

FOUNDATIONS OF WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION



FOUNDATIONS OF WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION



**FOUNDATIONS
OF
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY
UNION**



**Published by
Kenya Baptist Media
P.O. Box 30370
Nairobi, Kenya**

© Copyright, 1996
Kenya Baptist Media
P.O. Box 30370
Nairobi, Kenya

All rights reserved

CONTENTS

LESSON.....	PAGE
Introduction	4
1. Why Do We Need To Be Saved?	5
2. What Is The Bible?	9
3. What Is Prayer?.....	13
4. Am I A Good Steward?.....	17
5. What Is The Church?	21
6. Why Do We Baptize And Celebrate The Lord's Supper?	25
7. What Can I Do In My Church?.....	29
8. Who Is To Go And Make Disciples?.....	33
9. How Do I Witness?	37
10. Are You Ready To Witness?.....	41
11. What Is WMU/UWW?	45
12. What Are Our Aims?	49
13. Baptist Women Join Together!	53
Memory Verse Cards	Centre Page
Emblem Of WMU	Centre Page
God's Plan Of Salvation	Back Cover

INTRODUCTION

Iwe Nuru books are written to train and strengthen women in Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) or Ushirika wa Wanawake Waenezao Injili (UWW). Baptist women of Kenya and Tanzania use *Iwe Nuru* as their study book in their weekly meetings.

Foundations of Woman's Missionary Union replaces the book, *Programmes for New Societies*. This new book will be a good guide for women in new and old Baptist churches. New members of WMU can learn more about about salvation and their relationship with God. They will learn about Baptist beliefs and programmes. The last three lessons explain the WMU programme. Women who have been in WMU for many years will also benefit from studying this book. They will be challenged to serve Christ better as they remember the basics of their faith and the purpose and goals of WMU.

Bible verses are taken from the Revised Standard Version Bible. Other versions of the Bible used in this book are: King James (KJV), New International (NIV) and Today's English (TEV).

Each lesson begins with a **Bible Background**. These verses will help you understand what the Bible teaches about the lesson. A **Memory Verse** is given in each lesson. We keep God's words upon our hearts (Deuteronomy 6:6-7) by memorizing Bible verses. We can also do this by reading the Bible daily. Each lesson ends with **Bible Verses To Read This Week**.

Your WMU meetings should be planned to meet the needs of your group. Meetings are a time for you to worship, pray and learn more about obeying and serving God. Each meeting should begin and end with prayer. Many women enjoy singing before they begin studying and praying. Help the women learn the **Memory Verses** by repeating them together during the meeting.

Do not just read the lesson in your meetings. Ask different women to explain each section of the lesson. Ask other women to read the Bible verses in the lesson.

In each meeting include a time for the women to share their praises and prayer requests. Also include times for announcements and your WMU offering.

Lesson One

WHY DO WE NEED TO BE SAVED?

Bible Background: Genesis 3:1-24; John 11:25-27

Memory Verse: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*
John 3:16

Leader’s Introduction: As we begin to study and work together in WMU (Woman’s Missionary Union or Ushirika wa Wanawake Waenezao Injili), we need to think about our relationship with God. In John 3:16-17 we read, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” Why did God send his Son to earth? Why do we need to be saved? Let us look at our Bibles to understand this better.

God Is the Creator of All

Let us read the first chapter of Genesis. (Ask four women to read the following groups of verses: Genesis 1:1-8, 9-19, 20-25 and 1:26-2:3.) The Bible says that in the beginning of time, there was God. God created the heavens and the earth and all living things. His greatest creation was man whom he created in His own image. God loved man and gave him power over the other living creatures. He also gave man the power to choose between right and wrong. God also created man to have fellowship with him.

(Ask someone to read Genesis 3:1-6 to the group.) God gave man and woman a beautiful place to live. But the devil, God’s enemy, tempted them and they disobeyed God. This was the first sin and their fellowship with God was broken. The first man and woman had to leave their home. From that time they had to work to provide for their needs. They had to continually offer sacrifices to God to receive

forgiveness for their sins. Only after they received forgiveness could they continue to have fellowship with God.

God Sent His Son

Hundreds of years passed, and there were many people on the earth. Most of the people had forgotten about God and were very wicked. Only a few people loved God and served him.

Finally, God decided to send his Son to live on the earth and to die for the sins of all people. In Matthew 1:21, an angel of the Lord says, "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." So Jesus, the perfect Son of God, was born on earth and lived for 33 years as a man. Jesus told all who would listen about his Father in heaven, but only a small group followed him. Finally he was nailed to the cross and died for our sins.

When Jesus died on the cross, he suffered and paid for the sins of all people, even for you and me. But he had power over death and in three days he rose from his grave. He was truly the Saviour and he would live forever. Jesus then returned to heaven to be with his Father. Man no longer needed to make sacrifices to receive God's forgiveness. God had given Jesus as the sacrifice for man's sins.

Let us look at Jesus' words in two places in the Bible. In John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the _____, and the _____, and the _____; no one comes to the Father, but by me."

Jesus talks to a friend named Martha in John 11:25-26. (Read these verses to the group.) What does Jesus ask Martha at the end of these verses? _____

Now let us read the next verse, John 11:27, to find Martha's answer. Can you answer Jesus' question as Martha did? Do you believe in Jesus? Do you have the promise of eternal life?

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

We have talked about why we must be saved. Now we must ask the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

If we want to believe in Jesus, we must first admit that we are sinners. Romans 3:23 says "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We must accept that sinners face death. God does not want us to be separated from him. He offers us the gift of eternal life. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God loves us and offers a plan or way for us to have this gift of eternal life. To accept this gift, a person must believe in Jesus Christ. Let us say together John 3:16, the *Memory Verse* we are to learn this week. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

To accept God's plan, a person must confess his sins. He must be sorry for his sins and ask God to forgive his sins. The person must ask God to take control of his life. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The person must then believe that God has done what he has promised. He must believe that his sins are forgiven and he has received God's gift of eternal life. Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved."

We must put our complete faith and trust in Jesus. We must believe that he is the true and perfect Son of God. We must believe that he has cleansed our hearts from sin and given us everlasting life. When you say, "I believe," in your heart, Jesus will be with you forever. In John 10:27-28, he says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand."

The Christian Is a New Creature

Let us read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How does this verse describe the person who is in or is joined to Jesus Christ? _____

As soon as we accept Jesus as our Saviour, we become new

individuals. Christ enters our hearts and lives in us. We now have fellowship with God through his Son, Jesus. We can ask him to help us to follow and serve him each day. It is not easy, but we know that he will help us.

As Christians, we must follow and obey Jesus every day. We must put Christ first in our lives and not live to please ourselves. Jesus said, "If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honour him" (John 12:26). When we follow Jesus, he will always lead us. We can learn how to serve Christ and how to tell others about him by reading and studying God's Word.

Leader: What must we do to be saved? We must know that we are sinners. God does not want us to be separated from him because of our sins. He wants to forgive us and offers us the gift of eternal life through Jesus. To receive this gift of eternal life, we must believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Then we need to ask God to forgive us of our sins and to ask Christ to come into our hearts and live. We must then believe that we are now a child of God.

Do you remember what Jesus told Martha in John 11:25-26? He said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." He then asked Martha, "Do you believe this?"

Can you answer as Martha did? Can you say, "Yes, Lord; I believe." Let us bow our heads in prayer. (This is an important time for the women of your group. Lead them in a prayer asking those who are not Christians to ask Jesus to be their Saviour. Lead those who are Christians to ask God to help them to follow and serve him. Give the women the opportunity to say, "I believe.")



Bible Verses To Read This Week:

Day 1) Genesis 1; Day 2) Genesis 2; Day 3) Genesis 3;

Day 4) Genesis 4; Day 5) Matthew 7:7-12;

Day 6) Matthew 16:24-28; Day 7) Romans 3:21-26

Lesson Two

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Bible Background: Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Memory Verse: *"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*
Psalm 119:105

Leader: We read in our last lesson that we can learn how to serve Christ and how to tell others about him. We learn how to serve him and share his love and salvation by reading and studying God's word. Where do we find these words of God? We find them in the Bible. Today we will study what Baptists believe about the Bible. We will learn what the Bible is and why it is important for us to use it.

First, let us answer another question. Who wrote the Bible? Let us hear how two of the Bible writers answered this question. Let us read 2 Peter 1:20-21. Peter says the Bible is not the words of man. He says the words in the Bible are God's words which the Holy Spirit led men to write. In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul wrote, "All scripture is inspired by God."

The 66 books in the Bible were written at different times by many different people. Among the writers there were shepherds, farmers, kings, fishermen, and teachers. The Bible is divided into two sections, the Old and New Testaments. The word "testament" means covenant or agreement. In the front of your Bible there is a list of all the books of the Bible. Let us look together at this page which is called the **Contents** in some Bibles.

The Old Testament

The Old Testament is the story of God's people before the birth of Christ. It tells of the old agreement or relationship between God and the Jews before the coming of Christ.

The first five books in the Old Testament are *books of law*. These books, Genesis through Deuteronomy were written by Moses. The

next twelve books, Joshua through Esther, include the *history* of the Hebrew people. The next five books, Job through the Song of Solomon, are *poetry and wisdom* books. Isaiah through Malachi which includes the last seventeen books of the Old Testament are books by and about the *prophets*. These prophets told of the coming of our Saviour.

The New Testament

The New Testament begins with Jesus' birth and tells of his life and teachings. The New Testament tells of a new covenant or agreement between man and God through Jesus. It also includes books about the works and teachings of some of his followers. What are the first four books of the New Testament? 1) _____
2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____

These books are called the *Gospels*. They tell about Jesus' life and teachings while he was on earth. The book of *Acts* tells how the Holy Spirit guided the apostles and other Christians after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Paul wrote the next thirteen books which include Romans through Philemon. These books are *letters* he wrote to churches or friends to help them grow in their spiritual lives. The next eight books, Hebrews through Jude, are *letters* written by other people. These are short letters which have many great teachings about living a Christian life. The last book of the New Testament is Revelation. This is a book of *prophesy*. It tells of the return of Jesus to this world to gather his followers together.

