

Stand firm!

The Apostles' Creed

1. I believe in God
2. The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
3. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord
4. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate
5. Was crucified, died, and was buried;
6. He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead;
7. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church,
9. The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
10. The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Instruction for the teacher

- These lessons are made for people to know and understand the basics of the Christian faith as confessed in the Apostles' Creed. Each lesson contains a lot of information, so as a teacher, don't go too deep and teach the basics only, otherwise the students will lose oversight. In order to help the students maintain oversight through the lessons, you may write the Apostles' Creed on a large paper and underline the part you're teaching each lesson.
- The aim of every lesson is the same:
 1. For those who are not yet saved: to understand they need Jesus so that they will repent and believe in Him.
 2. For those who are saved by Jesus: to help them stand firm in Jesus' teachings and their walk with God to His glory.
- Do not just teach the students Bible knowledge, but apply it to their lives!
- Every lesson contains a lot of information. It can cause the students to feel tired and miss some of truths you want them to know. To re-energize them, every lesson contains a game. Some of them are optional. If the students are still attentive, you may skip the optional games.
- Writing the exam in the last lesson is optional. If you want them to write it, photocopy the exam in advance (as it is on the last page of this book), or write the questions on the blackboard.
- Teaching these lessons is a big responsibility, because you are teaching the most important doctrines for people to be saved. Therefore, when you prepare the lesson, make sure you ask God for His help on how to prepare and to teach.

*Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me: For
Thou art the God of my salvation: on Thee do
I wait all the day
Psalm 25.5*

Lesson 1 I believe in God

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (10 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Explain that these lessons will teach the students the Apostles' Creed (ask them if they've ever heard about the Apostles' Creed before and, if yes, where).
- In every lesson we will read the Bible, because all the lessons are based on what the Bible teaches. We will not teach difficult doctrines, but the basics.

Practical information

- Tell them when the lessons will be taught and at what time. Don't be late, otherwise we'll run out of time.
- It's important to attend all lessons.
- The students need to bring a Bible to the lessons. We will need them during the lessons.
- In the last lesson we'll write an exam. It won't be difficult to pass the exam if you attend all lessons.

Explain the rules

- No children younger than 18 years old. Don't come with little children or babies.
- Don't walk in and out during the lesson. Go to the toilet before the lesson starts.
- Be serious and listen to the teacher. Feel free to participate.

- Ask if the students have questions.
- Ask God a blessing for this lesson.

2. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Ask the students if they believe.
- Ask them what they believe. Write their answers on the blackboard. Ask questions to find out what exactly they believe. If they answer 'God', ask them what they believe about God. If they answer 'The Bible', what do they believe about the Bible? If they answer 'Jesus', what do they believe about Jesus?
- Explain that we need to know what we believe. If you're writing an exam in school, just knowing the subject won't help you. You need to have knowledge about that subject; otherwise you'll fail the exam. The same with God: we must not only say that we believe, but also know what we believe. Otherwise, it doesn't make sense.
- Everything we must believe is written in the Bible. It is summarized in the Apostles' Creed. In every lesson we'll be thinking about a part of the Apostles' Creed so that, in the end, we know the basics of the Bible.

3. I believe (20 minutes)

- The Apostles' Creed starts with the word 'I'. Faith is personal. You can't rely on the faith of others. Give the students the example of a sick family. Everyone personally needs to

use the medicine provided. If you refuse because the others have already taken the medicine, you will die. Using medicine is personal. Faith is personal.

- Tell the students to discuss the meaning of the word 'believe'. What is believing in God?
Answer: To believe means:
 1. To be assured that the Bible is true (John 17.17). We need to know the Bible, otherwise we can't believe. It doesn't mean to understand everything, but to be convinced that it is true because God says. So it's about knowledge.
However, knowledge alone is not enough. The devils have knowledge of God, but God hates them and they hate God (James 2.19). We may know that God exists, reigns, is omnipotent and wise, but if it's only knowledge, this falls short of the Biblical concept of faith.
 2. To be assured by God's Holy Spirit that God has forgiven you your sins through Jesus Christ (Romans 5.1, Romans 3.20-26). This means to personally depend on Him for salvation. So it's about a relationship with God through Jesus.
Forgiveness and salvation are God's gifts of grace because of Jesus. It means to personally know Him. We may know a lot about the Zambian president. But if we have never met him or are his friends, we don't know what is in his heart. We know about him, but we don't know him personally because we don't have a relationship with him. To have a relationship with God is what the Bible calls believing or having faith.
- Remind them of the example of medicine. Explain that having your own medicine at home (= to have Bible knowledge), won't help you when you're sick, as long as you don't use them (= to receive Jesus). We must make use of Jesus, or He won't benefit us.
- Warn them not just to say that they believe. To believe has a deep meaning. It is more than knowing something. Only those who have received Jesus truly believe!

4. I believe – Bible study (20 minutes)

- Read together Mark 9.17-29. Answer together the following questions or write them on the blackboard and tell the students to answer them in small groups.

Questions

1. Who is the Master that verse 17 speaks about?
2. What was the problem of the man that came to Jesus?
3. What do we need to do if we lack faith?
4. Why could the disciples not heal the boy?
5. How do we see faith in this story?

