

History of the New Testament

taught by
Rev. Mark Seeger

History of the New Testament is an online *DeafPah!* course that helps prepare church members to serve in their congregation's ministry. The instructor for this course is Rev. Mark Seeger.

You may download the video lessons and this study guide for free from deafjesus.org.

The videos were originally prepared as VHS videotapes for the Deaf Institute of Theology.

The textbook* that we originally used for this course is no longer in print. However, the video lessons can stand alone so you can still benefit from this course. Six chapter titles in this course are:

Chapter 1. The Land and the People (Lessons 2 – 5)

Chapter 2. Beginnings and Transitions (Lessons 6 – 11)

Chapter 3. Behold! The Lamb (Lessons 12 – 17)

Chapter 4. Confrontation and Commitment (Lessons 18 – 23)

Chapter 5. For the Joy Set Before Him, Christ Endured (Lessons 24 – 27)

Chapter 6. Into All the World (Lessons 28 – 36)

The video lessons often refer to maps and diagrams on specific pages of the textbook. We have included that information here in this study guide. (Ignore “page ____” in the videos, but look at the information for each lesson printed in this study guide.)

While you watch the videos, take notes, especially when the teacher describes a list of topics. At the end of each video lesson, reinforce what you have learned by answering the questions in this student guide.

If you are studying this course with a mentor, share your answers with your mentor.

Now please watch Part 1 video.

* *A History of the New Testament: God's Promise Fulfilled*, by Jonathan F. Grothe, 1992, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO.

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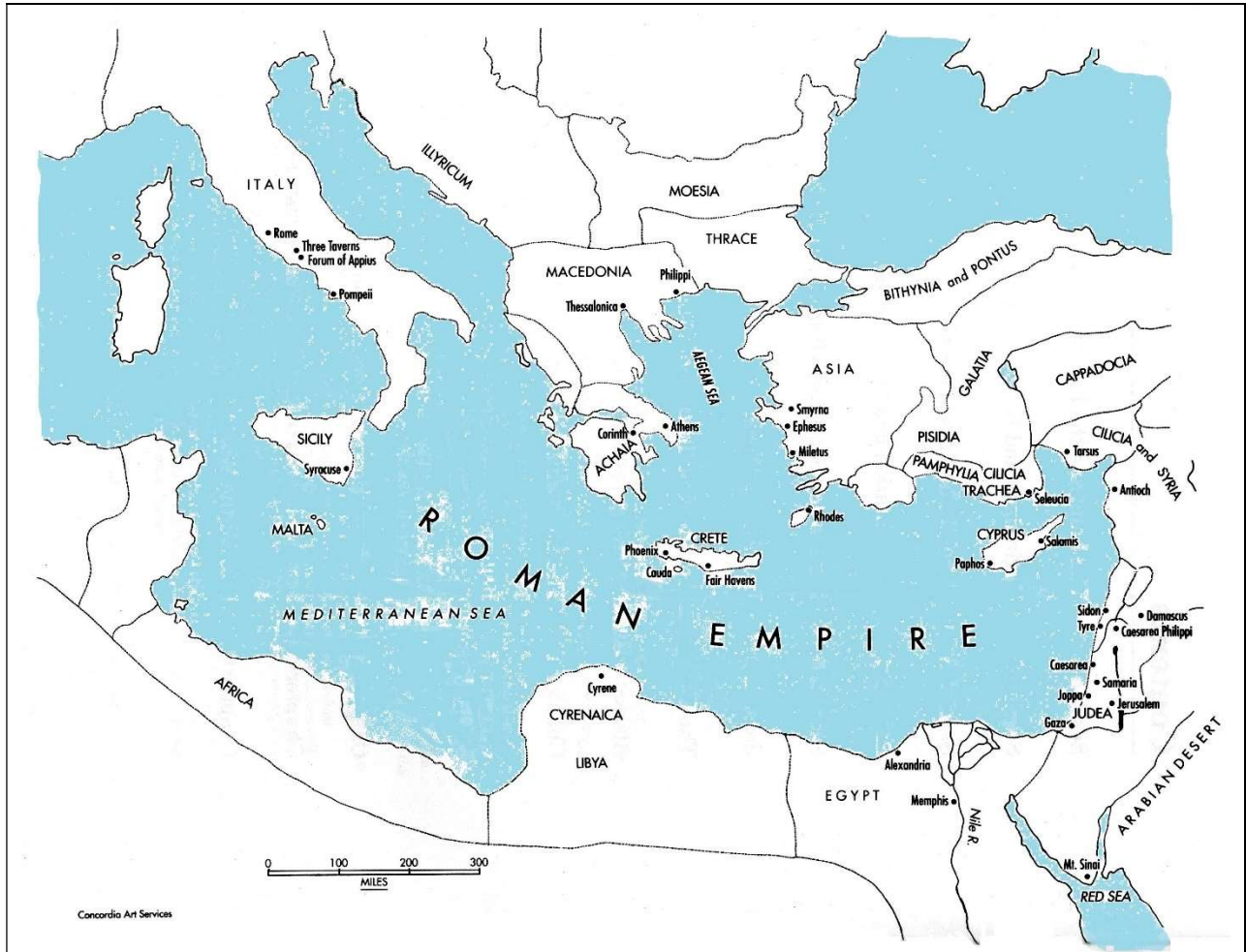
Lesson 1 – Introduction