The Christians' Guide

As Baptists, we believe that we should study the Bible and then follow its teachings. The Bible should be our complete and final authority. It should be where we turn for the answers we need about making choices. It is to be our guide in all things.

The Bible is our guide in becoming a Christian. Let us read Hebrews 4:12 together. This verse says that "the word of God is

_____ and _____, sharper than any two-edged sword.”

The Bible shows us why and how we are sinners. The Bible also explains what we must do to repent and accept God’s gift of salvation. We looked at some of these verses in Lesson One.

The Bible is also our guide for living as a Christian. Psalm 119:9 (NIV) says, “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.” We find these words of God in our Bible.

Paul also explained how the Bible is the guide for Christians. Let us read 2 Timothy 3:16. Paul says in this verse that the scriptures are useful or good for what four things?

- 1) _____ 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____

In the next verse, 2 Timothy 3:17, Paul says that these things are needed so “That the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

God did not just give us his words in the Bible. He also gave us help in understanding and using his word. 1 Corinthians 2:12 says that through the Holy Spirit we can understand all that God has given us. Jesus says in John 14:26 that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things.

Using the Bible

How do we use the Bible as our guide? Many people open their Bibles only on Sundays at church while listening to their pastor. What would happen if you only ate food on Sunday mornings? Just as we need to eat daily, Christians must use the Bible every day. We must allow God’s words to be a part of our lives. We must let it change our lives.

Christians need to read the Bible daily. Most people find it helpful to read the Bible at the same time each day. Before you read the Bible, always begin with prayer. Ask God to guide you as you read. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you read. Read Psalm 25:4-5. What was David’s prayer?

Keep a pencil and a notebook with your Bible. As you read, write down things you want to remember. You might also use this book on Sunday mornings as you listen to your pastor. Write the things that help you understand the Bible better. Write the things that will help you grow as a Christian. You can also write any questions which you need to ask your pastor or others.

Do you attend the Bible study at your church every week? Every church should have a Bible study class for every age group every week. Many churches do this on Sunday before the worship time. Some also offer TEE classes for leaders. Every Christian should be studying and sharing the Bible each week with others. We often understand the Bible better when we hear others explain what God's words says to them.

Another way to use the Bible is to read the Bible as a family. Before or after one meal each day or at the end of the day, read a few verses from the Bible together.

God's Word in Our Hearts

Each lesson in this book begins with a memory verse. Memorizing Bible verses helps us make God's words a part of our life. We cannot always carry a Bible, but you can always carry God's word in your hearts if you have memorized Bible verses.

God has told us how to remember and use his words. Let us read Deuteronomy 6:5-9 together. Are you doing these things? Are God's words the guide for your life? Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Could Paul have said this about you? Is the word of God "at work in you"?



Bible Verses To Read This Week:

- Day 1)** 1 Corinthians 2; **Day 2)** Hebrews 9:15-20;
- Day 3)** Matthew 4:1-17; **Day 4)** Hebrews 5:11-14;
- Day 5)** Psalm 119:1-32; **Day 6)** Psalm 119:33-56;
- Day 7)** Psalm 119:57-80

Lesson Three

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Bible Background: Matthew 6:5-15; James 5:13-18

Memory Verse: *“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”*
Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

Leader’s Introduction: In our last lesson we learned that the Bible is the word of God. God tells us in the Bible how to become a Christian. The Bible is also our guide for living and growing as Christians. When we read or listen to the Bible, we are hearing God speak. There is another way that God speaks to us. God speaks to us through prayer. Prayer is also the way we talk to God.

“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

While Jesus lived on earth he was known as a teacher. Teachers of that day did not always teach in a classroom. Students followed their teacher as he walked through the streets of their city. They sat with him in the countryside on the side of mountains or rivers. They watched, listened and learned as their teacher went about his life. The teacher often taught by answering questions of his students.

Let us look Luke 11:1-4 where Jesus answers a question of one of his followers. Matthew also included these teachings in his book. Let us also read Matthew 6:9-14.

How does Jesus teach his followers to pray? Jesus taught us to remember that God is our Father. He loves us and cares about us. Yet, we are to remember that he is the one who is in charge. We do not give him orders or tell him what to do. God knows what is best for us and we are to pray for God’s will to be done.

Can you imagine going to the store and telling the worker, “Give me what I need?” No, you would ask for certain things which you know you need. Jesus also taught that we should ask God simply and plainly for the things we want or need.

Jesus also taught that prayer should include confessing our sins. He said we must ask for forgiveness and we must be willing to forgive the sins of others. Jesus said we should ask for protection from the devil and his power.

“Shut the Door and Pray”

Think of the last time you spoke with a trusted friend about things of your heart. Did you stand on opposite sides of the street and yell at one another? Did you talk where many people could hear you?

Jesus told his followers that this is the way some people pray. Let us read Matthew 6:5-8. What did Jesus tell his followers to do in Matthew 6:6. “When you pray, go into your _____ and _____ the door and pray to your Father who is in secret.” Jesus was teaching that every Christian needs time to be alone with God. The “room” may be different rooms at different times. The “room” where you pray may even be under a tree or beside a road. The “door” we are to shut is the door to anything that keeps us from talking freely with God.

Do you need to use big or fancy words when you talk to your trusted friends? Read Matthew 6:7. Do we need big or fancy words to talk to God?

“Where Two or Three are Gathered”

Jesus also taught that we were to pray together. Read Matthew 18:19-20. Verse 20 says, “For where _____ or _____ are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” These words of Jesus are a special promise we need to remember.

There are many records in the Bible of God answering prayer when a group prays. Let us look at Acts 12:5. What was Peter’s problem? He was in _____. Who was praying? _____ Now read Acts 12:11-15. Did God answer their prayers?

Read Acts 4:23-31. What did the people ask for in verse 29? They prayed, “Grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness.” Did God answer their prayers?

“I Pray for Them”

Did you know that Jesus prayed for you before he was arrested and crucified? Read John 17:9. Jesus taught us by his example to pray for others. This is called intercessory prayer.

Paul often told his Christian friends that he was praying for them. He also asked for their prayers for himself. Read the following verses from Paul’s letters. In each group of verses answer these questions. How did Paul pray for others? What prayer requests for himself did he share with others?

- 1) Romans 1:8-10 and 15:30-31
- 2) Ephesians 1:15-20 and 6:19-20
- 3) 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 and 3:2

“Pray at All Times”

We can learn more about how to pray and what to pray for in the Bible. Let us read James 5:13-18 and see what James wrote at the end of his letter. “Is any one among you suffering? Let him _____ . Is any cheerful? Let him _____ . Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them _____ over him.” James says, “The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.”

Paul also taught us how to pray. Paul taught that we are not alone in praying. Read Romans 8:26-27. Who pleads or intercedes for us with God? In another letter, Paul says we are to “pray in the Spirit on all occasions” (Ephesians 6:18, NIV). In this verse he says we are to “be alert and always keep on praying.”

Paul repeats these words in his letter to the church of the Thessalonians. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. In verse 16 Paul says we are to “_____ always, _____ constantly, give _____ in all circumstances.”

Paul reminds us that we must not only ask God for things when we pray. Read Philippians 4:4-6. We must always remember to praise and thank God. Many of the Psalms are prayers that Paul may have memorized when he was a child. Read Psalm 104:33-34.

“The Lord Opened Her Heart”

There are many good things about Christian women meeting together each week. One of the most important is that it can be a time when we pray together. We can pray for shared concerns and for one another.

Let us close this lesson by reading Acts 16:13-15. This prayer group was the beginning of one of the first churches. Who had gathered at this place of prayer? Many more people will become Christians like Lydia when women pray together.

Remember always that praying includes giving God time to speak to you. Include a time when you pray to be quiet and listen. Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Allow a quiet time for the Lord to open your heart as he did Lydia’s heart.

Also spend time in the Bible, God’s Word. He can and will speak to you when you read the Bible. Have you ever read all of the book of Psalms? Reading the many prayers in the Psalms will help you learn to pray. Also, listen when you are with Christian friends. God may speak to you through your pastor’s sermon on Sunday morning or through a friend in your women’s group.



Bible Verses To Read This Week:

Day 1) Psalm 51; **Day 2)** Psalm 57; **Day 3)** Mark 11:12-25;
Day 4) Luke 18:1-14; **Day 5)** John 17:1-26; **Day 6)** Acts 2:42-47;
Day 7) Acts 12:1-17

Lesson Four

AM I A GOOD STEWARD?

Bible Background: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, 9:6-15

Memory Verse: *"It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."*
1 Corinthians 4:2

Our first lesson was about God's gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Then we looked at another gift from God, the Bible. The last lesson was on prayer and the gift we have of talking with God. Today we will answer this question: "Am I a good steward of the gifts God gives to me?"

A steward is a person who cares for something for another person. God expects us to be good stewards of all he has given to us. This means we are to use our gifts from God wisely and for good purposes. What are the gifts for which we are to be good stewards?

Man's First Gifts from God

We can find the answers to this question in the Bible. Read Genesis 1:26. What is man to care for in this verse? (Allow time for answers.) How do we use or benefit from fish, birds and animals?

God shares more of his creation with man in Genesis 2:8-9. Notice that God did not create trees only for food. He also created trees which were "pleasant to the sight". God wanted us to enjoy looking at and using the world he created.

Now let us look at what God expected of man. What does Genesis 2:15 say God expected man to do in the Garden of Eden? God expected man to be a good steward of the gifts he had been given. Man was to take care of God's creation.