- Discuss the answers together. The right answers are as follows:
 - 1. Who is the Master that verse 17 speaks about?**
Answer: Jesus.
 - 2. What was the problem of the man that came to Jesus?**
Answer: His son was possessed by an evil spirit.
 - 3. What did the father ask Jesus according to verse 24?**
Answer: To help his unbelieve.
 - 4. What do we need to do if we lack faith?**
Answer: Ask Jesus to help us, just like the man asked Jesus to help his unbelief.
 - 5. Why could the disciples not heal the boy?**
Answer: They had to depend on God (verse 29) and not on themselves.

6. How do we see faith in this story?

Answer: The father knew that only Jesus could help (knowledge). He went to Jesus for help, so he put his trust in Jesus (relationship).

5. God (15 minutes)

- Tell the students to discuss about God together: Who is He?
- Let them share their answers with the group.
- Explain that there is a lot to say about God and all we know is found in the Bible. For example,
 - There is only one, eternal God (e.g. Deuteronomy 6.4, Psalm 90.2)
 - He is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth. He keeps mercy for thousands, is forgiving, just and holy (e.g. Exodus 34.6 and 7).
 - He is Triune: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and yet one God (e.g. 2 Corinthians 13.14, Matthew 3.17, Matthew 17.5).

6. Game (10 minutes)

- Repeat that Bible knowledge is important. Play a game to test their Bible knowledge.
- Make two or four groups. Ask one group one of the following questions. If they know the answer (they are allowed to discuss within the group), they get 1 point. If they don't know, the other group must be given a chance to answer.

1. Who were the first people on earth?

Answer: Adam and Eve (Genesis 2)

2. What was the name of Jesus' mother?

Answer: Mary (Matthew 1.16)

3. Who built an ark?

Answer: Noah (Genesis 6.13 and 14)

4. Who was in prison and became a governor?

Answer: Joseph (Genesis 39-41)

5. What is another name for Tabitha?

Answer: Dorcas (Acts 9.36)

6. How did Jacob call the place where he wrestled with God?

Answer: Peniel (Genesis 32.30)

7. In which garden was Jesus taken captive?

Answer: Gethsemane (Mark 14)

8. Name at least two miracles Jesus did. Name at least two.

Answer: e.g. Healing a leper, multiplied bread and fish, healing blind people

9. How was Paul called before he became a Christian?

Answer: Saul (Acts 9)

10. How did Jesus die?

Answer: on a cross (Luke 23.33)

11. After how many days did Jesus rise from the dead?

Answer: after three days (Matthew 28, 1 Corinthians 15.4)

12. Who was thrown in a lions' den and survived?

Answer: Daniel (Daniel 6)

7. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today and say together: *I believe in God.*
- Pray.

Lesson 2 Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in lesson 1.

2. God the Father – Bible study (30 minutes)

- Ask the students if they know examples of good fathers and what those fathers usually do.
Answer: They love their children, care for them, teach them and protect them.
- Explain that God the Father is the Father of Jesus. Everyone who believes in Jesus, is adopted into God's family. So, God the Father is the Father of Jesus, but also of His born-again people.
- Do a Bible study to learn more about what kind of Father God the Father is.
Read Psalm 68.5 together and answer the following question:
 1. **What does it mean that God is a Father of the fatherless?**
Answer: He especially cares for the vulnerable (Psalm 146.9, Jeremiah 49.11).
- Read Psalm 103.13 together and answer the following question:
 2. **What does God the Father do, according to this verse?**
Answer: He is merciful, caring, and compassionate with His children (Jeremiah 31.20, Matthew 6.32, Jeremiah 31.9).
- Read Proverbs 3.12 together and answer the following question:
 3. **Why does God the Father sometimes punish?**
Answer: Because He wants to correct people who have gone wrong and wants to teach (Hebrews 12.10, Deuteronomy 8.5).
This does not mean that all tribulation and adversity are caused by our personal sins (e.g., John 9.1-3, Job 1.8-12, Luke 2.13 and 14).
- Read Malachi 1.6 together and answer the following question:
 4. **What is God the Father's complaint in this verse?**
Answer: People called God their Father, but they didn't honour Him as their Father. This was a sign that their hearts were far from God (Matthew 15.8).
- Read Matthew 6.26 together and answer the following question.
 5. **What does God the Father do according to this verse?**
Answer: He cares and reigns in such a way that His people don't need to worry about what is happening (Matthew 6.25-34).
- Read John 5.23 together and answer the following questions:
 6. **Why must we honour Jesus, God's Son?**
Answer: By doing so, we honour God the Father (John 15.23, 1 John 2.23, 2 John 1.9).

7. How must we honour Jesus?

Answer: By believing in Him, acknowledging Him as our personal Saviour, and by surrendering ourselves to Him.

3. Almighty (10 minutes)

- Ask the students for examples of someone who has a lot of power in the family, in the village, or in the country.
- Explain that God has all power above everyone and everything. He is almighty: He can do anything He wants. He has control over everything, even over things that can't be controlled by us, like Satan and death.
- Read Leviticus 19.31, Leviticus 20.6, Leviticus 20.26-27 for the students. God forbids us to visit mediums, wizards, spiritists and witchdoctors who communicate with spirits. Jesus conquered Satan (and his helpers) when He died on the cross (Colossians 2.13-15, 1 John 3.18). God's people are called to obey God alone and to fight against evil in God's power (Ephesians 6.11-18).