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2

1. What is Pastor Seeger’s (your video teacher) goal for you? Why is he teaching this class?
2. Describe ways you can teach the history of the New Testament to other people?

Chapter 1: The Land and the People

Lesson 2 – The Land of the New Testament

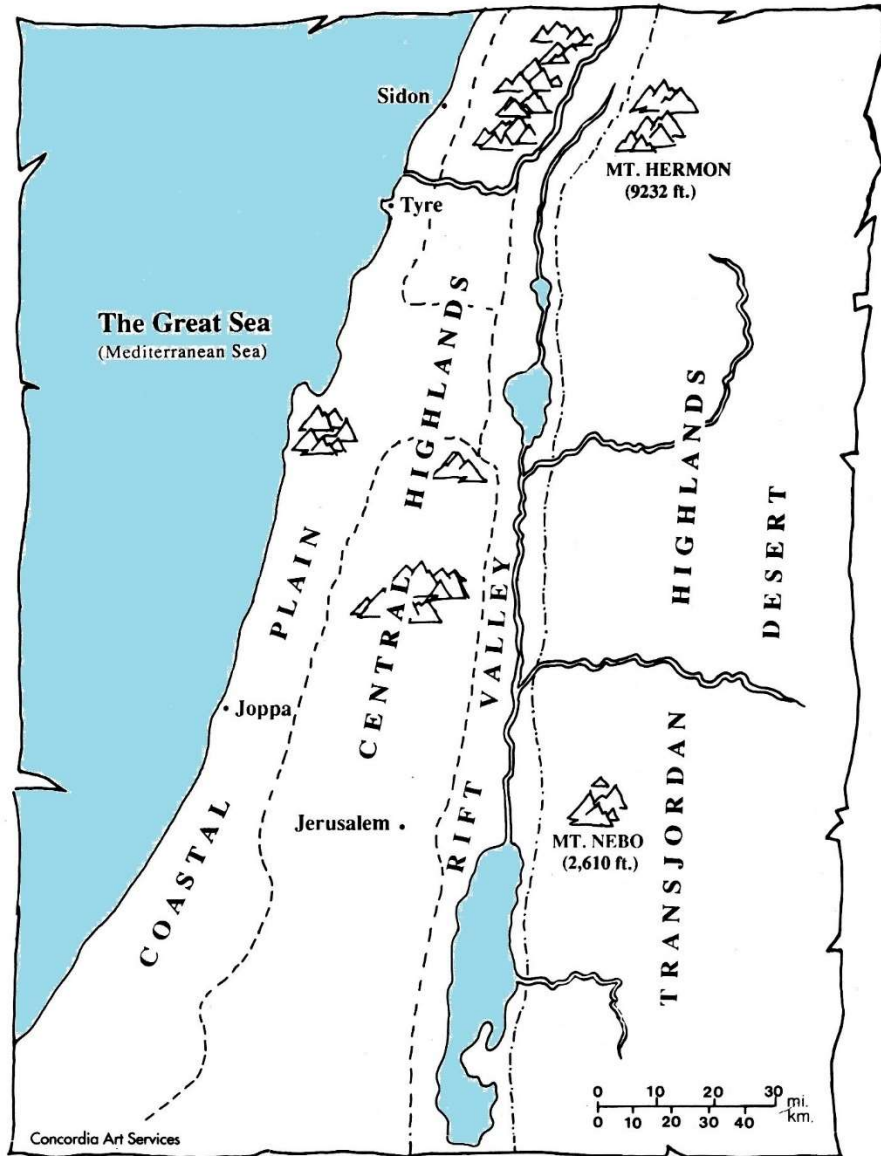


1. Why were there so many good roads in the Roman Empire?

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2. Give three examples from the New Testament that indicate that there were good roads in the Roman Empire.

Lesson 3 – Geography

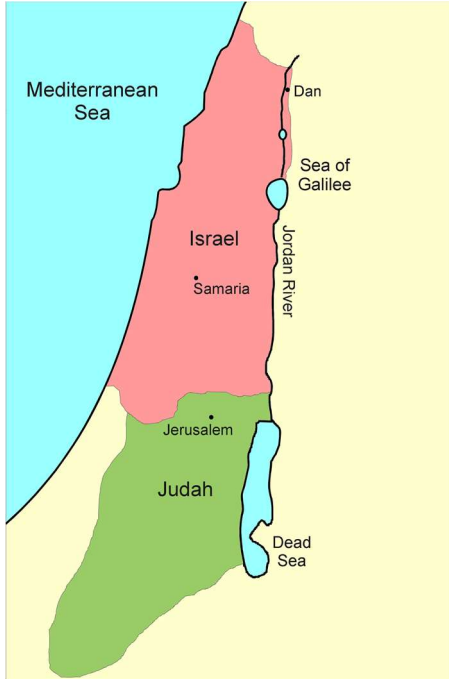


1. Pick one of the five geographic areas described in this lesson and research facts about it. What did you learn about that area?

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Lesson 4 – History: The Old Testament

The King David and his Solomon ruled over a united kingdom of Israel.



