

A group of diverse people, including men, women, and a child, are seated around a long wooden table in a well-lit room. They are engaged in a study session, with several open books and papers on the table. A chandelier hangs from the ceiling, and windows with blinds are visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of collaborative learning and discussion.

Learning

from

Jesus

STUDENT WORKBOOK

PHIL DUREN

Learning from

Jesus

Student Workbook

By Phil Duren

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Preview

LEARNING FROM JESUS

Student Overview

The Bible teaches that God's human creation is personally connected with God's nature of love. "*Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.' . . . So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.*" (Genesis 1:26–27) He wanted a relationship with human beings to be able to show His love for them that reveals His own nature. God planted a garden in Eden for Adam and provided a water source within the garden along with instructions on what to eat. He provided a helper named Eve fit for Adam so he would not be alone. God came to the garden in the cool of the day to walk with Adam and Eve. (Genesis 2:8–10, 15–18, 21–22, 3:8–9) God loved His creation!

He gave men and women free will to choose to love Him back. But each person can also choose to reject God's love by choosing to disobey Him. We can choose to sin against God's commands that were put into place for our wellbeing. God in His infinite love had a plan for our choice of sin as well. The solution was God sending His Son down to earth from heaven to become one of us, a human, in order to save us from our sins. His Son's name is Jesus and He became the ultimate demonstration of love from God to us.

We invite you to learn about Jesus and how God loves you and wants you to love Him back. Each week you will be given a new lesson that contains Bible passages for you to carefully read. There are also questions to help you think through and understand the meaning of what you have just read. Answer these questions as best you can. This ensures that the focus is on what the Bible actually teaches and not on the opinions of a teacher. The individual who is studying the lessons with you will discuss the passages and your responses to the questions as you study together. As you read, write down your own questions and these will be discussed also. At the end of each lesson, there are definitions of Biblical words you may be unfamiliar with.

This is a way we can learn the most important lessons for our life from the Bible. Our loving relationship with our Creator and our eternal destiny is at stake. May we all open our ears and hearts to hear His words.

Scripture quotations are taken from the *English Standard Version* unless otherwise noted.

LEARNING FROM JESUS

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Lesson 1

What do you put your confidence in? Yourself? Someone else? A product you use? Why doesn't confidence develop overnight? Because it doesn't happen without research, listening to other's recommendations, testing, or experience over time. In the same way, we need to develop confidence in our relationship with God, and His word the Bible.

Who is Jesus?

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'") For from His fullness we have all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known."

(John 1:1-18)

Jesus was in the beginning with God the Father and was the instrument of our creation. He is the one who directly delivered the word of God to mankind/humans and who executed God's plan to save us from our sins. He is God's grace and light in the flesh. We need to know who Jesus is.

Why should we listen to Jesus?

The Hebrew writer tells how God has communicated to men and women whom He made in His own image. *"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom He also created the world."* (Hebrews 1:1-3) In fulfillment of all the prophets of God writing in the Hebrew scripture, Jesus came to this world to speak the word of God directly to humans.

Jesus Himself said, *"Whoever believes in Me, believes not in Me, but in Him who sent Me. And whoever sees Me, sees Him who sent Me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears*

My words and does not keep them, I do not judge Him, for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has a judge, the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me has Himself given Me a commandment what to say and what to speak, and I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told Me.”
 (John 12:44–50)

This has been God’s purpose and desire since He created us. Look at **The Bible** chart to see how God has communicated to humans over the course of time. The Bible is one book although God used 40 authors to have it written, and it has distinct time periods. God spoke directly to heads of families in Genesis 1–11. He then made a promise to Abraham beginning in Genesis 12. Part of this promise was for Abraham’s descendants, the Israelites, and God chose Moses to establish a Covenant with them. It was also looking forward in time to when God would establish a new covenant with all the world through Jesus. Jesus’ life and teachings are presented in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Old Covenant—Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 1–11

History of the Earth from creation to Abraham when God spoke directly to patriarchs, the heads of families (5000–2000 BC)

Genesis 12 through Malachi

Covenant of God with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob renamed Israel (about 2000 BC)

Covenant of God with Israel, Moses writes (about 1400 BC) **Genesis through Deuteronomy**

Joshua through Malachi

History, wisdom literature, and prophets of Israel (1400–400 BC)

New Covenant—Greek Scriptures

Matthew through Revelation

Covenant of God with all people through Jesus Christ
 (begins after the resurrection of Jesus)