4. Game (optional, 10 minutes)

- Ask some questions to teach the students that whatever we have comes from God. For example, the following questions:
 - Ask one student if he/she has eaten nsima today (or porridge)
 - Ask the next one what nsima is made of (flour and water)
 - Ask the next one where the flour comes from (maize)
 - Ask the next one to name one thing that maize needs to grow (rain/sunlight)
 - Ask the next one where rain and sunlight come from (from heaven)
 - Ask the next one who or what causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall (God)
 - Ask one student what he/she sits on (e.g., bench)
 - Ask the next one what a bench/mat is made of (wood)
 - Ask the next one where wood comes from (tree)
 - Ask the next one what a tree needs to grow (rain/sunlight)
 - Ask the next one where rain and sunlight come from (from heaven)
 - Ask the next one who or what causes the sun to shine and rain to fall (God)
- Conclude by saying that God is the Creator and Owner of everything!

5. Creator of heaven and earth (20 minutes)

- Explain *briefly* that in the Bible we read that God has created everything (Genesis 1 and 2). He spoke and it was. Before He created everything, there was nothing but God Himself. He created light, sun, moon, stars, water, trees, insects, big animals, Adam and Eve and everything else around us. Everything was good, right and wonderful, because God Himself is good, right and wonderful. God, people and the rest of creation lived in perfect harmony.
- God still cares for His creation (Acts 14.17, Acts 17.25). He causes the sun to rise, the wind to blow, our bodies to digest food and have power to be able to work, cows to produce milk, rain to fall, etc. He is almighty. He is a good Father. There is no need to worry.
- Adam and Eve, the first people on earth, chose to disobey God (Genesis 3). That was the first sin. God hates sin. Since that time everyone has a sinful heart (Job 15.14, Proverbs 20.19, Jeremiah 17.19, Romans 3.23). That means that we are no longer as God intended

us to be. We have a natural tendency to do what displeases God and pleases ourselves (Genesis 6.5, Proverbs 7.20, Isaiah 53.6, Jeremiah 18.12). We do wrong because we are all born with a sinful heart (Mark 7.21-23, Psalm 51.5).

The Bible uses different words to explain the sinful state of people:

1. Dead (Ephesians 2.1, Ephesians 2.5, Romans 5.6). Our bodies may be alive, but our spirits are unable and unwilling to do good. That's why the Bible tells us to be born again (John 3.3, James 1.18). To be born again means that a completely new spirit is being formed: a spirit/heart that obeys and pleases God.
 - Just like a complete, new physical body is formed during pregnancy, spiritual life is something completely new. To be born again is not a *change* of our spirit, it is a completely *new* spirit (Ezekiel 36.26, Jeremiah 24.7).
 - Besides that, being born again is a *gift*. None of us birthed himself/herself. Our physical lives are a gift. In the same way, we have not birthed ourselves spiritually. We are given birth by the Holy Spirit (John 3.6). Our spiritual lives are a gift.

Since to be born again means that something completely new is formed, all other illustrations fall short. Don't use other illustrations than that of a natural birth, because every other illustration falls short and people may understand it wrongly. In John 3, Jesus also only used the example of a natural birth to explain about a spiritual birth.

2. Enmity (Romans 5.10, Colossians 1.21). There's no friendship between God and us because of our sinful hearts. The good news is that Jesus came to die so that God's enemies can be reconciled with Him.

6. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today and say together: *I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.*
- Pray.

Lesson 3 I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord

Materials

- Bible
- Chalk
- Blackboard

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in lesson 2.
- Last lesson we learned about God the Father. Today, we'll start a series of lessons about God the Son.

2. I believe in Jesus (30 minutes)

- Tell the students to come up with names in our daily lives that have a meaning and ask them why the parents chose that name for their child.
- Ask them for the meaning of the name Jesus.
- Read for them Matthew 1.21 and explain that the name 'Jesus' means Saviour.
- Explain that Jesus is called Saviour, because He saves from sin. He is able to take sin, the cause of all problems, away. Explain that:
 - God's good creation is destroyed because of sin, as we learned in lesson 2. The relationships between God, men, and the rest of creation was destroyed.
 - God hates sin. He is so good and pure that He cannot be close with sinners (Jeremiah 59.2, Isaiah 57.7). He sent Adam and Eve away. God was angry with them. They were lost, lonely and helpless.
 - As offspring of Adam and Eve, we are also lost, lonely and helpless without God, because we've inherited a sinful heart; the source of our life is sinful. This means that we are 100% sinful; everything we do falls short, even the good things (Isaiah 64.6)!
 - Only Jesus, the Sinless, can take our sins away, because He died on a cross (we'll learn more about His death in the next lessons). If Jesus saves us from our sin, we aren't lost, but found; not spiritual dead, but alive; not alone, but part of God's family; not cursed, but loved by Him; not guilty, but redeemed.
- Explain that salvation is a miracle. Never take it for granted. Honour God for such a great, free gift of salvation that He gives to everyone who truly believes (Ephesians 2.8, Romans 3.24). The cause of salvation is God's love for lost people (not our good deeds save us, but Jesus, out of grace) (1 John 4.10, Galatians 2.16).
- Urge them to find salvation in Jesus, for without Jesus we are lost and will be in hell forever! Repent from your sin (which means feel sorry, confess them and stop doing them), and ask God for forgiveness. God is willing to send His Holy Spirit to teach us how to find salvation. Ask Him for that!

3. Song (optional, 5 minutes)

- Teach the students a song that fits with today's topic. For example, 'Yang'anani kwa Ine'.