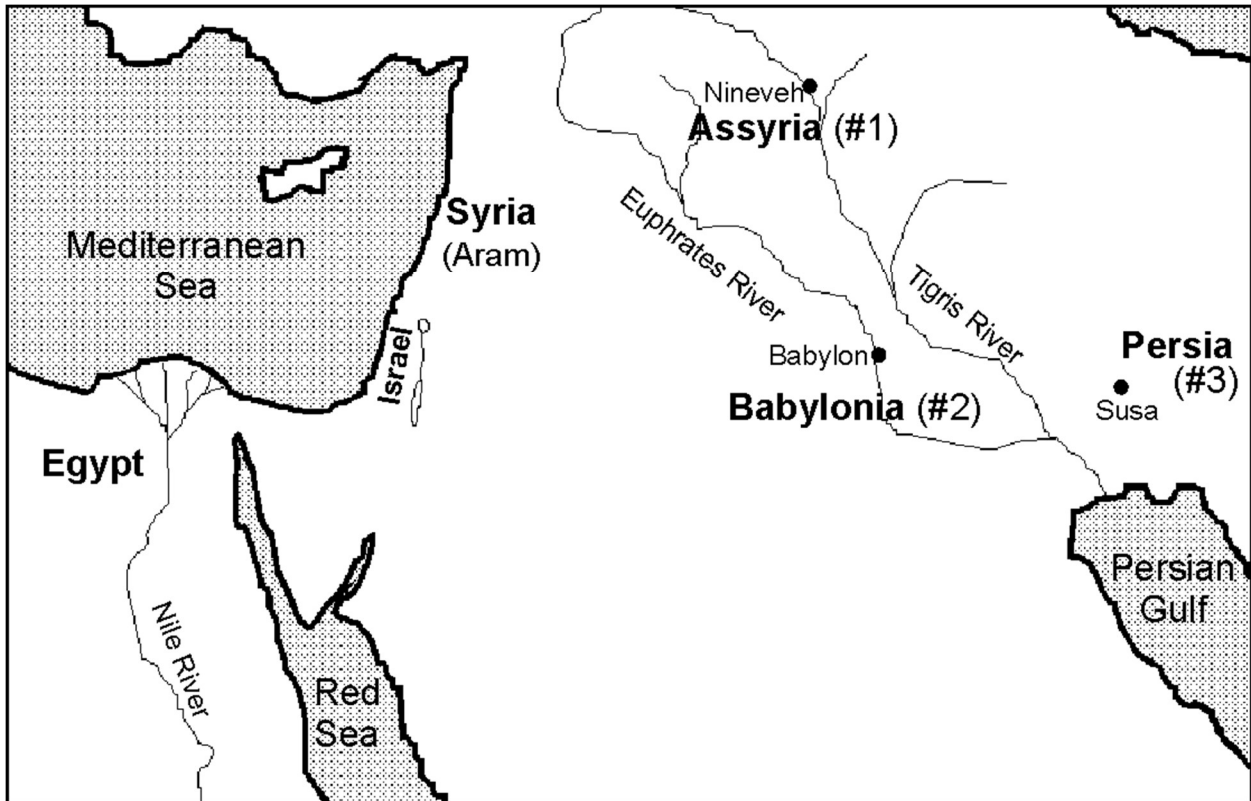
After the reign of King Solomon, the nation of Israel divided into two kingdoms.

The northern part kept the name **Israel**. Its capital was the city of Samaria. (Its New Testament name was – and still is – Galilee and Samaria.)

The southern part was called **Judah**. (Its New Testament name was – and still is – Judea.) Descendants of King David ruled over Judah in the capital city of Jerusalem.

In 722 BC the Assyrian Empire wiped out northern Israel, and scattered the Jewish people to other countries.

In 586 BC the Babylonian Empire destroyed Jerusalem and Judah. Those Jewish people lived as slaves in Babylon. In 538 the Persian Emperor Cyrus allowed the Jewish people to return to their homeland and rebuild the Lord's Temple.



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History between the Old Testament and the New Testament

END OF O.T.		
YEAR		Greek Conquest
334 BC	Hellenistic Period	Alexander the Great
320 BC		Ptolomy I [Egypt]
311 BC		Seleucid Dynasty [Syria]
198 BC		Antiochus I,II,III [Syria]
175 BC	Intense persecution	Antiochus IV "Epiphanes"
167 BC	Hasmonean Period	Jewish Independence Judas Maccabeus
142 BC		Hasmonean Dynasty
		Roman Conquest
63 BC	Roman Period	Pompey
37 BC		Herod the Great
BEGINNING OF N.T.		
6 BC	Birth of John the Baptizer	
5 BC	Birth of Jesus	

QUESTIONS:

1. Research the story of Hanukah (or Chanukah). Which period in Israel's history did this story happen?

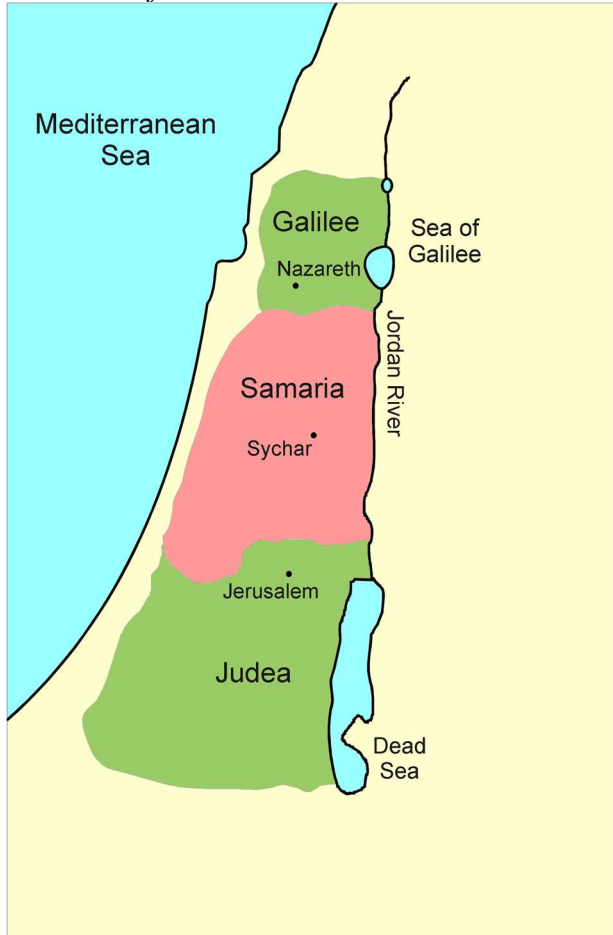
2. Research Alexander the Great. How did he influence the language and culture in the lands he ruled (including Israel)?

3. Research *The Septuagint*. What was it? Who wrote it? Where? When? Why?

4. Research this question: What is the original language of the New Testament?

Lesson 5 – History: Roman Rule & Herod

The Land of Israel in New Testament Times



Jewish people lived in Galilee and Judea. The people of Samaria were descendants of non-Jews whom the Assyrians had relocated to northern Israel in Old Testament times.

During the New Testament times, the land of Israel was under Roman rule. The Emperor appointed an Arab (an Edomite, descended from Esau) named **Herod** to govern the Jewish people. He called himself “**Herod the Great.**”

After Herod’s death, three of his sons governed different areas of his territory:

Herod Phillip II

Archelaus

Herod Antipas

...then one grandson:

Herod Agrippa I

...and one great grandson:

Herod Agrippa II

During the reign of the Herods, the Roman Emperor also appointed a military governor to oversee the peace in the land of Israel. Two Roman governors that are identified in the New Testament are Pontius Pilate and Felix.

Research the Herods and answer these questions:

1. Which Herod executed (killed) the baby boys in Bethlehem?
2. Which Herod married his brothers wife?
3. Which Herod executed John the Baptizer?
4. Which Herod personally met Jesus?
5. Which Herod executed James the brother of John?
6. Which Herod personally met Paul?
7. Herod the Great executed many members of his own family. Who?

Chapter 2: Beginnings and Transitions

Lesson 6 – The Four Gospels

Read

Matthew 1

Mark 1

Luke 1

John 1

1. Why is it important to study the *Old Testament*?
2. Which verse in the Old Testament was the first time God announced His Gospel plan?
3. Describe the beginning of each of the four gospels:

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Scan through the four gospels to answer the next two questions:

3. Which of the four gospels tell about Jesus' birth?
4. Which of the four gospels tell about Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection?

Lesson 7 – The Birth of John The Baptizer

1. Read Luke 1. Zachariah and Elizabeth were descended from what Old Testament families?
2. How did Zachariah learn about God's plan for Zachariah's son?

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3. What Old Testament couple had a similar situation to Zechariah and Elizabeth?
4. What was Zachariah unable to speak while Elizabeth was pregnant?

Lesson 8 – The Birth of Jesus

Read

Luke 1:26-56
Matthew 1:18-25
Luke 2:1-38
Matthew 2:1-23

1. Approximately what year was Jesus born?
2. How are historians able to figure out the approximate year for Jesus' birth?
3. What did the angel tell Mary that is special about Jesus?
4. What did the angel tell Joseph that is special about Jesus?