Books of Jesus’ Life on Earth and the Writings of the Apostles and Prophets (first century AD)

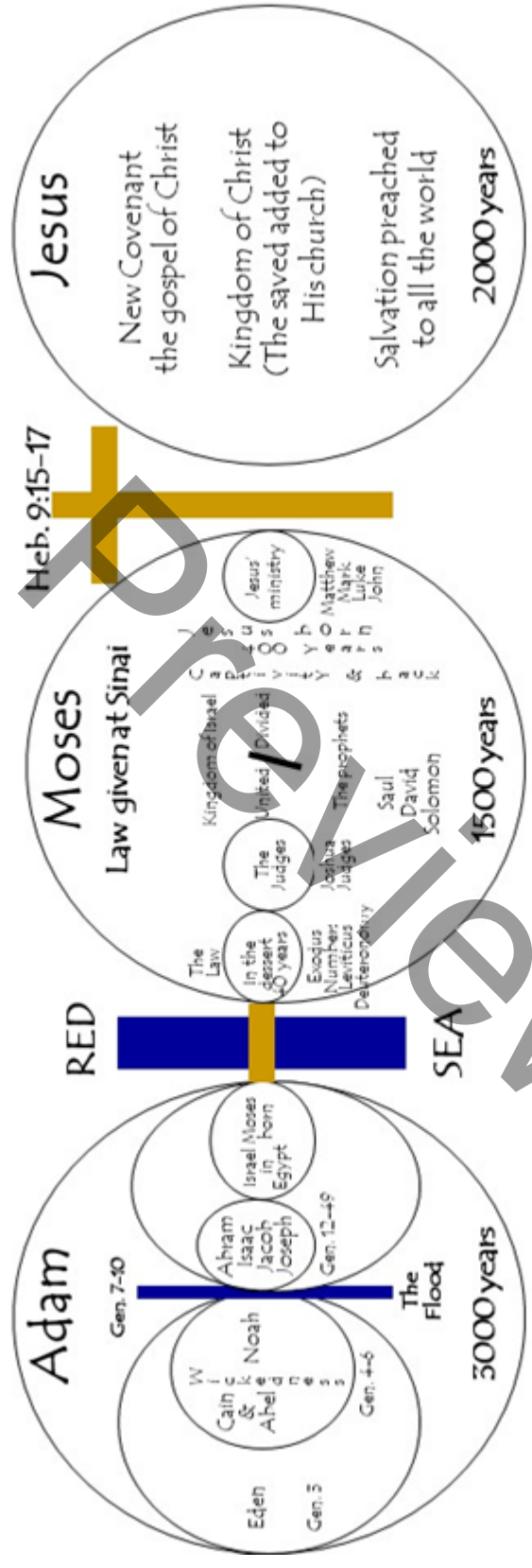
Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Acts	Romans— Revelation
To Jews	To Romans	To Greeks	To all people		
Refers to Old Covenant law and fulfilled by Jesus	All about the power of Jesus	Interested in knowledge and philosophy	Evidence Jesus was the Son of God prophesied about	History of the spread of the gospel into the world	Letters to Christians and churches

Did you know this about the Bible?

Through Patriarchs
Family Religion

Through Moses
National Religion

Through Jesus
Universal Religion



Genesis 1- Exodus 20

Exodus 20 - Acts 1

Acts 2- Revelation

God spoke to the fathers - Gen. 12:1
Altar
Animal sacrifices

The Law came by Moses
A tutor - Gal. 3:24
Cancelled - Col. 2:14
Tabernacle or Temple
Passover Sabbath

Grace/Truth, by Christ
Gospel . . . church
Rom. 1:16 Acts 2:47
Spiritual temple
Lord's supper Lord's day

While all the gospels have faith-producing power, each gospel has a different audience in mind. Each gospel offers an added dimension to our understanding of Jesus' work: just as a four-way mirror gives us more perspective.

The gospel of Matthew was written to a Jewish audience and has the most references to fulfilled prophecies from the Old Covenant.

The gospel of Mark was written for the Roman mind and focuses on the power of Jesus through His miracles. Rome was the world power at the time of Jesus' ministry.

The gospel of John was written to a general audience where he lays out evidences that Jesus is the Son of God. The gospel of Luke is different in that the audience was primarily Greeks and fits most people today who don't have a lot of Bible knowledge. As a physician, Luke was trained to look for detail and facts. The Holy Spirit used him to confirm the eye witness testimony of those disciples who were with Christ from the beginning. He also wrote the book of Acts which contains more conversion accounts than any other New Testament book. He was an eye-witness to the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Apostle Paul on two of Paul's missionary journeys to preach about Jesus. His writing of the gospel of Luke is the most valuable in teaching faith in Christ that comes before conversion.