4. Christ (15 minutes)

- Ask what happens in our country when a person gets a new, important job/task to do, like the president and chief.
Answer: let them come up with ideas of ceremonies that show that a person is set apart for the job.
- In the time of the Bible, there was a ceremony of anointing the people who got a special duty (like kings and priests). They were anointed with oil.
- Explain that the name Christ in Greek (original language of the New Testament) or Messiah in Hebrew (the original language of the Old Testament) means: anointed. So, when we say that Jesus is the Christ, we say that Jesus is anointed (=appointed and prepared) by His Father for His special task.
- Explain that Jesus Christ is anointed to:
 1. Be a Prophet: to teach about God, sin and salvation (Luke 24.19, John 6.14).
 2. Be a Priest: to pray for His people (1 John 2.1, Romans 8.34, John 17.9) and die on the cross as an offer for sin (Hebrews 10.10-14, Hebrews 9.28).
 3. Be a King: to reign and protect (Luke 1.33, Revelation 11.15).

5. His only Son – Bible study (20 minutes)

- Read John 3.14-18 together. Discuss the following questions together or write them on the blackboard and tell the students to answer them in small groups.

Questions

1. Read verse 14 again. Who is the Son of man who had to die on a cross?
2. Whom should we believe in order to be saved?
3. Who did God send to the earth, according to verse 16?
4. Read verse 17 again. Why did God send His Son?
5. Would you offer your child to rescue people that hate you?

- Discuss the answers together. The right answers are as follows:
 1. **Read verse 14 again. Who is the Son of man that had to die on a cross?**
Answer: Jesus Christ.
 2. **Whom should we believe in order to be saved?**
Answer: Jesus Christ, the Son of man.
 3. **Who did God send to the earth, according to verse 16?**
Answer: His only Son, Jesus Christ.
 4. **Read verse 17 again. Why did God send His Son?**
Answer: To save everyone who believes in Him.
 5. **Would you offer your child to rescue people that hate you?**
Answer: Let them answer for themselves.
- Conclude by saying that Jesus is God's only Son by nature (John 1.18, 1 John 4.9). All God's other children are adopted into His family (John 1.12, Ephesians 1.5-6).

6. Our Lord – case studies (15 minutes)

- A lord is an owner of something. Think about a landlord: that person is the owner of land.
- When we say that we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord, we confess that He has died for us and we are His (Colossians 1.13-14, 1 Peter 1.18-19). We aren't owned by ourselves or by Satan, but by Jesus, and we want to follow His will in our lives (1 Corinthians 6.20).
- Read the following case study for the students and tell them to discuss in small groups what Lameck and Leya must do.

Lameck and Leya have 4 children. They are a Christian family and want to obey God alone. One day their new born baby gets very sick. They fear that the child might die. The neighbours say that their child is sick because they didn't want the baby to wear charms to protect it from evil spirits.

Answer: They must be strong and not doubt: Jesus has all power, and everyone who is His, is protected and safe. Satan can use circumstances to confuse them, but they need to continue to depend upon their Saviour Jesus Christ, go to the hospital and ask God to show His power through the healing of their child.

- Read the following case study for the students and tell them to discuss in small groups what Samson and Misozi need to do.

Samson and Misozi married three years ago. Soon after their marriage, Misozi started to complain about Samson. She told her friends, 'I am not happy with my husband's behaviour. He says no one can tell him what to do. Instead of caring for the family, he just wastes his time and money. He doesn't contribute to a healthy family life. At church he says he is a Christian and people like to listen to his powerful preaching. They won't believe me.'

Answer: Someone who says he/she is a Christian is not free to do whatever he/she wants, but has to obey Jesus, the Lord. Jesus is his/her Owner, so he/she has to live according to God's will which is written in the Bible. This is true for everything in our lives: money, time, family, our bodies, etc. Samson needs to be corrected so that he will repent (feel sorry, confess, stop) from his sins. Misozi needs to be strong and ask people to help her.

7. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today and say together: *I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.*
- Pray.

Lesson 4 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in lesson 3.
- We've learned that Jesus Christ is the Saviour sent by God. In today's lesson and following lessons, we'll learn about what He did to save sinners.

2. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit – Bible study (30 minutes)

- Explain that we've learned that Jesus is God. But He also became a man. That's a miracle.
- Read [Luke 1.26-38](#) together and answer the following questions or write them on the blackboard and tell the students to sit in groups to answer them.

Questions

1. Summarize what happened in the story.
2. Who sent an angel to Mary?
3. Why did the angel say that Mary was blessed?
4. Whose Son is Jesus, according to verse 32?
5. Mary wondered about what the angel said: she wasn't married, so how could she have a child? What did the angel answer her?
6. Read verse 35 again and explain why Jesus has no sins, even though He became a man.

- The right answers are as follows.

1. Summarize what happened in the story.

Answer: An angel told Mary that she would bear a Child, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Who sent an angel to Mary?

Answer: God.

3. Why did the angel say that Mary was blessed?

Answer: Because she would have a Child, Jesus, God's Son.

4. Whose Son is Jesus, according to verse 32?

Answer: The Son of the Highest, God's Son.

5. Mary wondered about what the angel said: she wasn't married, so how could she have a child? What did the angel answer her?

Answer: The Holy Spirit would form a body for Jesus so that He could be born on earth.

6. Read verse 35 again and explain why Jesus has no sins, even though He became a man.

Answer: He is holy, because God is His Father. He is God and man; a sinless Person.