Lesson 9 – Jesus' Early Years

Read

Luke 2:41-52
Mark 6:3

1. What were the names of Jesus' half-brothers?
2. What is the only true story that we know about Jesus when He was a boy?

Lesson 10 – A Voice in the Wilderness / Jesus’ Baptism & Temptation

Read

Matthew 3:1 – 2:17

John 1:19-34

1. What was John’s message to the people about baptism?
2. What was John’s message to the people about Jesus?
3. What happened at Jesus’ baptism?
4. How did Jesus answer the devil’s temptations?

Lesson 11 – The Essenes

1. What are the “Dead Sea Scrolls”?
2. Who were the Essenes? Where did they live? Why did they live there?

Chapter 3: Behold! The Lamb

Lesson 12 – Jesus Begins His Ministry

Read John 2

1. How do you Sign the word “miracle”?
2. What did Jesus do for His first miracle? Where? Why?
3. Why did Jesus chase the money changers out of the temple?

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4. Jesus said, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” What “temple” was Jesus talking about?

Lesson 13 – Nicodemus / The Samaritan Woman

Read

John 3:1 – 4:42

John 7:45-52

John 19:38-42

1. Who was Nicodemus?
2. What was the Sanhedrin?
3. Who led the people in the Samaritan town to believe in Jesus?

Lesson 14 – Jesus’ Ministry in Galilee

Read

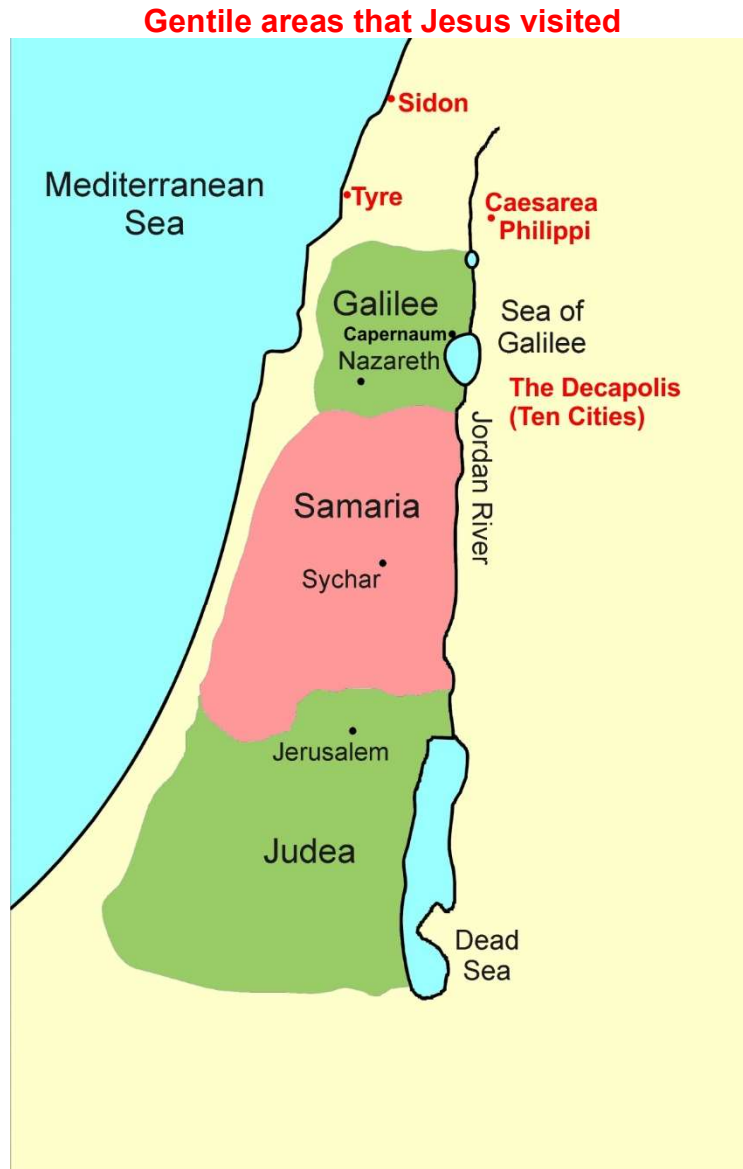
Luke 4-6

Matthew 5-7

1. Why did Jesus leave Nazareth and go to Capernaum?
2. Who were Jesus’ 12 Disciples?
3. Where and how did Jesus call His Disciples to follow Him?