Please give thoughtful consideration to your written answers and write down any questions that come to your mind from this study. These will be discussed also. These lessons will help you discover and define the following **three components of faith: conviction of the mind, trust of the heart, and surrender of ones will to God.** Biblical definitions of words you may be unfamiliar with are included at the end of each lesson.

Read Luke 1:1–4.

The prophet Luke wrote this account to present the evidence to Theophilus so that he might believe in Christ. (Interestingly, Theophilus means lover of God.)

1. How could Theophilus know that Luke's writings about Jesus were true?
2. Would Luke's testimony work as an expert witness in a modern court trial? Why?

Luke first introduces Jesus with the account of Jesus' birth in Luke 2. In Luke 3:23, he begins the account of Jesus' ministry at the age of 30 when Jesus was baptized and when God declared, "*You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.*" (Luke 3:22)

In Luke 4, the three temptations of Christ by Satan are recorded. This account shows that, in His human form, the Son of God "*in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*" (Hebrews 4:15) Sin is a transgression of God's law. It is something that says no to God's will and yes to our own desires. James teaches us how sin develops. "*Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil and He Himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*" (James 1:13–15) This includes spiritual and physical death. Jesus also teaches you how to not sin and resist temptation by trusting in the word of God when He says, "*it is written*"

Jesus shows all **three components of faith: conviction of the mind, trust of the heart, and surrender of ones will to God**, as He overcomes the following temptations.

Read Luke 4:1–14

Three great lessons that we learn in Luke 4:1–14 are: 1) a lesson on how to identify sin, 2) a lesson on overcoming temptations to sin, and 3) a lesson on correctly handling the Word of God.

3. What made each challenge by Satan a temptation for Jesus?
4. What did Jesus do in confronting each temptation?
5. What was Satan's motive when he misused the scripture quoted from Psalms 91:11–12?
6. Was Jesus' victory over temptation to sin different than how He asks you to do it?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13

As you read the passages of each temptation, relate it back to the appropriate component of faith: **conviction of the mind, trust of the heart, and surrender of ones will to God.**

7. Did Jesus totally **believe the Word of God was truth** (conviction of the mind) and nothing but the truth? How do you know from these passages?
8. Did Jesus totally **trust in God** for all things (trust of the heart)? How do you know from these passages?
9. Did Jesus absolutely **submit His will** (surrender of ones will to God) to the Father? How do you know from these passages?

One of the important reasons to learn from Jesus is that He never asks you to do anything or go through anything that He wasn't willing to do.

DEFINITIONS

A.D.: After Christ's Birth (year number goes from smaller to larger)

Apostles: Men who Jesus chose and taught to declare His teachings on the earth after His resurrection. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit to perform miracles, raise the dead and speak for Christ.

B.C.: Before Christ was born (year number goes from larger to smaller)

Conversion: Leaving a life against God and turning to a life serving God

Disciples: People who wanted to learn from Jesus. We can be disciples too.

Fulfilled: Being foretold by God and coming true hundreds of years later

Gentiles: In New Testament times, this name would be used for all people who were not a Jew by birth.

Gospel: Words that tell us about Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection, also referred to as the Good News

Holy Spirit: This one, of the three divine beings, is responsible for the breathing of God's words into the minds of the 40 writers of the Bible.

Jew: A nation of people chosen by God to provide the lineage of Christ

Miracles: Supernatural happenings on the earth by the will of God

Prophecy: Events foretold by God through people who served God

Roman: A citizen of the Roman Empire from 27 B.C. to 476 A.D.

Satan: An arrogant angel of God who was thrown out of heaven (Luke 10:18) for choosing to disobey God.

(Revelation 12:1-9) He tempted Eve to disobey God and when she did, death began on the earth. He continues to tempt us today to disobey God.

Sin: Disobeying God's commandments which causes separation from God

Temptation: Satan making efforts to get us to reject God's love through disobedience of God's laws. Also, our lusts (desires) cause us to be tempted to disobey God's laws which are given in love for our wellbeing.

Dr. Phil Duren, *Making Disciples for Christ*, (Lutz, FL, 2019, second printing 2020, third printing 2023), PowerPoint slides available from phillip.duren@csueastbay.edu.