- Explain that Jesus is 100% God (1 John 5.20, Colossians 1.15-17) and 100% man (John 1.14, Galatians 4.4, Philippians 2.7). The Saviour had to be both God and man:

- **A man.** Adam, the representative of the whole human race, sinned. Therefore, the human race had to bear God's punishment for sin (Leviticus 5.17, Galatians 3.10, Romans 2.6). Jesus became man. He didn't sin (1 Peter 2.22). He didn't have to bear His own sins and punishment. Therefore, He could take the place of man who had sinned (2 Corinthians 5.21, Hebrews 7.26-27, Hebrews 2.14, Hebrews 2.17).
- **God.** No man is able to bear God's wrath against sin. God's wrath is terrible (Deuteronomy 4.24, Nahum 1.6) and no one is able to bear it except from God Himself. Jesus is God and therefore He could bear God's wrath and conquer sin and death.

Jesus is the only Mediator because He is both God and Man (1 Peter 3.18).

- Jesus knows the challenges of life (Hebrews 4.15, Hebrews 2.18) and He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

3. And born of the virgin Mary (20 minutes)

- Tell the students to sit in small groups and share what they know about Jesus' birth. After 10 minutes, let them share their answers in the group. Combine all answers to create a clear picture of what happened. Make sure they say something about: Joseph and Mary, Bethlehem, the inn, the stable, swaddling clothes, angels, the angels' song, the shepherds, Simeon and Anna in the temple, and the wise men from the east. If they fail, briefly tell the story as written in Luke 2 and Matthew 2.
- Jesus humiliated Himself to be born on earth (Philippians 2.7-8, John 1.10, Hebrews 12.2, Matthew 8.20). The King of heaven and earth, became a poor and helpless baby in the stable. He did that to bring His spiritually poor and helpless children to Heaven (2 Corinthians 8.9)! Every year at Christmas we remember this miracle of God.
- Ask the students what Jesus did when He grew up.
Answer: He did well to everyone, especially by healing people. He taught them about God's Kingdom. He told them to repent and believe in Him. He warned the people not to be satisfied with themselves and religion, but to find peace with God through Jesus.
- Jesus came to destroy Satan's work (1 John 3.8). Jesus came to conquer sin and death so that God's Kingdom would be built and restored (Matthew 4.17, Colossians 1.13).

4. Game (optional, 10 minutes)

- Write on the blackboard:

M	A	R	Y	F	S
S	L	D	L	I	C
J	P	N	O	N	B
E	G	I	H	O	O
S	A	B	R	S	R
U	G	O	D	I	N
S	L	O	R	D	T

- Tell the students to find the following words:
 Spirit Holy Mary born
 God Jesus Lord

5. He suffered under Pontius Pilate (20 minutes)

- Tell the students that Satan and many people hated Jesus for who He was and for what He did on earth. Jesus was hated by:
 - Satan.

Satan didn't want Jesus to teach people about God and to be the Saviour (Luke 22.3, Mark 1.13).

- People.
 - Many people didn't believe that Jesus was God's Son (Mark 3.22, John 10.20, John 8.48-49, Luke 7.39). They were expecting a Messiah that would deliver them from their earthly enemies (John 7.19, Acts 1.6, Matthew 20.21, John 18.36).
 - Many hated Jesus for loving sinners (Luke 5.30, Luke 19.7). They thought that a godly person should hate sinners.
 - Many hated Jesus for His teaching of repentance and faith in Him. They believed that keeping God's law would make them acceptable in God's eyes. They kept God's law strictly and hoped that God would receive them for their good behaviour, but they didn't understand that their hearts were far from God (Luke 11.39, John 9.40-41, Matthew 15.1-20). Jesus taught that He alone can reconcile people with God (John 14.6). We are not saved by our deeds but by faith in Jesus (Romans 3.28). Jesus taught that repentance is needed. Only those who repent and believe in Jesus will be received by God (Matthew 21.32).
 - Tell *briefly* what happened to Jesus according to Matthew 26.14-27.32.
 - Explain that in His suffering, Jesus was still God. He had the power over His enemies. But He didn't stop them: He wanted to suffer and die for His spiritually suffering and dead children. That was His purpose. What a love!

6. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today and say together: *I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate.*
- Pray.

Lesson 5 Was crucified, died, and was buried

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in lesson 4.

2. Was crucified (15 minutes)

- Ask the students what crucifixion is.
Answer: To hang someone on a cross with the intention that the person will die. Only the worst criminals were crucified in those days. The Bible doesn't say much about crucifixion besides that of Jesus. However, in the Old Testament we read some verses about people who were hung on a tree or cross, whether alive or dead (Deuteronomy 21.22-23, Joshua 10.26).
- Explain what happened while Jesus hung on the cross, according to Matthew 27.33-49.
- Read Galatians 3.13 for the students and ask them for the meaning of this Bible verse.
Answer: We as sinners are cursed by God because we fail to obey Him in the right way. There is nothing we can do to remove God's curse from our lives. But Jesus Himself became a curse by taking the place of His cursed people who repent (feel sorry, confess, stop) and depend on His salvation (surrender and receive Him). Jesus became a curse to bless His people!