Man's First Gifts to God

Genesis 4 tells of the births of sons to Adam and Eve. Cain, the eldest son, became a farmer and Abel became a shepherd. When the

sons were older they brought offerings to God. Cain brought fruits of the soil and Abel brought meat from the firstborn of his flock.

Read Genesis 4:3-8. We can learn two things from these verses. We show our thanks to God for his gifts to us by giving him offerings. But, these gifts must be given from a heart that loves God and wants to obey and serve him. 1 John 3:12 said Cain belonged to the evil one. His actions were ruled by the devil, not by God.

The Bible tells us that people continued giving God an offering as a way of thanking him and worshipping him. Abram had a victory over four kings in Genesis 14. He gave a tenth of what he recovered to the priest of God. Jacob, Abram's grandson, also promised an offering to God. He said, "I will give you a tenth of everything you give me" (Genesis 28:22, TEV).

God's Commands for Giving

God chose Moses to lead the Jews from Egypt to the Promised Land. God also chose Moses to write down his commands and laws for his people. These laws included how they were to worship God by giving gifts. Read Leviticus 27:30-33.

How were these gifts used? Exodus 35:21 says that the people brought their offering to make the "tent of meeting." In the day of Moses, the place of worship was in a tent. This verse also says that their offering was used for everything needed for use in worship.

Moses wrote in Numbers 18:21 that God said the tithes were to go to the Levites. The Levites were the ones who took care of God's house and worship services. These people were not to be farmers and shepherds. Their job was to do God's work. The tithe was to support God's work and workers. Paul repeats this plan of God in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 9:14. Do we provide an adequate salary for our pastor? Is he able to use his time to do God's work?

Today our offerings are still needed to build and strengthen churches. This may mean paying for cement and wood for a building or buying land. Our gifts are also needed to buy such things as Bibles, Bible study materials and song books.

Read Romans 10:14-15. Our offerings are also needed to send evangelists to places with few or no churches. We can help new churches pay their rent or pastor's salary until they are stronger.

Giving from the Heart

"They came, every one whose heart stirred him, and every one whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord's offering." These words are from Exodus 35:21. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. What do these verses teach us about how we should give our tithes and offerings?

Jesus was once asked which law was the greatest. Read his answer in Matthew 22:37-39. The early Christians understood his words. They did not give their tithes and offerings only to obey the laws. They gave out of their love for God and their neighbours.

Acts 4:32-37 says there were no needy persons among the believers. Those believers who had possessions shared with the others. The rich believers were not the only ones who gave. Read what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.

Special Gifts from God

The early Christians were also reminded of other gifts from God they were to share. 1 Peter 4:10 (TEV) says, "Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God."

Paul explains some of these gifts in Romans 12:6-8. What is the gift that God has given you which you can and should be using "for the good of others?" Are you using this gift?

Paul wrote of another type of stewardship in Romans 12:1-2. God gave us our bodies. Christians are often so busy caring for others that they forget to care for themselves. We have a responsibility to God to care for ourselves physically and mentally.

We also have a responsibility to grow and develop as Christians. In Ephesians 4:23-24 (TEV) Paul says, "Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy."

How can we do this? We must study the Bible and pray. We must be followers of Christ and do the things he said we were to do. We can only do these if we are a good steward or manager of our time. If we do not, we will never find time to read the Bible, pray and attend Bible studies and worship services. We will never find time to reach out to those who are sick, hurting or need salvation.

We also have a responsibility to share God's gift of salvation with others. Let us read 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 which includes today's memory verse.

The Blessings of Giving

We have talked of many reasons for being good stewards of God's gifts. It is the way we can show our thanksgiving to God. It is the way we obey God's commands and show our love for God. It is also part of our witness to others of our love for God.

There is another reason for being good stewards. Read Malachi 3:10 from the Old Testament and 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 in the New Testament. What does God promise will happen when we are good stewards?

There is another promise in John 14:21 (TEV). Jesus said, "Whoever accepts my commandments and obeys them is the one who loves me. My Father will love whoever loves me; I too will love him and reveal myself to him."

Read Malachi 3:6-9. The prophet Malachi told the people of his day that they were robbing God. Could he say that you are robbing God? Are you being a good steward of all God has given to you? Pray now and thank God for the many gifts he has given to you. Ask him to guide you as you use and care for these gifts.



Bible Verses To Read This Week:

Day 1) Genesis 28:10-22; **Day 2)** Malachi 3; **Day 3)** Matthew 6:1-4;
Day 4) Matthew 25:14-30; **Day 5)** 2 Corinthians 8;
Day 6) 2 Corinthians 9; **Day 7)** 1 John 3:11-24

Lesson Five

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Bible Background: Matthew 16:13-18, Hebrews 9

Memory Verse: *“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”*
1 Corinthians 3:16

In the last four lessons, we have studied our personal relationship with Christ. We have learned more about the gift of salvation God offers us through Jesus Christ. We have learned more about the Bible, prayer, and how to be good stewards of all of his gifts to us.

Today we will begin studying how we are joined with others who believe in Jesus Christ. This lesson is on how the Bible describes a church. In our next lesson we will look at Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. These are the two ordinances which we as Baptists believe the Bible has ordered us to do. We will then look at the responsibilities of the church. We will also look at what God expects of each member of the church.

Places of Worship

In our last lesson we read from the Old Testament about offerings for the Tent of the Meeting. God told Moses in Exodus 25:8, “Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” God told Moses how to build this place of worship and what to put in it. Moses wrote all of these details in Exodus 25-40.

King David made plans for a great temple which was built by his son, Solomon. 1 Kings 5-8 and 2 Chronicles 2-7 tell of the care that went into building this place of worship. God was pleased with this building. Read his words to Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:1 and 7:11-16.

The New Testament says that Jesus taught in the temple in Jerusalem and in synagogues, the worship place in other towns. Read Matthew 9:35. But, where did Jesus do much of his teaching and preaching? Read Matthew 5:1-2, Mark 2:1-2 and Mark 4:1.

Now let us read Acts 16:13. Were these people praying and worshipping in a building made of the finest materials? They were meeting outside as many Baptist churches do in East Africa.

What is a church? Why did Jesus' followers pray and worship on hillsides, beside lakes and in homes? Why did Jesus not ask them to meet in fancy temples such as the ones built by Solomon?

The New Covenant

Do you remember the meaning of the word "testament"? Testament means covenant or agreement. In the days of the Old Testament the people were to obey God by keeping the covenant God had given to Abram and the laws given to Moses. These laws included where and how they were to worship God.

The New Testament tells us of the new covenant or agreement we have with God. This new covenant is through Jesus Christ. One of the prophets of the Old Testament told of the new covenant that God would make with his people. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. Jesus is the mediator or one who arranges this new covenant or agreement. Read Hebrews 9:15.

Under the old covenant, God lived in the temples built by men as a place of worship. Under the new covenant, God now lives in the hearts of those who have accepted his gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19-20.

Believers Joined Together

So what or who is the *church*? A few times in the Bible, the church is called all of those who believe in Jesus Christ. *Church* is used ninety three times in the Bible as the small groups who met to worship and minister in the name of Jesus Christ. These groups of believers did not need to meet in a certain place or in a certain way to please God. These believers were a church because of their new relationship with God through his Son, Jesus Christ.

We as Baptists believe that a church is a group of baptized believers who are joined together by their desire to obey the commands of Jesus. These believers fellowship and worship together.

They work together to do the work Jesus asked his followers to do in Matthew 28:19-20. They are disciples of Jesus making disciples!

This church often meets in a building but the church is not the building. A church is the Christians who meet together to worship, fellowship, witness and make disciples.

As Christians we do not have to go into a special building and follow certain laws to share our needs and desires with God. We do not have to ask a priest or any other person to talk to God for us. Under the new covenant, we can pray and talk with God anywhere and at anytime. We can do this because Jesus died for our sins and we have accepted God's gift of salvation. We have chosen to be followers of Christ and allow God's Spirit to live in us.

The Church is the "Body of Christ"

The writers of the New Testament helped us understand what the church is and how Jesus is a part of it. Ephesians 1:22-23 says God "made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body." Paul speaks to each of us when he wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV), "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

Paul said earlier in 1 Corinthians 12 that the body is made up of many needed parts which must work together. He explains that each of us have gifts and abilities. We are to use these to do the work Jesus asked us to do. Our gifts and abilities alone are not enough. We must be joined with other Christians who have different gifts and abilities to finish the work Jesus left for us. For a church to do its job, the members must work together with each member using his or her special gifts.

"I Will Build My Church"

In Ephesians 2:19-20 Paul says, we are "members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone."

Jesus also spoke of how the church would be built. Read his words in Matthew 16:13-18. Peter knew that Jesus was God's son.

The church would be those who believed as Peter did that Jesus was their Saviour. The church would be built on their faith in Jesus Christ. Peter did not fully understand what was ahead because Jesus had not yet died on the cross for his sins. But God had already touched Peter's heart and given him a special understanding of who Jesus was.

The writer of *The Doctrines Baptists Believe* says we must always remember Jesus' words in Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church." Jesus does not say your church or our church. He says "my church." Sometimes we forget that the church belongs to Jesus, not to us.

A Church with Glad and Generous Hearts

Acts 2 tells of a special time in one of the early churches. Acts 2:42 (TEV) says, "They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers." The Bible also says that they worshipped together daily. Read the last sentence in this chapter in Acts 2:47.

Think of your church. Why do you meet together on Sunday mornings and other times? Are you meeting to worship, fellowship, witness and make disciples?

The church in Acts 2 enjoyed being together. The people in this church had "glad and generous hearts." Would this describe the people who are a part of your church? Would others say that your church belongs to Jesus? Stop and pray now for God's guidance for your church.



