

## Term 1 - Understanding the Journey

### Lesson 1

#### Personal Revelation of Jesus as “The Christ”

The foundation of our Christian faith is based on a personal experience that permeates every aspect of our lives. It is life changing and life giving such as no other experience in our lives. It is an experience that, not only affects this life, but continues beyond for all eternity. When put in this context, we can see how important it is to receive Jesus as saviour after we have been drawn by His Spirit (not just to say a prayer). This experience is vital and personal to each believer. **Genesis 1:2** *“And the earth was without form (mankind in our state of sin), and void;(without purpose or direction, unfulfilled); and darkness was upon the face of the deep (we could not see , we were in darkness ). And the Spirit of God **moved**”*. He calls us and takes us to a place where we can answer.

Often someone is sent to us to speak to us or we have a dream, or by many other different ways. **Revelation 3:20** *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if **any** man hear my voice, and **open the door**, I will **come in to him**, and will **sup** with him, and he with me.”* It is an individual and **personal revelation** that Jesus is “The Christ”, the anointed one, God in the flesh.

Many have simply believed that “Christ” is his last name. Jesus is the earthly name that Mary was given by the angel Gabriel to call her son (Luke 1:31). The word “Christ” means “anointed of God” or “sent of God”. Together, the name Jesus Christ, is the “**Anointed Son of God**” and it is more than just an earthly name. It is a heaven sent name expressing God’s power to give purpose for all of our lives **now** and forever. It is the **name** by which we are to experience the fulfilment of every promise of God. It opens our eyes that Jesus is LORD and Saviour and is a living presence in our lives.

This revelation of Jesus as the Christ is not reserved for biblical scholars or church leaders. In fact, when Jesus walked the earth, the religious scholars and leaders did not have this revelation themselves. Indeed, they even rejected Jesus. **Who is the revelation of Jesus as the Christ for? It is for ALL mankind.** The revelation of Jesus as the Christ is well documented in the Holy Bible. Here are some examples:

**John 3:1-3** *“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God (not enough): for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him (Nicodemus was being drawn by the Spirit). (Jesus tells him what he must do next) Verily , verily (means vital or very important), I say unto thee, Except a man be born again (from above , Heaven ), he cannot see the kingdom of God”* (he will still be in darkness or sin). Nicodemus only knew man’s religion: to be moral and follow the law as closely as possible. Now he was amazed! Jesus is calling **all men** to have a relationship with Him, free from the burden of sin. God gave us all a seed of faith to believe these words and believe **on** Jesus Christ. **It is the gift of God.** Giving the gift is His part. Accepting the gift is our part (for he gave us all free will as a sign of His true love).

In **Matthew 16**, we read an account of Jesus asking the disciples “who do men say that I am”? There are a variety of answers given to Jesus. The answers range from “a person of old” to “one of the prophets”. It is not so different today. If we asked the same question today, we would likely hear a reasoned answer based on man’s knowledge. Then Jesus asks Peter a more direct **personal** question. **Matthew 16:15-17** “*He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.** And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven**”.* Peter had a personal revelation that Jesus is the Christ.

In **Acts 2**, we see another experience of the revelation of Jesus as the Christ. Peter ministers the plan of God which is through his son Jesus. He ends his ministering with these words: **Acts 2:36-37** “*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same **Jesus**, whom ye have crucified, **both Lord and Christ.** Now when they heard this, they were **pricked in their heart** (revelation of sin, our state), and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren **what shall we do?**” They realized they had a choice or decision. Peter spoke the words but **something else** happened beyond the words. This was a personal revelation by all that heard that Jesus was indeed both Lord and the Christ and **that they were in sin.***

In **Acts 8**, we read the account of Phillip who was directed by the angel of the Lord to meet the Ethiopian eunuch, a man of great authority. **Acts 8: 30-31** “*And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come to him and sit with him”.* **Acts 8: 35-38** “*Then Philip **opened his mouth**, and began at the same scripture, **and preached unto him Jesus.** And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See here is water, **what doth hinder me to be baptized?** And Phillip said, **If thou believest with all thine heart**, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.** And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and **he baptized him.**” Phillip wanted to be sure that the Ethiopian man had a revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed Son of God. Without a revelation, there is no point to being baptized. It’s not enough to just say a prayer to receive Jesus.*

