthright, and sold it for a bowl of food.

Let our attitude and behavior be good and holy.

 We are no longer looking to the physical Mount of Sinai. It was holy burning with fire and darkness. So terrible was the sight. Those who came close, man or beast, perished. We are pressing toward the heavenly city of God, Mount Zion. God and a host of angels await all the saints, enrolled in heaven. You have come to God, with all the privileges and blessings offered to those who come in faith.

 Beware; do not reject the voice of God. Those who rejected the ones who spoke to them from earth did not escape God’s wrath. How less likely will we escape the wrath of God by rejecting the One who speaks to us from Heaven? Beware lest you reject the voice of God.

Lesson 23

1. The life and death of Jesus encourages us to hold on to our faith and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the end.

2. Does the Lord know what is best for us?

What does chasten mean?

Why does He chasten us?

3. What does the writer tell us to follow after? vs. 14

4. As we walk the path of righteousness, our attitude and behavior should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. The Hebrews of old rejected the words of God spoken by Moses. God rejected them. God’s own Son speaks to us today from Heaven. Will God reject us if we reject His words?

6. How does God speak to us today? Heb. 1:1

Lesson 24

Hebrews 13

 Whoever the writer of Hebrew was, his words were truth to the Hebrew Christians that they were written to. The old “law” with it inferior sacrifices could not save souls from eternal damnation. The new covenant through Jesus Christ, the perfect sacrifice, saved them and us. The truth of the message rings true to us today.

 Like every writer, the book is practical. Here in the very last chapter he leaves them advice on how to remain faithful. The advice was good for them and it is good for us today. Discuss in class.

***Ways To Keep The FAITH***

1. ***Continue to love the brethren***
2. ***Show hospitality***
3. ***Remember those in prison***
4. ***Remember those who are persecuted***
5. ***Preserve the sanctity of marriage***
6. ***Avoid fornication***
7. ***Be free from the love of money***
8. ***Be content with what you have***
9. ***Trust in God, He will not fail you***
10. ***Remember and obey those who have rule over you and follow their example***
11. ***Beware of false teachers***
12. ***Jesus is the same today***
13. ***Remember God’s grace***
14. ***Share the gospel with those without***
15. ***Offer up continual praise to God***
16. ***Through Jesus let us offer our sacrifices to God***
17. ***Do good***
18. ***Share what you have***

He asked for their prayers on his behave that he too would continue in the faith. He prayed that the God of peace might prefect them, that we might be pleasing in His sight.

 The writer of Hebrews understood the importance of striving every day to follow after the better “way”. He knew that the “old way” had passed away. The only way to heaven was to hold on to the “new way”-Jesus Christ. Jesus himself said, “I am the, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father except by Me.” John 14:6

REVIEW

Chapter 1 & 2

Christ is superior to the angels.

Chapter 3

Christ is superior to Moses.

Chapter 4-10

Christ is superior to the High Priest of Old

Chapter 7

Christ is a superior Hope built on better promises.

Chapter 8-9

Christ is the superior sacrifice

Chapter 10

Christ’s sacrifice provides complete forgiveness

Chapter 11

Those who had faith in the Christ that was yet to come with promises that were yet seen

Chapter 12

The heavenly Mount of Zion is greater that the earthly Mount of Sinai

Chapter 13

Jesus was the “perfect and only way” to God

Lesson 25

Jude

 The book of Jude may be short, but it is packed with a big message. There are at least three things for you to learn from this book. The book is written to the beloved of God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ. He wanted to write a book about their common salvation in Jesus Christ. But because of his fears of those to come, he wrote this letter as a warning for us all.

* First: The message is similar to the book of Hebrew in some ways. He tells them to exercise their FAITH. Contend earnestly for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Remember, even though God delivered Israel out of bondage in Egypt, He later destroyed those who were unbelieving. He also turned angels out of heaven to everlasting bonds for exceeding their authority. Those of Sodom and Gomorrah also suffered eternal fire for practicing ungodly acts.
* Second: The message is similar to the warnings of Peter and the others about false teachers. Jude warns that these false teachers are among them. These were those who rail at everything. There were those who rebelled like Cain. They were greedy that ran after Balaam. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about such men, saying, “Behold the Lord came with innumerable hosts of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all and to convict the ungodly of the wicked things they have done.”
* Third: Arm yourselves with your best defense. Remember the words of Jesus. Remember the words that the Spirit delivered to the apostles and others of old. Build up you faith. Pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God. Trust the One who can keep you from falling. And finally, do what you must to save others.

***Stand firm for the truth!!***

Lesson 25

1. Is the book of Jude written to Christians, then and now?

2 Remember to keep the faith. What does that mean? And what happened to those who did not?

3. Once we have obeyed God, can we fall away and be doomed to the blackness of darkness forever? Name some who were?

4. Arm yourselves with your best defense. Paul had something to say about that in Ephesians 6:10-18. What is that list of things?

5. ***Stand firm for the truth!! What does that mean to you?***

Lesson 26

REVIEW

Just who was this Melchizedek?

He was:

King of Righteousness

King of Salem (Jerusalem)

King of Peace

Priest of the Most High God

He was unique

He is High Priest forever

Not of the tribe of Levi

Appointed by God

How was Jesus like this one Melchizedek?

He too was:

King of Righteousness

King of Salem (Jerusalem)

King of Peace

Priest of the Most High God

He was unique

He is High Priest forever

Not of the tribe of Levi

Appointed by God

Without the example of this priesthood and its special order, Jesus could not be our High Priest.

What do you know about Jude?

Who was he?

Cut the next page into. Put it on your refrigerator, your bathroom mirror and by your bed.

1. Remember to pray.

2. Love one another.

3. Be hospitable towards each other.

4. Count it joy to suffer with Christ.

5. Obey those who have rule over us.

6. Be humble.

7. Cast all our worries on God.

8. Be alert, for Satan looks to devour us

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