3. Died – Bible study (30 minutes)

- Read together John 19.30 and Matthew 27.50-56.
- Discuss together the following questions:
 1. **Before Jesus died, He said that it was finished. What was finished?**
Answer: His work on earth, His suffering, the redemption.
 2. **What does it mean that Jesus finished everything?**
Answer: It means that the way to Heaven is now open. He did everything that is necessary. We don't need to contribute, but to receive salvation out of grace.
 3. **What does it mean that Jesus yielded up the ghost?**
Answer: He died. Note that His life was not taken from Him but that He *gave* His life. He was in control all the time.
 4. **What happened when Jesus died?**
Answer: The veil of the temple was rent from the top to the bottom, there was an earthquake and many dead people came back to life. The meaning of those signs (*explain shortly*):
 - Veil of the temple was rent. The veil in the temple was a curtain that separated two rooms: the holy and the holy of holiest (where God lived those days). No one was allowed to enter the holy of holiest, except from the high priest once per year. The curtain indicated that God and men are separate because of sin. When Jesus died, He took away the sin of His people so they can now be close with God because of Him. Because of Him we may boldly go to God in prayer. We read

about the meaning of the rent veil in Hebrews 9 and 10. If you want, read for the students Hebrews 9.2-12 to help them understand more about it. Note that the Bible tells us that the veil was rent from the top to the bottom.

- Earthquake. Earthquakes happened regularly in Israel. Sometimes those earthquakes taught people something. For example, God's power and presence (Psalm 68.7-8, Exodus 19.18, 1 Samuel 14.15) and God's wrath over sin (Isaiah 5.25, Nahum 1.5-6, 1 Samuel 14.15). When Jesus died, both God's power, presence and wrath over sin were seen in an earthquake that was so strong that rocks were split.
- Dead people rose from the dead. Through His death, Jesus conquered sin and death. He is the Conqueror. Because of His death, His people have eternal life (Romans 5.10). The Bible doesn't tell us much about those people. All we know is that they appeared to many as witnesses of Jesus' death and resurrection.

5. What did the centurion say?

Truly, this was the Son of God.

6. Are you convinced that Jesus is the Son of God?

Answer: Let them answer for themselves.

- Teach the students the importance of Jesus' death.
 - Jesus reconciles enemies and ungodly people with God (Colossians 1.21-23, Romans 5.6). Because of our sins, we are spiritually dead and God's enemies. By dying on the cross, Jesus took away sin. Because of Him, people can be cleansed from their sin and reconciled with God through faith in Jesus. Jesus reconciles enemies and God!
 - Jesus replaces sin with His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5.21, Titus 3.3-7, Galatians 3.10-13). Jesus is sinless. He took the sins and curse of His people so that they are right and blameless in God's eyes. Jesus does so out of grace and love, not because we have done something that pleases Him. It is a gift.
 - Jesus conquered sin and Satan (Hebrews 2.14-15). His people don't need to live in fear and bondage anymore.
- Tell the students that every year on Good Friday, we remember Jesus' death. Is Good Friday a good day or a bad day?
- Urge the students to find spiritual life in Jesus' death. He is the only way that we can be reconciled with God, instead of being far from God forever. Remember that Jesus reconciles sinners (enemies) with God. This means that we don't first need to be blameless people before Jesus can receive us. Even if we don't feel sorry over our sins, we need to run to Jesus because He alone, through His Holy Spirit, teaches us what we need to know.
- Remind them of the example of medicine: if we are sick, we need to use them, otherwise they won't benefit you. We need to make use of Jesus, otherwise His death won't benefit us!

4. Died – Romans 6.6 and 1 Peter 2.24 – case studies (20 minutes)

- Read Romans 6.6 and 1 Peter 2.24 for the students.
- Explain the meaning of those Bible verses. Everyone who believes in Jesus, has spiritually died with Him. This means that they are called not to serve themselves and sin, but to serve God through Jesus. Jesus died to give them spiritual life. Christians are called to serve God and not to serve sin and sinful desires any longer.
- Discuss the following case studies.

Esneli is 23 years old. She isn't married, but has had several boyfriends. She has 2 children, Elijah who is 4 years old and Daniel who is 1 year old. She struggles to feed her children. One day, she finds a job. The only condition to get the job is that she has to work on Sunday, so she won't be able to attend church. Esneli accepts the job. At church she says that she won't be able to come anymore because she will be going to another church.

1. In what way did Esneli serve sin?

Answer: She slept with men outside of marriage, she skipped church for work, and she lied. The Bible tells us to abstain from those sins.

2. What was she supposed to do instead of serving sin?

Answer: Romans 6.10-14. She is supposed to be Christ-like, which means to live as Christ lived. Jesus always obeyed God. God was most important for Him. Esneli should have lived a holy life, abstained from sin, asked people around her to help and, most of all, she should have prayed to God to help her live the way He wants her to.

Chisulo is 30 years old. He is married to Victoria. They don't have children. Chisulo is angry with Victoria. He thinks it's her fault that she has not yet given birth. Every night, he forces her to sleep with him and says, 'I've married the wrong person. If you don't bear me a child, I'll leave you and have a child with someone else'. To forget his problem, Chisulo drinks a lot of beer during the day. If he lacks money to buy it, he steals.

1. In what way did Chisulo serve sin?

He lived in the sins that are written in Mark 7.21-23: evil thoughts, adultery (just the thought of it is sin), an evil eye, theft, foolishness. Besides this, he was drunk (1 Corinthians 5.11). He's driven by his own desires.

2. What was he supposed to do instead of serving sin?

Answer: Romans 6.10-14. He is supposed to be Christ-like, which means to live as Christ lived. Jesus loves and lived a life according to God's will. Chisulo should have treated his wife with love, prayed together for a child, not threatened to leave her, not gotten drunk, and not stolen.

- Conclude by saying that Jesus died to pay for sin, so as His people, we are called to abstain from sin and live a life in obedience to God. The power to live a life in obedience to God comes from Jesus (Titus 2.14). We need Jesus to purify us so that we are eager to do what is right according to God.