Bible Verses To Read This Week:

Day 1) Exodus 25; **Day 2)** 2 Chronicles 7; **Day 3)** Hebrews 9;

Day 4) 1 Corinthians 12, **Day 5)** 2 Corinthians 3;

Day 6) Ephesians 4; **Day 7)** Colossians 1:1-23

Lesson Six

WHY DO WE BAPTIZE AND CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Bible Background: Matthew 3:11-17; 26:17-30

Memory Verse: *"This is love, that we follow his commandments."*

2 John 6

In our last lesson we learned that "a church is a group of baptized believers who are joined together by their desire to obey the commands of Jesus." Today we will look at the two commands of Jesus that Baptist churches observe as their ordinances. These are the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

What is an ordinance? Roy Edgemon says in *The Doctrines Baptists Believe* that an ordinance is a requirement, order or command that has purpose and meaning.

The ordinances of Baptism and Lord's supper are not done to receive God's grace and blessings. They are done because God asks us to do them. We do them as a part of our worship of God. We do them to remember the past and to remind us of the hope we have in Christ Jesus. These ordinances are a time to fellowship with other Christians. They are a part of our witness to the unsaved world. They are symbols or proof of our love and obedience to God.

John Baptizes Jesus

Do you remember when the angel Gabriel talked with the young virgin, Mary? Read Luke 1:35-42. God had a special plan for Elizabeth's son. Read the words of her husband in Luke 1:76-79. We know their son as John the Baptist.

John preached "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 3:3). He prepared the way for Jesus as the prophet Isaiah had said he would. You can read the prophet's words in Isaiah 40:3-5 or in Luke 3:4-6.

Jesus' baptism is written about in all four of the gospels. Let us read Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22 and John 1:29-34.

Think a moment on what John saw and heard after Jesus came up out of the water. He saw the heavens open. The Spirit of God came down like a dove and stayed on Jesus. He heard these words, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). How would you have felt if you had seen and heard these things?

Why Was Jesus Baptized?

Why did Jesus need to be baptized? Mr. Edgemon says Jesus showed us several things by being baptized. First, Jesus was identifying with man and his sins. Jesus knew he had come to earth so that we could be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life.

Baptism was Jesus' way of showing that he was beginning his ministry. John had prepared the way and now it was time for Jesus to begin his work on earth. Jesus was also showing that the new relationship with God that John was teaching was true.

Jesus' baptism was also a symbol or picture of what was to come. When Jesus was baptized he was lowered completely into the water and then he rose out of it. This is an example of what was facing Jesus. He would die, be buried, and then be resurrected.

This is also the picture we show the world when we follow his example of baptism. Read Romans 6:3-4. When we are baptized our old sinful life dies and is washed away. We then are resurrected or live a new life as one who follows Christ and is guided by him.

Who is to Be Baptized?

Baptists believe that only those who have believed in Jesus Christ should be baptized. Baptism is our way of saying to the world, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20).

We are not saved by baptism. We are saved by accepting God's plan of salvation through Jesus. Therefore, we as Baptists do not baptize infants. When a child understands what the Bible teaches about salvation, he must choose to accept Christ as Saviour. Then he can be baptized.

Baptists also believe that we are to be completely immersed or covered in water when we are baptized. The New Testament was first written in the Greek language. The word for baptism was *baptizo* which means immersion, to dip or to sink. Matthew 3:16 says that after Jesus was baptized he came *out of the water*.

The Passover Meal

Jesus was baptized at the beginning of his ministry on earth. The first Lord's Supper was at a Passover meal only a few hours before he was arrested. The disciples did not understand what was going to happen, but Jesus knew that his ministry on earth as a man would soon end. Read Luke 18:31-34.

Let us read Exodus 12:1-14. This story is told each year by Jews at the special meal to remember the Passover. Prayers and songs are a part of the celebration. Jesus and the disciples probably sang Psalms 113-118 as Jews do today during the Passover celebration.

The food served has special meaning to the Jews. The bread without yeast reminds them that they had to leave Egypt so fast that their bread had no time to rise. The bitter herbs remind them of the bitter time of slavery. The meal includes a roast lamb. This is a reminder of the lambs which were used to save the Jews from death.

The First Lord's Supper

God told the Jews how to celebrate the Passover every year. He wanted them to remember how he had saved them from slavery in Egypt through the blood of a sacrificed lamb. Jesus showed his disciples how to celebrate the Lord's Supper. This was to be the way to remember how God was saving his people in a new way. He was saving them from being slaves to sin. This time the sacrifice was *his* Son. Let us read about the first Lord's Supper in Matthew 26:20-30.

Can you imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus said, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me"? Their teacher was going to be betrayed! Many of them had shared the dish of sauce. It was one of them who would betray Jesus!

The laughter and joy around the table died. The meal Jesus was serving to his disciples became a very serious one. Jesus broke the

bread and gave it to his disciples. He explained that his body would be broken in this manner. He served wine to his disciples. He said this was his blood and he spoke of a new covenant. The disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying.

Later after Jesus died, was buried, resurrected and went to be with his Father, the disciples understood Jesus' words. There was a new covenant or agreement between God and man through Jesus Christ. God had a new way for man to be forgiven of his sins and have eternal life. Jesus was the sacrifice. His body was broken and his blood "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Who Should Observe the Lord's Supper?

God told Moses in Exodus 12 that no foreigner or temporary resident was to eat the Passover meal. As Jesus shared the Lord's Supper with his disciples he said, "Do this in memory of me" (Luke 22:19, TEV). We as Baptists believe that only those who are true believers should take part in the Lord's Supper. Only those people who have been saved from their sins can "do this in memory of" what Jesus has done for them.

The Lord's Supper has meaning only for those who have put their faith in Christ. These are the people who want to follow his teachings and do what Jesus asked them to do.

Baptism is one way of showing the world that we are followers of Christ. Observing the Lord's Supper is another way we tells others about our Saviour. Let us close by reading 1 Corinthians 11:26. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ways of remembering what Jesus did for us in the past. They are also the way we remember the future. Jesus will return and those who believe in him will have eternal life!



Bible Verses To Read This Week:

Day 1) Luke 1:5-38, **Day 2:** Luke 1:39-80; **Day 3)** Romans 6:1-14;

Day 4) Galatians 3:21-4:7; **Day 5)** Mark 11:1-19;

Day 6) Mark 14:1-11; **Day 7)** Psalm 136

Lesson Seven

WHAT CAN I DO IN MY CHURCH?

Bible Background: Romans 12:1-8

Memory Verse: *'Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.'*
1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

A church met for the first time. A leader from a nearby church gave Sunday School books to the first man and woman to arrive. He told the man to teach the adult class. The woman was to teach the children. The next woman to arrive was told to lead the singing at the worship service. The next man was told to take the offering.

Things did not go well that Sunday! The *teachers* could not read. The one who took the offering had a weak hand and dropped the basket many times. The song leader began the songs too high.

Later the people talked with their unhappy leader. The old man was a good singer and knew all the words to the songs. He could lead the music. His wife wanted a key to their meeting place so she could keep it clean. The *high* song leader and the man with a weak hand said, "We are teachers and can teach in Sunday School."

Read what Paul told the church in Rome in Romans 12:4-8. He said that God created the church to be like our bodies. Different parts are needed to do different jobs. God has given special abilities to each of us. We are to use these to help our church do its job.

The Church in Jesus' Time

Jesus began the church as part of the new covenant between God and man. He did not give his followers rules on how to plan church groups. He taught how to obey and serve God. He told his disciples what God expected them to do. Read his words in Matthew 28:19-20.

After Jesus left the earth, the young churches wanted to do all that Jesus had taught. They realized that they had to make plans and work together. They chose the leaders needed for certain jobs. They made plans which would help them do all Jesus expected of them.

The first deacons were chosen to help a church follow the commands of Jesus. We can read of this in Acts 6:1-7. Verse 7 says that “the number of disciples multiplied greatly.” The churches were making the right plans to follow the teachings of Jesus.

The members of the early churches wanted to learn more and more about being Jesus’ followers. Many of the New Testament books are letters written to teach and guide these churches. Our Bible includes two letters Paul sent to Timothy. What does Paul tell Timothy to do in 2 Timothy 2:2?

The Church is Guided

How do churches know how to make decisions? Let us look at how churches in the New Testament made decisions.

Do you remember the job Judas had before he betrayed Jesus? John 12:4-6 and 13:29 tells us that he was the treasurer for Jesus’ disciples. After Jesus returned to heaven, the believers chose someone to replace Judas. Read how they chose their new leader in Acts 1:23-26. Should we follow their example today of praying for God’s guidance as we choose our church leaders?

The churches also sent out missionaries. In Acts 13:1-3, the Holy Spirit guided the church at Antioch to “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Churches of the New Testament made decisions together. Acts 1:15 says that it was a group of one hundred and twenty believers who decided to choose Matthias to take the place of Judas. In Acts 6 we read that the group of disciples chose the first deacons. Barnabas and Saul were chosen by the church in Antioch to go as missionaries.

The Programmes of a Church

Believers were told in Hebrews 10:24-25 to help one another love and do good works. They were told to meet and encourage one another. Through planned programmes our church can do this.

Every church should offer Bible study classes for all ages. The Bible is God’s word. It is the answer book and guide book for believers. Baptist churches can offer Bible study through a Sunday School programme. There should be classes for all ages from the

smallest child to the oldest church member. Bible study books can be purchased from Kenya Baptist Media, P.O. Box 30370, Nairobi, Kenya or Baptist Literature Centre, SLP 1240, Moshi, Tanzania. Your association may assist you in getting these books.

Church members can also be trained and encouraged through small group meetings. The women of a church should meet each week for study, prayer and fellowship. There should be groups for men, children and youth. Extra Bible studies should also be planned such as TEE classes. In these groups the members can learn more about being a disciple and how to make disciples. The group members will become aware of the needs of others as they share their needs and those of others. They will also be able to serve Christ by reaching out to others as a group.

The women's group in Baptist churches is called *Woman's Missionary Union* or *Ushirika wa Wanawake Waenezao Injili*. There is a programme for children called *Wajumbe wa Yesu*.