(Question #4 is on the next page...)

Lesson 15 – Jesus Leaves From Galilee



Read Mark 7

1. Jesus left the Jewish area of Galilee. He went to Gentile areas.
 - (a) Where?
 - (b) Why?

2. In which Gentile area did the Deaf man live?

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Lesson 16 – Themes in the Gospel of Matthew

1. Find and name at least two Bible verses from the Gospel of Matthew that describe Jesus preaching, teaching, and healing (write two or more Bible verses for each.)

Preaching	Teaching	Healing

Lesson 17 – Two Views of the Messiah

1. The Old Testament prophets show us two views of the Messiah:

(a) _____

(b) _____

2. Many people in Israel did not recognize that Jesus was the true Messiah. Why?

Chapter 4: Confrontation and Commitment
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Lesson 18 – Sadducees, Pharisees, & Zealots

1. Compare Sadducees and Pharisees.

(a) How were they similar (the same)?

(b) How were they different?

2. Research the Jewish Zealots on the internet. What happened to the Zealots?

Lesson 19 – A Crucial Turning Point

Read

Matthew 16:13 – 17:9
Luke 9:18-36

1. The 12 Disciples saw Jesus differently than the way most people saw Jesus.
 - (a) What did the Disciples think about Jesus?
 - (b) What did most people think about Jesus?
2. Jesus told His Disciples shocking news...
 - (a) about Himself _____
 - (b) about them (and us!) _____
3. Which Old Testament prophets appeared with Jesus on the mountain?
4. Jesus and the prophets talked about what?

Lesson 20 – Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem

Read John 11 – 12

1. Who in this story did Jesus raise from the dead?
2. What does that story teach us about Jesus?
3. Because Jesus raised a dead man to life, the religious leaders wanted to do what?
4. How did Mary (the sister of Martha) show her faith in Jesus?
5. Who became upset with Mary? Why?

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Lesson 21 – Jesus’ Last Days

Read

Luke 19:28 – 20:47

Mathew 25 - 26

John 13 - 17

1. On Palm Sunday, why did Jesus cry?

2. What did Jesus do to encourage His Disciples to serve each other with Christian love?

Lesson 22 – The Threads of the Story

1. During the last week before Jesus' crucifixion He taught often, “You must be ready.” Look through Matthew chapters 21 -25 and find three parables that teach this point and write a paragraph or two explaining each parable.

Lesson 23 – Peter and Judas

Read Matthew 26:47 – 27:10

1. Why did Judas betray Jesus?

2. Why did Peter deny Jesus?

3. Did Judas repent and go the Heaven? Support up your answer with Bible verses.

4. Peter wrote two short books in the New Testament. Read those two books. What verses show that Peter understood:
 - a) the forgiveness of sins
 - b) the power of Baptism
 - c) the priesthood of all believers

Chapter 5: For the Joy Set Before Him, Christ Endured

Lesson 24 – Jesus’ Trials

Read

Hebrews 12:2

Matthew 26:57 – 27:31

Luke 22:63 – 23:25

John 18:28 – 19:16

1. Why did Jesus let His enemies arrest Him, whip Him, and kill him?
2. What did Jesus say that made the High Priest mad?
3. Who had a bad dream about Jesus?
4. Why was Pilate afraid to let Jesus go free?