5. Was buried (15 minutes)

- Briefly tell the story of Jesus' burial, as it is written in Matthew 27.57-66.
- Explain the meaning of Jesus' burial:
 - Jesus really died. He carried the sins of His people and their sins were buried with Him. Something that is buried is gone for good and it is powerless. God's people are set free from the power of sin: it will not lead them to destruction in hell.
 - For God's people, the grave isn't something to fear. It's like a bed where their bodies will rest until they'll be resurrected and be with God forever.

6. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today and say together: *I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was*

conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

- Pray.

Lesson 6 He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in lesson 5.

2. He descended to hell (15 minutes)

There are different opinions on this part of the creed. The original language of the creed says 'hades', which refers to both grave and hell. So, this part of the creed can have two meanings:

1. *Jesus' body has been in the grave while His soul was in His Father's hands.*
2. *Jesus has suffered hellish sufferings. He fully experienced God's wrath for sin. This was His deepest suffering; that's why it is stated at the end of this part of the creed.*

- Ask the students for their opinion of hell: what does it look like, who is there, etc.
Answer: Hell is the worst thing we can imagine. And it is forever. It is the place where Satan lives, along with everyone who has not repented and received forgiveness of sin (Matthew 25.41). It is a place of God's wrath and punishment for sin (2 Thessalonians 1.8-9).
- Jesus descended to hell to experience God's wrath for sin, so that His people will never have to suffer like that. He was forsaken by His Father (which is like hell, Matthew 27.45-46), so that His people will never be forsaken by God, even in the deepest sufferings in their lives (Psalm 94.14). Jesus is the Conqueror.
- Explain that everyone who hasn't received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour before he/she dies (or Jesus returns), will be sent to hell forever: no relief, but God's wrath forever.

3. The third day He rose again from the dead – Bible study (30 minutes)

- Read together Matthew 28.1-10 and discuss the following questions together or write them on the blackboard and tell the students to answer them in small groups.

Questions

1. Who went to Jesus' grave?
2. What did the angel do when he descended from Heaven?
3. What did the angel say to the women?
4. What did the angel command the women?
5. How did the woman react?
6. Who did the women meet when they returned from the grave?
7. What did Jesus say to them?

- After 10 minutes, discuss the answers together. The right answers are as follows:

1. Who went to Jesus' grave?

Answer: Mary Magdalene and another Mary.

2. **What did the angel do when he descended from Heaven?**

Answer: He rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3. **What did the angel say to the women?**

Answer: Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

4. **What did the angel command the women?**

Answer: And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

5. **How did the woman react?**

Answer: They were happy and obeyed.

6. **Who did the women meet when they returned from the grave?**

Answer: Jesus Himself.

7. **What did Jesus say to them?**

Answer: Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

- Conclude by saying that we remember Jesus' resurrection every year on Easter.

4. Game (optional, 10 minutes)

- Split the group into smaller groups. Write a word that is linked to Easter on the blackboard; for example, 'resurrection'. Tell the groups to form words by using letters from the word you've given them. Every group will be given a chance and given 1 point per word. For example, from the word resurrection, the words *sure*, *nor*, *rest*, *ten*, *section*, *nest* (and more) can be made.
- Do the same with 'He is not here' and 'Be not afraid'.

5. The third day He rose again from the dead – application (30 minutes)

- Explain that everything Jesus did, He did in the place of His people. So, what does Jesus' resurrection mean for His people?
 1. Jesus raises His people from spiritual death. He raises His people from spiritual death (life without God, Ephesians 2.5). They receive spiritual life because of His resurrection (Ephesians 2.1-10, Romans 5.10, Colossians 2.13). This is called 'being born again' (1 Peter 1.3, John 3.7, John 1.13).
 2. Jesus helps His people to live a God-pleasing life. God's people are called to abstain from living in sin (Romans 6.12-13). They are renewed so that they no longer love to sin, but love to obey God (Colossians 3.10, Ephesians 4.23-24, Romans 12.2). Note that their old, sinful life can trouble them (Romans 7.14-21), but it doesn't reign over them anymore. Through the power of the risen Jesus, His people fight against sin in themselves and in the world around them.
Through the conquering power of Jesus, His people learn to do the opposite of what they used to do: deceit → truth, adultery → faithfulness, witchcraft → God alone, hatred → love, covetousness → charity, pride → humility.
 3. Jesus will resurrect His people to live with Him in Heaven forever (1 Corinthians 15.20). God's people are sure of having eternal life with Him, because Jesus is alive. There's no need to doubt.
- Emphasize that people aren't renewed by their own strength, but by the power of the living Jesus who conquered sin and death.

6. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today and say together: *I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.*
- Pray.

Lesson 7 He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what we've learned about Jesus thus far.

2. He ascended to Heaven – Bible study (20 minutes)

- Read together Matthew 28.18-20. Explain that these words were spoken by Jesus before He went to Heaven. Ask the students what commandment Jesus has given according to verse 19 and how they obey that commandment.

Answer: Jesus wants His gospel to be preached all over the world.

- Read together Acts 1.6-11 and discuss together the following questions:

1. What did Jesus promise His people according to verse 6?

Answer: He promised the Holy Spirit so they could witness of Him all over the world.

2. What does it mean to be a witness of Jesus?

Answer: To proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God Who can and wants to forgive sins (He is the only Saviour) and restore people to a good relationship with God.