The worship service on Sunday is not an organization, but it is a important part of the church. It is the time to listen to God's Word and think about its meaning for our own lives. It is a time to worship and praise God with other Christians. Our attendance in this service is a testimony to others of our faith in God. Many churches also meet for a prayer time in the middle of the week.

Associations and Conventions

We have said that "a church is a group of baptized believers who are joined together by their desire to obey the commands of Jesus." Churches have found that working with other churches can help them be stronger. Churches which are joined together are able to help one another obey the commands of Jesus.

Baptist churches are a part of a local **association** and a national **convention**. An association is a group of Baptist churches which are located close to one another and work together. Our convention includes the Baptist churches in our nation which share our beliefs .

The association and convention do not have control over any church. The churches in our associations and convention are joined to

help each another by encouraging one another. They help one another by sharing what they know about serving God. By working together in a larger group a church can find new and better ways to follow the commands of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20.

God's People Prepared for Service

In his letter to the believers in Rome, Paul said that believers have special gifts. He explained why God gave special gifts to believers in his letter to the church in Ephesus.

- ◆ “To prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” (Ephesians 4:12, NIV)
- ◆ “We shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ’s full stature.” (Ephesians 4:13, TEV)
- ◆ “When each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love.” (Ephesians 4:16, TEV)

Look at Romans 12:6-8 again. Are you using your gifts from God? Are you speaking God’s message to others? Do you have a gift of serving, teaching or encouraging? Are you using this gift in your church? Are you meeting the needs of others? Do you have a gift of leadership? Are you leading in your church? Do you have a gift of showing mercy? Do you use this gift in a cheerful way?

Paul wrote in Romans 12:10-12 (TEV), “Love one another warmly as Christian brothers, and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.” Do these verses describe your church? Do they describe you as a believer and a part of your church? Do as Paul says and pray. Pray now and ask God to help you do your part as his servant.



Bible Verses To Read This Week: Day One) Matthew 25:31-46; Day Two) Acts 2:42-47; Day 3) Acts 11:19-30; Day 4) Acts 14:21-28; Day 5) 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Day 6) 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Day 7) Ephesians 4:1-16

Lesson Eight

WHO IS TO GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES?

Bible Background: 2 Kings 5:1-18; Acts 26:19-32

Memory Verse: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”*

Matthew 28:19-20

In this lesson we will study the missionary message of the Bible. The dictionary says that a mission is a special job or the work which a person feels he must do. What is the mission of Christians? In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus said we are to make disciples of all people in all places.

Our mission or job is to tell others what God has done for us. We are to share God’s love and help others accept the salvation that God offers. All through the Bible we find this same message. God loves all people. He wants all people everywhere to be saved. He asks his followers to be missionaries or witnesses for him.

The Missionary Message of the Old Testament

The Book of Psalms is the Old Testament song book. Many of these psalms or songs tell of God’s salvation for all people. These songs reminded God’s people that they were to share the news of God’s saving grace. Many of the psalms were written by King David. David is called a brave man and a warrior, but he was asked to work for King Saul because of his gift of music (1 Samuel 16:17-18).

One of the first things that David did as king was to prepare a special worship place in Jerusalem. He wrote a song or psalm of thanks to be used at the first worship service at this place. Let us read part of this song which is found in 1 Chronicles 16:23-33. This psalm is written again in Psalm 96.

Do you hear the missionary message in this song? Psalms 96:2-3 in the Good News Bible says, "Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us. Proclaim his glory to the nations, his mighty acts to all peoples."

Read Psalms 67. David is asking that God's people be blessed so they can be a witness to others of God's salvation. This psalm reminds all who sing or read it that others are watching how God blesses his people. They are watching when we praise and worship him. They can learn of and accept his salvation from our witness.

A Missionary in the Old Testament

2 Kings 5 tells the story of a young girl from Israel who shared her faith with a sick army officer. Naaman led an army to fight against the Israelites, God's chosen people. The young girl was taken as a slave by his army and she became the maid of his wife. Naaman was a great leader, but he had leprosy.

The girl told Naaman's wife about a man of God in her country. She said that Naaman could be cured of leprosy. Two things happened because of this little girl's witness. God used the prophet, Elisha, to heal Naaman. Her master also learned about the true God. He said, "I know there is no God in all the earth but in Israel." (2 Kings 5:15.) He promised to never serve or worship any other God.

This little girl was a missionary while she was a servant. We should follow her example and be missionaries by telling others what God can do for them. Sharing the good news that God wants to save all people should be a job we do with joy.

A Missionary in the New Testament

In our last lesson we read that the Holy Spirit led a church to send out missionaries (Acts 13:1-3). Saul, later called Paul, studied with the best teachers of religion. As a young man he did not believe in Jesus. His mission was to persecute those who were Christians.

God had special plans for Paul. God told one of his faithful servants, "I have chosen him to serve me, to make my name known to Gentiles and kings and to the people of Israel" (Acts 9:15, TEV). Who are Gentiles? Gentiles are all people who are not Jews.

Paul did what God asked him to do. He made God's name known and shared God's message with Gentiles (Acts 13:47-49) and with his fellow Jews of Israel (Acts 9:26-30). He also witnessed to kings. One of the greatest testimonies in the Bible was given by Paul to King Agrippa. Let us read Acts 26:1-4, 22-23 and 28-29.

Jesus, a Missionary

Jesus came to earth with the mission or job of sharing God's love and salvation. An angel said in Matthew 1:21, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Jesus used his time on earth to preach, teach and heal. He did these things to help others know and understand God. Jesus expected his followers to share with others what they learned from him. After being healed, a man asked to stay with Jesus. Jesus sent him away and said, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you" (Luke 8:39).

Jesus taught his followers how to do their mission. He said in John 3:11, "We speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen." Jesus then shared with Nicodemus what he knew about God's plan of salvation. Read John 3:16-17. Let us look at some of the other things Jesus taught his followers about being God's witness. (Ask different women to read the following verses and answer the questions or finish the sentence.)

- ◆ Matthew 5:14-16: Others will praise or give glory to whom when they see our good deeds or works?
- ◆ John 3:19-21: "He who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in _____."
- ◆ Matthew 28:19-20: Jesus told his followers to go and make disciples of all _____.
- ◆ Acts 1:8 Whose witnesses are we? Where are we to witness?

The Great Commission

Let us read Matthew 28:18-20 again. These verses are known as the *Great Commission*. A commission is when one person tells

another to do a job or mission for them. Jesus did not ask his disciples if they wanted to do these things. He said "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me." He then commanded or told them to go and make disciples.

If we love him, we will obey his commandment. We will carry his message of love and salvation to the lost world. We will tell the lost that all people are sinners, yet God loves them. We will tell them of God's plan of salvation. We will help them understand that there is no mercy or forgiveness of sin anywhere except in Christ.

Read Jesus' words in John 14:21-26. He said that he knew which of his followers loved him. Jesus promised not to leave us alone in our mission. He promised that the Holy Spirit would be there to comfort and help those who obeyed him. Do you remember the last verse of the Great Commission? Jesus told his disciples, "I am with you always."

Missionaries of Today

Many people think missionaries are people who leave home to tell others about Christ. One missionary who serves God in a place far from her homeland has said, "I did not become a missionary the day I obeyed God and moved to my adopted country. I became a missionary the day I became a Christian. When we accept Christ as our Saviour, we also accept the mission or job of sharing him with others."

Read Matthew 9:35-38. Think of all the people you see each day. Do all of them know Jesus Christ as their Saviour? Does Jesus have compassion or care for these people? Whose job is it to share God's love and salvation with your lost family member or neighbor? Are you willing to pray and ask God to use you as his worker?



Bible Verses To Read This Week:

Day 1) 1 Chronicles 13:1-8, 16:1-2; **Day 2)** 2 Kings 5:1-18;
Day 3) Isaiah 53; **Day 4)** John 3:1-21; **Day 5)** John 3:22-36;
Day 6) Acts 9:1-31; **Day 7)** Acts 26

Lesson Nine

HOW DO I WITNESS?

Bible Background: Colossians 4:1-6, 1 John 2:1-6

Memory Verse: *“So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.”* 2 Corinthians 5:20

We all like good news. The best news is that “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Who shared the good news of salvation with you? (Give time for answers.)

Do all of your family members believe in Jesus Christ? Are all of your friends Christians? What about the person who sells you sugar or vegetables? What about your new neighbour? Do all of these people know your good news? Do you know how to tell them of God’s gifts of love and salvation? Today we will study how we can witness and share our good news with the lost around us.

Ambassadors for Christ

Our government sends ambassadors to other countries. These ambassadors speak for our country. They help the people of other countries understand our country. Read today’s memory verse. The Good News Bible says, “Here we are, then, speaking for Christ.” If you are a Christian, you are an ambassador for Christ.

Most people who are not Christians do not attend church. They do not read the Bible. But in our country, they do see people everyday who go to church and read the Bible. They learn about Jesus by watching you and me, his ambassadors

We studied in our last lesson that Jesus knew those who loved him. He said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Read 1 John 2:1-6. Our actions show Jesus that we love him. Our actions also show others that we love him and are his followers. The Good News Bible says that Christians “should live just as Jesus Christ did.”

Paul wrote in a letter to Christians in Colossae, "Be wise in the way you act towards those who are not believers, making good use of every opportunity you have" (Colossians 4:5, TEV). Those who do not believe in Christ look at the lives of those who do believe in him. They will be more likely to believe what we say about him if they see Christ living in us. They will want to share our good news.

Sharing in New Testament Times

Read 1 Peter 3:15. Christians must always be ready to tell others about Jesus Christ. How can we do this? Let us look at how three men shared their good news in the New Testament.