Lesson 25 – Jesus’ Crucifixion

Read

Matthew 27:37-54

Luke 23:26-46

John 19:16-30

1. The soldiers put a sign on the Jesus’ cross. The sign said what?
2. The video lesson quotes John 19:30 (Jesus said, “It is finished!”). What else did Jesus say from the cross?

Lesson 26 – Jesus’ Burial

Read Luke 23:50-56

1. Which member of the Jewish Council loved Jesus and buried Jesus’ dead body in his own tomb?
2. That person hurried to bury Jesus before sunset. Why?
3. The other Jewish religious leaders asked Pilate to send soldiers to guard Jesus’ tomb. Why?

Lesson 27 – Jesus’ Resurrection

Read

Matthew 28

Luke 24

John 20 – 21

Acts 1:1-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

1. After Jesus rose from the dead, the soldiers did what?
2. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to whom?
3. After Jesus rose from the dead, He promised what?

Chapter 6: Into All the World

Lesson 28 – The Strategy

Read Acts 1:1-8

1. Jesus promised that we become His witnesses to the whole world. Jesus said that we will be able to do that, how?

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Lesson 29 – The Plan Unfolds: Pentecost

Read Acts 2

1. Back when Jesus was arrested and on trial, Peter was afraid; three times he told people that he didn't know Jesus. Now on Pentecost day, Peter had a different attitude; he bravely preached about Jesus to a large crowd in Jerusalem. What made him change?
2. Make a list of all the countries and areas mentioned in Acts 2 . Then look at a map and find those areas. Find the scale of the miles and write down approximately how far each area is from Jerusalem.
3. Why were all those people visiting Jerusalem?

Lesson 30 – Life in the Early Jerusalem Church

Read

Acts 2:42-47
Acts 4
Acts 5:17-41
Acts 6:1-7

1. The video lessons describes four ways of what life was like in the early Jerusalem church:
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)

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Lesson 31 – Into Judea and Samaria

Read Acts 6 – 11

1. In Acts 10 God gave Peter a vision and then an experience which taught Peter an important lesson. What did Peter learn about God's plan?

Lesson 32 – Paul Learns About Grace

Read Acts 9:1-31

1. Saul of Tarsus hated Christ and His followers. What changed Saul's mind and heart?
2. Who was the first person to welcome Saul into the fellowship of Christian believers in Jerusalem? (The answer is in Acts 9, not in video.)

Lesson 33 – To the Ends of the Earth: Paul's First Missionary Journey

Read

Acts 11:19-26

Acts 13 – 14

1. Barnabas became the first pastor for new Gentile followers of Christ in what city? (Find that city on a Bible map.)
2. Barnabas asked someone to be his helper. Who?
3. The people in that city gave followers of Christ a new name. What was that name?
4. Name the places where Paul and Barnabas preached for Christ on their first missionary journey. (Find those places on a Bible map.)

Lesson 34 – Paul’s 2nd & 3rd Missionary Journeys

Read

Acts 15:36-41

Acts 16

Acts 19

In your Bible find maps of Paul's missionary journeys. Read in Acts about Paul's three missionary journeys and follow on your maps where he went.

1. Why didn't Paul want to take John Mark on any more missionary journeys? (The answer is in Acts 15, not in video.)
2. Read Acts 9:15. Find in the Bible where it records much of the suffering Paul experienced. Make a list of the different sufferings he endured.

Lesson 35 – The Christian Church in the Roman World (65 – 100 AD)

- 1 Paul wrote five letters while he was under house arrest or in prison, which now are books of the New Testament. What are those five letters? (The first four are called Paul’s "Prison Epistles" because Paul wrote them close to the same time in the same place.)

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

2. What is the name of the Roman Emperor who was the first to target Christians for persecution and death?
3. How did Peter die for the Lord?
4. How did Paul die for the Lord?

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5. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. How did Paul feel about getting killed for Christ?
6. What were some of the long term consequences (results) of persecution for Christians?

Lesson 36 – Conclusion

NOTE TO MENTOR: Please give your student a opportunity to teach an adult Bible class about the history of the Old Testament.