There are many more examples in the Holy Bible: the thief on the cross; the woman with the issue of blood; the woman caught in adultery; Saul’s conversion to Paul; and others. All of them have the same thing in common. They had a personal revelation of Jesus as the Christ, the anointed Son of God (**beyond** a teacher or a scholar or a good man) and that revelation compelled them **to follow Jesus Christ.**

The personal revelation of Jesus as the Christ is the most profound experience in our lives and opens us to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, **through repentance for our sin.** We don’t do this because someone says we must. We do this because it is revealed by **God himself** to each of us individually. We understand that Jesus has the power to forgive our **sin** and that we each can have a relationship with Him because he is God

**DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p>Read <b>John 1:7-9</b>. <i>“The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”</i></p>	<p>1. What is the name given to Jesus in these verses? What purpose of Jesus is revealed in these verses?</p>
<p>Read <b>John 1:10-11</b>. <i>“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”</i></p>	<p>2. What do these scriptures reveal about our natural understanding of who Jesus Christ is?</p>
<p>Read <b>John 1:12-13</b>. <i>“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”</i></p>	<p>3. What is the gift of God revealed in these scriptures? How do we receive and believe in Jesus?</p>
<p>Read <b>John 3:3-6</b>. <i>“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”</i></p>	<p>4. What is the requirement to see (understand) the kingdom of God? What is the requirement to enter into the kingdom of God? What do these scriptures reveal about a natural experience verses a spiritual experience?</p>
<p>Read <b>Matthew 16:13-14</b>. <i>“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.”</i></p>	<p>5. What does Jesus ask his disciples? What is their answer? What does their answer reveal regarding Jesus?</p>

<p>Read <b>Matthew 16:15-16.</b> <i>“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”</i></p>	<p>6. What is different about the question Jesus asks the disciples now? What is different about the answer that Peter gives Him?</p>
<p>Read <b>Matthew 16:17.</b> <i>“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”</i></p>	<p>7. What does Jesus tell Peter about his answer with respect to how he knows who Jesus is? What should we gain for our lives from these scriptures?</p>
<p>Read <b>Acts 8:35-39</b> <i>Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”</i></p>	<p>8. This time it was not Jesus speaking but one of His disciples, Philip. What did Philip minister unto the Ethiopian man? How do we know this man had a personal revelation of Jesus?</p>

### ANSWER KEY

1. Read **John 1:7-9**

The Light, that all men through Jesus might believe. He is the Light that is given to light the way for “every man” that cometh into the world

2. Read **John 1:10-11**

Even though we are His creation, we do not and cannot understand who Jesus really is without the spiritual revelation of Jesus as the Christ.

3. Read **John 1:12-13**

The gift of God is the power to become the sons of God. We do not believe or receive Jesus as the Christ or become the sons of God by our own fleshly strength or understanding. It is obtained by a new experience or birth (Born Again) given by God himself to each of us personally.

4. Read **John 3:3-6**

We must be born again to see the kingdom of heaven. We must be born of water (water baptized) and of the Spirit to enter into the kingdom of God. This speaks to the necessity of an experience that is not in the control of man but, rather, one ordained by God. It is the experience by which the kingdom of God is now opened up unto us.

5. Read **Matthew 16:13-14**

Jesus asks, “Who do men say that I am”? Their answers one of the others who came before Jesus or one of the prophets. Their answer reveals that the opinions of man about who Jesus is varies greatly and is simply an opinion or guess. They don’t have personal knowledge or revelation of Jesus by the Spirit.

6. Read **Matthew 16:15-16**

His question now is “Who do you say that I am”? This time the question is personal. Peter’s answer is not influenced by what others think but, rather, by his own personal revelation of who Jesus is. In other words, Peter says “this is my answer, not the answer of others”.

7. Read **Matthew 16:17**

First, Jesus tells Peter that he is Blessed. Why? Because the Heavenly Father has personally visited Peter to give him revelation about who Jesus is. This same experience remains true for our day.

8. Read **Acts 8:35-39**

Philip ministered Jesus unto the Ethiopian man and brought life to the scriptures. Through this, the man understood and believed with all his heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The Eunuch understood that he had to repent, be born again and water baptized. After this, he went his way rejoicing!

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