Andrew began sharing his good news as soon as he became a follower of Jesus in John 1:35-42. He went at once to find his brother. Andrew did not use many words or big words to share his good news. He simply told his brother what had happened to him. He then helped his brother learn more about Jesus.

In our last lesson we read how Paul witnessed to a king. He told about his life before meeting Jesus. He shared how he had become a believer and how his life had changed. He then told the king how he could become a believer. Read Acts 26:22-29.

God led Philip to a stranger from another country who was reading Old Testament verses. The man asked Philip to help him understand what he was reading. Philip had studied the Old Testament and knew how to explain it to an unbeliever. Acts 8:35 says, "beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus." The man became a believer that day!

Sharing Christ Today

These men each shared their good news in their own way. Paul included Jesus' words in his testimony and Philip explained Bible verses. We can do the same. Look through Lesson One again. Learn how to share this lesson with others. Memorize the verses in the *Plan of Salvation* at the end of this book. Then you will always be ready to tell others how Jesus has changed your life.

Some people are afraid to witness. Pray and ask God to guide you as he did Philip. Then prepare yourself and trust God. You may find

it helpful to write out your testimony. You may want to practice by sharing your testimony with others in your women's group.

Use Paul's testimony as a guide. Tell about your life before you became a Christian. Share how you became a believer. Tell how your life has changed. Use the Bible to explain how a person can have God's gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

The Bible - Our Guide

The Bible is God's word. It is our guide book. It is the book that tells us of God's love. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13 and Hebrews 4:12. There are times to use a testimony we have written or planned. Many more times we will have a chance to witness as we hear a person talk about their problems or ask questions. At these times we need to know how to share God's answer with them.

God cannot guide us to use his words if we do not know and understand them. To do this we must read and study the Bible every day. We need to attend a Bible study at least once every week. We need to memorize verses from the Bible. We need to listen as the word is preached in our worship services. Then we will be prepared to do our job or mission of sharing God's message with others.

The Church - Our Support

Sometimes you will be asked questions you can not answer while witnessing. Sometimes people will not let you share with them or they will not accept what you say. Do not let this cause you to stop witnessing. Turn to your church for support. Ask your preacher or another Christian to help you answer the questions. Ask others in your church to pray for those who reject God's message.

What did Andrew do after telling his brother about Jesus? He took him to where he could learn more. Our mission is to witness and help new Christians grow. We do not have to do this alone. We share this mission with others in our church. One way to witness is to ask people to go to Sunday School and worship services with us.

Always invite new believers to attend church with you or help them find a church near their home. New Christians need a church

family to encourage, teach and support them. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. An encouraging and supportive church family is also a strong witness to those who do not believe in Jesus.

Prayer - Our First Step

If we want to do our job of sharing Christ, we must pray. We must remember that we cannot save anyone. Only God has the power to do that, but he can use us as his helper. Paul gave us many good examples of how to witness. He also taught us how to pray for our opportunities to witness. Read Colossians 4:2-6.

We must pray that God will lead us to the doors he will open. Are there new ways you can witness? Could you begin a Bible study in your home? Some people who are not believers will attend a Bible study outside a church building. How can you witness at your place of work? Would others talk to you about Christ if they saw you reading your Bible during your break? What about that group of children near your home who play football without a ball? Could you buy them a ball and watch them play? They might listen to a simple Bible story after their game.

We can also pray that our actions each day will be a witness. Do others see you following the commands of Jesus? Do they see you living as Jesus did? Do they see you loving your family and neighbours as yourself? Do they see you boldly sharing his love?

Read Acts 5:42. Pray that God will increase your desire to share his message with others. Pray that you will be more aware of how God can use you to witness. Pray that you will be a strong witness of God's love and salvation. Pray for the right words when you share your faith with others. Pray that God will guide you to witness to someone this week.



Bible Verses To Read This Week: Each day this week study the *Plan of Salvation* at the end of this book. Begin memorizing the Bible verses used in it. Think of a friend who is not a Christian. Write out the words you would use to share God's Plan of Salvation with her .

Lesson Ten

ARE YOU READY TO WITNESS?

Bible Background: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

Memory Verse: *“But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honour him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you.”* 1 Peter 3:15 (TEV)

In our last lesson we read that some Christians are afraid to witness. Others believe that they do not know enough to witness. Some do not witness because they think others can do it better. Some may simply feel it is not their job. *Every Christian is to witness.*

Did you know that even Paul sometimes felt afraid and weak? Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. He did not use his fears and weaknesses as excuses. He knew they made his testimony stronger. People knew they were saved not by his words, but by God’s power.

One way to overcome our fears is by watching others witness. Listen as a Christian woman shares with her new neighbour.

Esther Shares Her Good News

(Ask two women to act out this play. Esther is to have a Bible.)

Esther: (Knocks on the door.) Mrs. John, how are you?

Mary: Fine, how are you?

Esther: I am well. My name is Esther Juma. I live in the house behind the meat shop.

Mary: Oh, I saw you at the shop yesterday. Come in and sit in this chair. I’m glad that you’ve come. My name is Mary John. You are my first visitor. Would you like some tea?

Esther: No, I had tea before I came. The owner of the meat shop said that you moved into our village last week. You are all settled?

Mary: Yes, my children and sister have helped me.

Esther: How many children do you have?

Mary: I have three. My eldest son is eight years old and my other son is six. My baby is out with my sister.

Esther: I have three, also. My daughters are twelve and ten. I also have an eight year old son. Your son must be the new boy in his class. Have you met anyone else in our neighbourhood?

Mary: No, I have been too busy.

Esther: Our Baptist women's group is meeting tomorrow afternoon at our church. You could meet many of our neighbours there. What church did you attend in your old place?

Mary: There was not a church close to my last place.

Esther: Are you a Christian, Mary?

Mary: Well...My parents always took us to church.

Esther: It is good for us to take our children to church. But, do you know Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Have you given him your heart?

Mary: I know about Jesus, but I don't understand what you are asking. What is a Saviour?

Esther: I am a Christian and Jesus is my Saviour. He has saved me and I will one day live forever in heaven. Do you remember hearing the story of Adam and Eve when you were young?

Mary: Yes, they were the first people. God made them leave somewhere because they did something wrong.

Esther: Yes, that is what the Bible tells us. The Bible says that all people have sinned. This keeps us from being close to God. (Read Romans 3:23.) Another verse, Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin are death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Because of our sins we will die one day and always be separated from God. God does not want this. He wants to give us the gift of eternal life through his Son, Jesus.

Mary: A free gift? I don't understand.

Esther: Let me read John 3:16. (Read this.) God loves us and offers a way for us to always be with him. This is his gift of eternal life. As long as we live on earth, he will be with us. Then when we die, we

will go to live with him in heaven. We cannot get this gift by working for it. To have this gift we must believe in Jesus Christ.

Mary: I believe that there was a person named Jesus. But you said, "God gave his son." What does that mean?

Esther: Let's look at John 3:16 again. God let his Son, Jesus, come to earth. He was put on a cross and died for our sins. Jesus was then buried, but he arose in three days, or became alive again. He returned to heaven to live with his father. He is there now waiting for us. Do you believe that he died so that your sins can be forgiven?

Mary: I understand what you are saying. But, how do I get this gift of eternal life?

Esther: Let's read 1 John 1:9 together. (Read this verse.) We must confess or admit that we are sinners and are not obeying God. We must be sorry and ask God to forgive us. We must also ask God to be in control of our lives and be with us each day.

Mary: Can he really forgive me? I'm not good enough to ask God to do this. What if I sin again?

Esther: We will not be perfect people after we become Christians. We will have God to help us be strong when we are tempted to do wrong. You asked if God can really forgive you. Let's read Romans 10:9-10. What do you believe in your heart? Are you happy with your life? Would you like to ask Jesus to come into your heart?

Mary: There is so much I don't understand.

Esther: That is why Christians study the Bible, God's word. That is why we meet together with a church to pray, worship and learn more about serving God. No person knows everything. But we will learn more and more as we study and let God be in control of our lives.

Mary: Is your church the one that baptizes in rivers? I don't know how to swim and water scares me.

Esther: Yes, Baptists do ask you to be baptized. This is how you show the world that you have asked God to forgive your sins and help you be a new person. When you accept Jesus as your Saviour, you need to go and share it with a church. Our church will help you

understand more about baptism and other ways to follow Christ. Are you ready to receive God's gift of eternal life? Would you like to pray with me now and accept Jesus as your Saviour?

Mary: Yes.

Esther: Mary, Pray these words with me. (Esther prays a sentence and then Mary repeats it.) "Lord Jesus, I need you. . . I am sorry for my sins. . . I want you to be my Saviour. . . Please come and live in my heart and life. . . Thank you for dying so I can have eternal life. . . Thank you for forgiving my sins. Amen."

Mary: I would like to go with you to your meeting tomorrow? And can I go to church with you on Sunday?

Esther: Yes, now you are my new neighbour and my new sister in Christ.

LEADER: Some people are ready and only need you to share a little. Some may ask you many questions and then become a Christian. Others will listen to God's plan of salvation many times before they believe. Some will never believe and others will not even allow you to share. We must remember that we are not the one who can save a person. *Salvation is God's job! Our job is to witness.*

Ask those in your group to share how they became Christians. Ask the women to tell of times they have witnessed.

Let us read Romans 10:14-15. Has someone not heard because *you* have not told them? Think of one person to whom you should witness this week. Does your church pay your pastor enough salary so that he can use his time to preach and witness? Should your church be sending someone to another place to share God's Good News? Let us close now and pray for these things.



Bible Verses To Read This Week: Day 1) John 4:7-42;
Day 2) John 5:16-47; Day 3) Acts 4:1-21; Day 4) Acts 10:23-48;
Day 5) Acts 16:25-34; Day 6) Acts 16:11-15, 18:24-28,
Day 7) Romans 10:1-13, Ephesians 2:1-10

Lesson Eleven

WHAT IS WMU/UWW?

