

Lesson 4: Obeying Christ by the power of the Spirit

Aims for each learner:

- a. Resolve fully to obey the Lord, in thought, word and deed.
- b. Memorize 1 Peter 1:15.
- c. Give an example which helps a little to describe God as three-in-one.
- d. Long to be filled more and more with the Holy Spirit.

Cultural clues:

- Experiencing the Trinity
- Sacrifice and covenant
- Discipleship in Sufi thinking
- Muslims, The Holy Spirit & Gabriel

Preparation: For a demonstration: Glasses, tray or bowl, small dirty stones, jug of water.

Opening



Start with the demonstration: *Pour water into a glass full of dirty stones.*

- Who wants this glass of water? Why not? We will discuss this later.

Put the dirty glass to one side for later. Pour a clean glass of water for all.

Pray for this week's lesson. Review last week's practical task: What ways did you think of to show unconditional love to children? How did you put them into practice?

Lesson 4 home study review:

Question 1: a), b), c) and d) are all correct

Question 2: b)

Question 3: He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. (1 Peter 1:15)

Question 4: b)

Introduce today's topic:

We will learn how the Lord Jesus and his Spirit work in our lives. Also we will try learn something about how the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit belong together as the one true God.

Discussion

Jesus Christ's work in our lives (Questions 2-6)

Question 4: Read the first paragraph.

- What does the word 'covenant' mean?
- How did God make this bond with us?
- If we are bonded to God as his people what does this mean for us?

Read the second paragraph starting 'this bond...'

- What does this sentence mean for us?

A covenant is a firm commitment or bond which must not be broken. (see Q. 3)

Through Christ's blood shed on the cross for us.

He will not break the bond from his side, nor should we break it from our side. We are his chosen people.

Our commitment to Jesus should be even stronger than a disciple to a holy man, because Christ has done more for us than any holy man!

Question 5: Look at the three pictures.

- Which do you think is most important: to obey the Lord Jesus with our deeds, or our words or our thoughts? *All three are very important and we must not choose to omit any of them!*
- How has Christ helped you obey him in your thoughts, words or deeds?

The Holy Spirit's work in our lives (Questions 7-12)

Question 8: Read the second paragraph.

- According to the Bible's teaching, who is the Holy Spirit?
- Since you became Christ's follower, is God's presence more real in your life than previously? Please share your experience of this.

God's own personal presence, active in the world and especially in Christ's followers.

Question 11: Read the first paragraph.

- What answer did you give for part a) and why?
- What answer did you give for part b) and why?



a) *Scientifically, without rays or heat we could not see or feel the sun at all.*

b) *If God had not sent his Son, we could not know what he is like. If he had not sent his Spirit, we could not experience him*

- How are the examples in this lesson helpful to you? *personally in our lives.*

Experiencing the Trinity: Read 1 Peter 1:2-9.

These verses show how we can experience God as Trinity even though we don't fully understand him.



- In verses 2 & 3, what have God the Father, God the Spirit and God the Son done for us?
- In verse 5, what shields us during our lives on earth?
- In verse 6, how should we respond even in trials?
- Although we can't see God or fully understand him as Trinity, how do we feel towards him? (v.8-9)

The Father: knew us beforehand, chose us, given us new birth. Jesus' blood sprinkles us. His Spirit makes us holy (sanctifies us), for obedience to the Son.

God's power.

We should rejoice.

We love him, we believe in him, we are filled with inexpressible and glorious joy, we are receiving the salvation of our souls.

Question 12: Read the first paragraph including the bullet points.

- Up until now, which things in this list has the Holy Spirit enabled you to do?
- So is it essential or optional for God's Spirit to be active in our lives?

The Holy Spirit makes us holy (Questions 13-16)

Continue demonstration: *Take the glass with stones, say:*



- No one wants to drink this dirty water! Like this glass, if our lives are full of sin and shame like these dirty stones, we need to be cleaned.
- What can we do to make this glass clean? *removing the stones, cleaning the glass with pure water- demonstrate this by removing the stones and pouring clean water into the cup until it is full.*

Question 14: Read the whole question.

- What do you think it mean to be holy? Give examples.

To be fully holy is to be like God! e.g. our thoughts are pure, we build others up, we do no wrong etc.

Question 15:

- What standard should we aim for? *God's standard- We must be holy because he is holy.*
- Is it possible for humans to become holy like God? *No, it is impossible in our own strength. In many religions, those people who try hardest to be holy become the most disappointed when they fail.*
- According to what we read earlier, who makes us holy? *God's Spirit who is holy makes us holy, (v. 2). Like clean water which can clean the dirty glass, we are cleansed by his Spirit.*

Question 16: Memorise the verse in the box (1 Peter 1:15) and pray together with uplifted hands, asking God to fill you more with his Holy Spirit.



The Holy Spirit fills our lives (Questions 17-20)

Question 20: Read the whole of question 20. *Illustrate this paragraph using the glasses and water. Use a jug of water and glasses, with a tray or bowl underneath to catch the overflowing water.*

God fills us by his Spirit as we pray and live close to him each day. Sometimes the filling is sudden, sometimes gradual. His command is to keep on being filled. Every day we must keep being filled more and more and more!

Conclusion

Obeying today's teaching:

- What difference will today's lesson make in your life?
- **Read together the practical task.**
- If you have a Bible or New Testament, bring it next week.

If possible, help students who don't yet own a Bible or NT obtain one. Ideally, NIV (2011) or their own language.

Pray together: Now is a chance to confess to God any 'dirty stones' in our lives that is making us unclean. *Allow a time of quiet for people to do this on their own. You could use stones to demonstrate this. Ask God for the Holy spirit to cleanse us, make us Holy and fill us every day to overflowing.*