Mike Wilson, *Evangelism Toolbox*, (biblematerial.com, 2002).

LEARNING FROM JESUS

HOW FAITH LOOKS IN ACTION

Lesson 2

Do you have faith in a best friend that they will always be truthful with you no matter what? Will they seek your best interests and always be willing to help when asked? We all want a friend like this. God gave us His Son to be our best friend.

This lesson focuses on developing faith in Jesus' word and His authority from God. Look for the attitude of heart that each disciple shows toward the word of God through Christ. In Luke chapters 5 and 7, there are great examples of faith in Christ. In Luke's first example, he shows how Simon (later called Peter) moves from knowing that Jesus is a great teacher, to realizing that Jesus is the Lord of prophecy. Simon then goes from building faith in Jesus the teacher, to fishing for men who want to be disciples for Christ. As a background for Chapter 5, read the following faith-building account.

Read Luke 4:38–41.

1. How had Simon come to know Jesus?

Read Luke 5:1–5.

2. How did Simon respond to Jesus' command to cast his nets in the water again? Why?

Read Luke 5:6–10.

3. How did Simon respond when the catch of fish was beyond anything he and his partners had ever experienced while fishing in Galilee? Why?

Simon had attached himself to Jesus and His teaching, but he was separating the spiritual world from the physical world where he made his living by fishing. Jesus brought the Good News from the God of salvation, but also could control the elements of Simon's occupation. The result was Simon and the other three disciples gave up their livelihood to follow Jesus.

4. What does the disciples giving up their livelihood show you about faith?

A second example in Luke 5 shows how a man with leprosy, a highly contagious skin disease, showed faith in Jesus. He was an outcast of society through no choice of his own, and yet he asked Jesus to touch him; something that Jews were commanded not to do or they would be considered unclean (isolated from religious and social gatherings).

Read Luke 5:12–13.

5. Was Jesus **able** to help the leper in need?
6. Was Jesus **willing** to help the leper in need?
7. What does this teach you about Jesus' ability and attitude toward you?

In the third example, the friends of a paralyzed man make great effort to bring their companion to Jesus for healing.

Read Luke 5:17–26.

8. How did the friends of the paralytic man demonstrate faith in Jesus?

A fourth example is a Roman Centurion whose faith in Jesus was greater than that of any of the Jews who were already children of God. The Centurion clearly had heard Jesus teach and knew of or witnessed His miracles. He had faith in his knowledge of Jesus.

Read Luke 7:1–10.

9. How did the Centurion view Jesus?
10. How did the Centurion show his faith in Jesus?
11. How does Jesus' response to the Centurion's faith show how Jesus views you?

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards them who seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

In Luke 10 there are three passages that present important lessons about God's word and faith. As Jesus Himself demonstrated in resisting the temptations recorded in Luke 4, having faith in God involved viewing God's word as absolute truth. Jesus prayed to the heavenly Father, *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."* (John 17:17). Your attitude toward the truth of His word reflects the strength of your faith in God and Christ. *"So faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ."* (Romans 10:17). The following passages help us realize that God gave us His word through Jesus.

Read Luke 10:21–24 and John 12:44–50.

12. How do these passages teach the authority of Jesus' words?
13. Since God's word is truth, how should you respond to its message?

Knowing and valuing the truth of God's word does not necessarily mean we know how to apply it or choose to apply it. The greatest example is the account of the Samaritan man and the illustration of knowing and valuing God's word, and putting it into practice through faith.

Read Luke 10:25–37.

14. What do you learn about the two religious Jews and the Samaritan?

15. What is the true test of love?

The final lesson on the attitude towards truth and God's word is the account of Jesus' encounter with two sisters, Martha and Mary. This lesson should touch us all concerning our priorities in life.

Read Luke 10:38–42.

16. What did Mary learn about faith and the words of God, through Christ, that her sister missed?

17. What priority will you give to the words of God through Christ?

DEFINITIONS

Centurion: Roman commander in charge of 100 soldiers

Children of God: People who are in a covenant relationship with God

Leprosy: Today, this is called Hansen's Disease. If not treated, it can cause crippling of the hands and feet, paralysis, and blindness.

Physical: Things pertaining to humans and their life on earth

Samaritan: A half Jew and half Gentile person whom the Jews hated because they were not of pure Jewish blood. Samaritans only recognized the first five books that Moses wrote of the Old Covenant.

Sanctify: When God sets those apart as His people who believe His word, separate from those who do not believe His word

Spiritual: Things pertaining to the relationship between God and us