Bible Background: Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Corinthians 3:7-4:2

Memory Verse: *“For we are labourers together with God.”*

1 Corinthians 3:9 (KJV)

The first Baptist churches in East Africa were organized in 1959. The women in these churches were like Baptist women of today. They wanted to grow as Christians and to obey Jesus' commands. They needed to pray and to study the Bible with other Christian women. The women began meeting together to meet these needs.

Over the years, Baptist work in East Africa has grown. Women's work has always been an important part of this growth. Today our organization is called *Woman's Missionary Union (WMU)* or *Ushirika wa Wanawake Waenezao Injili (UWW)*.

In WMU we study the Bible and learn how to live a Christian life. We learn about stewardship, prayer and witnessing. We teach the younger women and children in our church. We also learn about Christian work in other countries and the needs of their people.

WMU also provides ways for women to use what they learn. In our meetings, we pray together. We give offerings to help support ways to share Christ with others. We also go out as Christian women to witness and meet the needs of those around us.

Our Hymn

Our WMU hymn is **More About Jesus** or **Nataka Nimjue** (181 in *Nyimbo za Imani Yetu* and 159 in *Nyimbo za Sifa*). Listen as I read the words of this song. (Read the song). Let us sing this together.

MORE ABOUT JESUS

*More about Jesus would I know, More of his grace to others show;
More of his saving fullness see, More of his love who died for me.
More, more about Jesus, More, more about Jesus;
More of his saving fullness see, More of his love who died for me.*

Our Watchword

The Watchword for Ushirika wa Wanawake is “**Labourers Together with God**” (1 Corinthians 3:9).

Every Christian has the mission of sharing God’s love and salvation with others. We have this job because each of us became God’s child when we accepted Christ as our Saviour. We are to do our Father’s work. We share our mission with the other children of God. We are labourers working together with God as our guide.

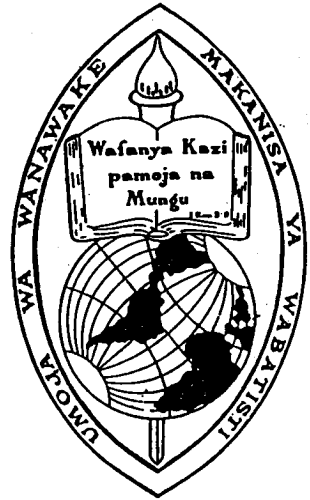
A good labourer knows how to do her job. If we want to be strong labourers for God, we must be mature Christians. We must study the Bible, pray and learn all we can about serving him.

Our Emblem

Here is a picture of our emblem. It is the shape of a double fish head which was used by early Christians. This symbol was used because in the Greek language the first letters of “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour” spelled the word for “fish.” Many of the first Christians were persecuted. A believer would draw a fish to show others that he was also a follower of Christ.

Around the border of the emblem is “Umoja wa Wanawake, Makanisa ya Wabatisti” (Women’s Union, Baptist Churches) the name of our organization. This emblem is used by Baptist women in many countries of the world with the words written in their language.

In the centre of the emblem is an open Bible on which our watchword is written in Kiswahili. Above the Bible is a lighted torch, a symbol of our Saviour who is the *Light of the World* (John 8:12). The torch is behind the world to show that God is always there to strengthen and save us. The world shows that we are to share God’s message with everyone in the world.



Our Purpose

WMU is for women who are “labourers together with God.” Our purpose is to share the message of salvation; to emphasize Christian living in the home and community; to study the Bible; to pray alone and with our families; to give our tithes and offerings; to serve others; and to spread the gospel throughout East Africa and into the whole world.

Our Meetings and Leaders

The women in most Baptist churches meet once each week. They choose a day and time which is convenient for all. In their meetings they sing, share, pray, and study.

In their meetings, Baptist women plan ways to meet the needs of their church and community. They share what they have learned by helping others and witnessing. They act as God’s labourers.

WMU groups choose leaders each year to guide their work and meetings. The leaders are a chairperson, programme leader, secretary and treasurer. Ask the WMU leaders of your association to help you begin your group and choose your first leaders.

Our Books

The programmes for our meetings are found in the book **Iwe Nuru** (Let There Be Light). There are many different **Iwe Nuru** books and new ones are written every year. These books are printed in English and in Kiswahili and usually have twelve lessons. Each member of your group needs a copy of **Iwe Nuru**.

Every leader needs a copy of our Manual, **Kitabu Cha Maelezo**. This book explains more about WMU. It also tells the jobs of each of the leaders. Every women’s group needs a **Kitabu cha Ripoti**. This book helps you keep proper reports about your WMU group.

Your associational officers can tell you where to buy these books. You can also purchase these books from:

**Kenya Baptist Media, P.O.Box 30370, Nairobi, Kenya or
Baptist Literature Centre, SLP 1240, Moshi, Tanzania**

Our Offerings

Jesus taught us to love our neighbours and care for those with needs. Offerings are taken at our meetings to be used for the work we do as “labourers together with God.” Most groups add to their offering each time they meet.

This offering can be used for such things as helping a young mother who cannot pay her rent one month. You could buy medicine for a family who have had several sick children. This offering is not to pay the pastor’s salary or for a special meal for our group. It is taken to be used to share God’s love and salvation with people who are not Christians.

Can all of the women in your group buy a copy of *Iwe Nuru*? It is best when each member can buy her own books, but some women cannot. Your group may choose to ask those who can give more to increase their offering to buy books for others.

In the next lesson we will learn how our WMU group is a part of the Associational and National WMU groups. We are also a part of a group for Baptist women from all over the world. As a part of these bigger groups we can be “labourers together with God” in ways we cannot do alone. These bigger groups must have help from the local churches to do their work. This includes sharing our offering with them. It also means giving our time and sometimes sharing other things such as clothes and food.

God does expect offerings of money. But we must first give ourselves to God. Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 8:5.

Let us pray this week that we will be faithful servants for God. Pray that he will guide us as we begin WMU in our church. Pray that we will be always growing as “labourers together with God.”



Bible Verses To Read This Week: Day 1) 1 Corinthians 3:1-4:5
Day 2) Galatians 3:26-4:7; Day 3) Ephesians 6:10-20;
Day 4) Psalm 27; Day 5) 1 Timothy 4:6-16; Day 6) 2 Corinthians 4;
Day 7) Psalm 86:1-13

Lesson Twelve

WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?

Bible Background: Colossians 1:3-14; 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Memory Verse: *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."*
2 Timothy 2:15

Our work and studies in WMU are guided by five aims. These aims are jobs or actions we must do as Christian women. We will study these today and learn what we can do to reach these aims.

AIM ONE: World Awareness

We will seek to gain an understanding of all people and to develop a concern for those who are lost without Christ. We will also seek to gain an understanding of our responsibilities as Christian women. We will do these things through a study of the Bible and through our study in Iwe Nuru and other Christian books.

Read John 3:16-17 and Matthew 28:19-20. How can we share God's love and salvation with the whole world? How can we make disciples of all nations? We must know God's word. Psalm 119:11 says, "I have laid up thy word in my heart." We must know and understand our world and the people who live in it. We must learn how to share our good news with them.

To reach our first aim we must study the Bible and Iwe Nuru in our WMU meetings. We must study our Bibles at home and attend the Bible studies in our church. We should encourage all women of our church to join the WMU. Our leaders must learn their jobs so they can be good leaders of God's work.

Every year Baptist Women have a *Week of Prayer* (June in Kenya and July in Tanzania). We also have a *Day of Prayer* on the first Monday in November each year when we join Baptist women around the world in prayer. Our national WMU office helps us get

programmes for these prayer times. These programmes will teach us more about the needs of others in our world and guide us as we pray.

AIM TWO: Growth in the Spiritual Life

We will try to strengthen the spiritual life of members by encouraging prayer and Bible study in our meetings, at home, and in our personal life.

Paul often encouraged the members of the early churches to grow as Christians. Read Ephesians 4:14-15 and Colossian 1:9-14. The Bible, God's word, is our guide for living and growing as Christians. God also guides us through prayer. In our prayer times we talk to God and listen for his words to us.

God needs strong labourers who can do his work. We can be strong and growing Christians if we study his word and do what it teaches us. In our meetings we should not just read the Bible and our lessons. We should search for what God is telling us as we study. We should always include prayer times in our meetings so we can talk with him. We should always listen for him to show us how we can serve and obey him.

Every woman who wants to grow as a Christian must read the Bible and study it daily. She must take time every day to talk with her Father. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray constantly." We must also teach our children to study God's word and pray. One way to do this is by having a time at home each day to read the Bible and pray as a family.

AIM THREE: Christian Witnessing

We will seek to lead members to be Christian witnesses by a witness of Christ to the lost and by community service that will show the love of Christ. We will seek to strengthen Christian standards at home and in the community.

Salvation is a gift of God. We do not have to do good things or works to receive this gift. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and James 2:14-18. James reminds us that the person who has been saved will want to obey and serve God, our Father. In WMU the work of witnessing and

service in the name of Jesus Christ is called Community Missions or Mission Action.

Acts 1:8 says, "You shall be my witnesses." We should find ways to help others which will show God's love to them. Each member must work at being a strong witness of Christ in her daily life. We must also plan times to witness to those who do not know Jesus as their Saviour. We must tell them of God's gift of salvation.

Our group should plan one or more ways to serve others in the name of Jesus and witness each month. We should encourage members to find ways every day to share God's love and salvation with the lost.

AIM FOUR: Sharing Our Wealth

We will seek to encourage Christian sharing through teaching stewardship. We will encourage members to tithe and to give special offerings to send the gospel to other parts of our country and the world.

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Read how the Macedonian churches followed this teaching in 2 Corinthians 8:1-8. Stewardship is giving one's time, gifts, and money as well as one's whole life to Jesus. Every woman should seek to be a good steward of all that God has given her. This is part of our witness to others. Each woman should give at least one tenth of her possessions to the church for God's work. The rest should be used in a way that is pleasing to God.

In WMU we have two special offerings to help in proclaiming the gospel. The *Week of Prayer Offering* is used in our country to spread the message of God's love and salvation. The *Day of Prayer Offering* meets the needs of women in Africa and in other parts of our world.

The offerings taken during our weekly meetings are to help us carry out our aims. We will use part of our offering to serve and help others in our church community. We will share our offerings with our associational and national WMU groups. This money will support the work they plan which helps reach our aims.

AIM FIVE: Educating Youth in Missions

We will try to teach our own children and others about our Saviour. We will seek to lead children and young people to understand the message of Christ and how it is spread through organizations for them in our churches.

Jesus was once asked which commandment was the greatest or most important. Read his answer in Matthew 22:37-40. Read in Matthew 5:17-20 what Jesus told his followers about obeying the laws of the Old Testament. The commandment that Jesus said was greatest was given to Moses by God in Deuteronomy 6:5. Read Deuteronomy 6:5-8. To reach our last aim we must do as God asks in these verses.

We must teach our children about Jesus. We must also teach God's word and ways to all the children of our church and neighbourhood. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

One way to teach and train children is to begin groups in our church for girls and boys. These groups are called **Wajumbe wa Yesu (WY)**. In Wajumbe wa Yesu children are taught God's plan for bringing salvation to the world. They are taught how to tell others the Good News of Jesus Christ. There are planned programmes to be used for these groups. We can purchase them from Kenya Baptist Media or Baptist Literature Centre.

LEADER: In our next lesson we will study how working with others can help us reach our aims. We will also pray and ask God to guide us as we serve and obey him through WMU. Let us close this lesson by reading Colossians 1:3-6. Pray and ask God to help us continue growing as "*Labourers together with God.*" (If there is time, talk of how your group can reach the aims and pray for God's guidance.)



Bible Verses To Read This Week:

Day 1) 2 Timothy 1; **Day 2)** 2 Timothy 2; **Day 3)** 2 Timothy 3;

Day 4) 2 Timothy 4; **Day 5)** Psalm 63; **Day 6)** 2 Corinthians 8:1-15;

Day 7) Romans 15:1-13

LESSON THIRTEEN

BAPTIST WOMEN JOIN TOGETHER!

Bible Background: Romans 15:5-13

Memory Verse: *“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*
Colossians 3:17

The members of our church work together as labourers with God. We also work with other churches in our area and in the world.

The Bible tells of many ways the Christians in the first churches worked with other churches. The churches in Macedonia gave an offering for the poor in Judea (Romans 15:26). When Christians moved from one town to another, they looked for other believers (Acts 16:13). Paul’s letters were sent from one church to another and brought greetings of love and encouragement from fellow Christians (Acts 15:30-31). The first churches sent preachers to people in other places to take them God’s Word (Acts 13:1-3).

Baptist churches join together today in many of the same ways to help each other. They pray for each other, learn from each other and help one another. They fellowship together. They sometimes join together to witness, preach, and send out evangelists.

Today we will learn about ways in which Baptist women join together to do a better job in the service of their Lord. We shall see how our women join together in our association, in our nation, in Africa and finally in the whole world.

Associational WMU

An association is a group of Baptist churches which are located close to one another and work together. The WMU groups of these churches join together as an associational WMU organization (Umoja wa Wanawake). In associational WMU meetings, women from the different churches study, pray and fellowship together. They share their work with other groups and encourage one another.

As an association, the women work on special projects which a church group could not do alone. Associational meetings are held several times each year to teach and encourage the women in WMU. Associations guide and strengthen young WMU groups by sending mature leaders for visits with these groups. We give part of our offerings to our associational WMU to help pay for these things. We elect associational officers as we do in our church.

National WMU

The Baptist churches in our nation which share our beliefs are joined together in a convention. We also have a national WMU programme which works with our convention. In our national WMU, we join with many more women who are "*labourers together with God.*" As members in this larger and stronger group, we are a part of sharing God's love and salvation with our country and world.

The national WMU helps us share God's message in our area through teaching times, meetings and promoting Wajumbe wa Yesu. They plan ways for us to help begin and strengthen WMU work in all parts of our country. They provide programmes for the *Week of Prayer* and the *Day of Prayer*. They also make certain that study materials such as this book are available for our use.

Baptist World Alliance

The Baptist World Alliance is a fellowship of Baptist groups from all parts of the world. One of the parts of the Baptist World Alliance is the Women's Department. The Women's Department is divided into five groups or unions. We are a part of the continental union of Africa (Baptist Women's Union of Africa).

The Women's Department help Baptist women serve as God's labourers. They help women from different parts of the world to understand one another better.

The Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance plans the *Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer*. On the first Monday in November we join Baptist women around the world in prayer. As we study the *Day of Prayer* programme each year, we learn of the needs

of women from other parts of the world. We learn how to pray for them. Our *Day of Prayer* offering is used in Africa and around the world to help women share God's love and salvation.

I. Am A Part of WMU

We are Baptist women who believe that *"We are labourers together with God."* Let us take time now to praise God for being our loving Father. Let us thank him for his Son and our salvation. We will also pray and ask God to guide us as individuals and as a WMU group who want to be his labourers.

Let us do this by reading verses from the Psalms and praying for God's help in reaching each of our aims. (If possible, ask a different woman to read and pray for each of the following. Or you can read the verses and aim and ask someone to pray as suggested.)

♦ Read Psalm 86:6-13 and Aim One: *"We will seek to gain an understanding of all people and to develop a concern for those who are lost without Christ. We will also seek to gain an understanding of our responsibilities as Christian women. We will do these things through a study of the Bible and through our study in Iwe Nuru and other Christian books."*

Pray and ask God to help us understand and care about those who are lost in our country and in other nations. Pray that he will teach us and show us the work he needs us to do.

♦ Read Psalm 51:1-10 and Aim Two: *"We will try to strengthen the spiritual life of members by encouraging prayer and Bible study in our meetings, at home, and in our personal life."*

Pray that each woman in our WMU will grow in God's wisdom. Ask the women to pray by reading the following verse together. "Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me" (Psalm 51:10, TEV).

♦ Read Psalm 96:1-4 and Aim Three: *"We will seek to lead members to be Christian witnesses by a witness of Christ to the lost and by community service that will show the love of Christ. We will seek to strengthen Christian standards at home and in the community."*

Pray that we will be strong Christian witnesses every day. Pray that God will help us see ways we can labour with him in our community and show his love. Pray that we may find ways to "tell of his salvation from day to day" and "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples."

♦ Read Psalm 56:10-13 and Aim Four: *"We will seek to encourage Christian sharing through teaching stewardship. We will encourage members to tithe and to give special offerings to send the gospel to other parts of our country and the world."*

Pray that we will be good stewards of all God has given to us. Pray that we will use our gifts, abilities, money and time to serve and honour him. Pray that we will be good stewards of God's gifts of love and salvation. Pray that we will share his gifts with others. Pray that we will give freely to offerings which will help spread his good news.

♦ Read Psalm 78:1-8 and Aim Five, *"We will try to teach our own children and others about our Saviour. We will seek to lead children and young people to understand the message of Christ and how it is spread through organizations for them in our churches."*

Pray that God will help us "tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders which he has wrought." Pray that we will lead them "to set their hope in God" and "keep his commandments."

Leader: Let us end our time together by saying our watchword together and singing our hymn, *More About Jesus*. Close with a prayer asking God to guide your WMU as you strive to be *"Labourers together with God."*



**Bible Verses To Read This Week: Day 1) Colossians 3;
Day 2) 1 Corinthians 13; Day 3) Philippians 2:1-18; Day 4) Psalm 1;
Day 5) Isaiah 6:1-8; Day 6) Exodus 3:1-14; Day 7: 1 Samuel 3**



WANAWAKE

MAKANISA YA

YA


WABATISTI

UMWAJA

Wafanya Kazi
pamoja na
Mungu

1 Kor. 3:8

<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson One</p> <p>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Eight</p> <p>“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 29:19-20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Two</p> <p>“Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Nine</p> <p>“So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” 2 Corinthians 5:20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Three</p> <p>“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” Colossians 4:2 (NIV)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Ten</p> <p>“But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honour him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you.” 1 Peter 3:15 (TEV)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Four</p> <p>“It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” 1 Corinthians 4:2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Eleven</p> <p>“For we are labourers together with God.” 1 Corinthians 3:9 (KJV)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Five</p> <p>“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Twelve</p> <p>“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Six</p> <p>“This is love, that we follow his commandments.” 2 John 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Thirteen</p> <p>“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Seven</p> <p>“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)</p>	



God's Plan of Salvation

The following Bible verses tell of *God's plan of salvation* for those who are lost. They explain the truths a person must hear and accept to be saved. Share these verses and truths with people who need to accept Jesus as their Saviour.

1) ***Romans 3:23*** A person must understand that he has sinned and that sin has separated him from God.

2) ***Romans 6:23*** A person must realize that the sinner faces death. God does not want anyone to be separated from him. He offers the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

3) ***John 3:16*** God loves us and offers a plan or way for us to have his gift of eternal life. To accept this gift, a person must believe in Jesus Christ.

4) ***1 John 1:9*** To accept God's plan, a person must confess his sins. He must be sorry for these sins and ask God to forgive them. The person must ask God to take control of his life.

5) ***Romans 10:9-10*** A person must believe that God has done what he has promised. The person must believe that his sins are forgiven and he has received God's gift of eternal life.

After sharing these verses, ask the person if he believes Jesus Christ died for his sins. Ask him if he's ready to follow God's plan for eternal life. You may need to say or read some of the verses again. If the person wants to accept Christ as his personal Saviour, ask him to pray. Guide him as he asks Jesus to enter his heart. Guide him as he asks God to forgive his sins and to take control of his life.