3. Can you also be a witness of Jesus? How?

Answer: We must preach the gospel of Jesus the Saviour. We must personally know the Lord Jesus in order to be a witness: we can't be a witness of Someone we don't know.

4. What happened to Jesus according to verse 9?

Answer: He was taken up to Heaven.

5. Who were the men in white clothes?

Answer: Angels.

6. What did the angels say to comfort the disciples?

Answer: They said that Jesus will come again.

- Conclude by saying that we remember Jesus' ascension every year on Ascension Day.

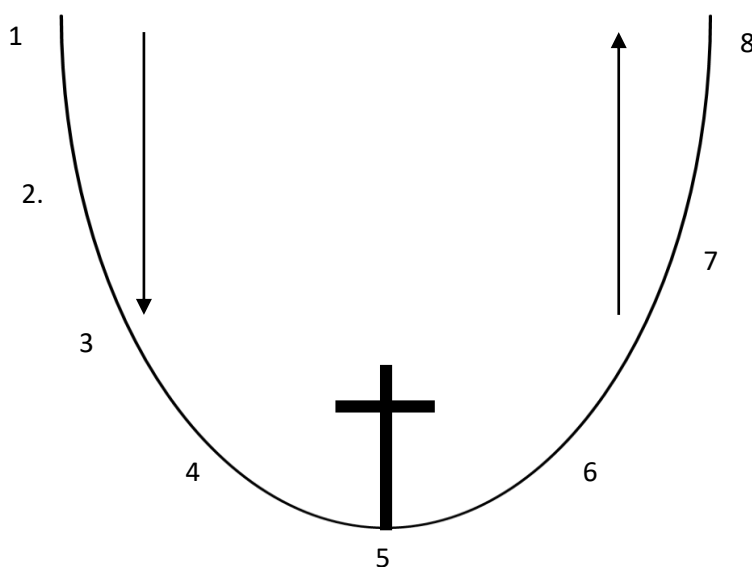
3. And is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty (15 minutes)

- Jesus' work on earth is done (John 19.30, John 17.4). He has gone back to God's glory in Heaven, where He received glory: He is close to God.
- Jesus is seated at the right hand of His Father (1 Peter 3.22, Hebrews 1.3, Mark 16.19). In Israel, the right hand was a place of favour and power. Those who sat at the right hand side of the Israelite kings, shared the same honour, power and glory as the king himself. When the Bible says that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, it means that He shares in the same honour, power and glory as God the Father. God the Father and God the Son are One.

- In Heaven, Jesus is not just resting, but makes sure that His accomplished work has effect: He applies His accomplished work to each of His people personally. (example of someone in prison. If the judge acquits someone, that person is declared free of any guilt and punishment and thereafter the cell doors will need to be opened so that the prisoner is indeed released).
- Ask the students what Jesus does while He's in Heaven.
Answer:
 1. He reigns (Ephesians 1.20-22, 1 Corinthians 15.25). Jesus is stronger than any enemy (Psalm 110.1 and 2, John 10.27-29).
 2. He sends His Holy Spirit to teach sinners to repent (feel sorry, confess, stop) and believe in Jesus (John 14.16-19, John 16.7-11, Acts 2.33).
 3. He prays and pleads for His people by God (John 17.9, John 17.20, Hebrews 7.25, 1 John 2.1) and prepares a place in Heaven for them (John 14.2-3, John 17.24).
- Everyone who is in Christ, doesn't need to fear, whatever happens. Our Head is in Heaven, so His body (His people) can't perish (think about someone in the water: as long as his/her head is above the water, he/she can't drown).
- God's people are called to live as citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3.20). This means to first seek God's Kingdom and to obey Him in every aspect of life.

4. Picture Jesus' humiliation and exaltation (10 minutes)

- Draw the following picture on the blackboard (as big as possible) and tell the students that this is a way to illustrate Jesus' wonderful work.



- Explain as follows. To get the students involved, let them write the explanation of the numbers on the blackboard:
 1. Jesus is God's Son. He has always been with God in Heaven (lesson 2 and 4)
 - Jesus was humiliated when He:
 2. Left heavenly glory and became man (lesson 4)
 3. Lived a life full of rejection on earth (lesson 4)
 4. Suffered under Pontius Pilate (lesson 4)
 5. Died on the cross (lesson 5)

Jesus was exalted and will be exalted when He:

6. Rose from the dead (lesson 6)
7. Returned to Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty (today's lesson)
8. Comes again to judge everyone and fully establish His Kingdom (today's lesson)

5. He will come again to judge the living and the dead (30 minutes)

- Remind the students of what the angels said to Jesus' disciples after His ascension to Heaven: This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven (Acts 1.11b).
- Ask the students if they've ever heard that Jesus will come again and, if yes, what they think that will happen before He returns, at the moment He returns and after His return.

Answer:

- Before Jesus returns: read Matthew 24.4-14 for them. Let them think about what is happening in the world around us and in our lives: those disasters Jesus spoke about, are happening everywhere, so Jesus is about to come. Be prepared, be reconciled with Him!
- At the moment Jesus returns: read Matthew 24.29-35 for them. Summarize these verses (there are more Bible verses on this topic, but don't go deep during this lesson)
- After Jesus' return: read Matthew 25.31-34 and Matthew 25.41 for them. Explain that Jesus will judge. He knows everything. He knows what is in our hearts. He knows if we've faithfully obeyed Him in our lives. If our sins are forgiven by Him, we'll be with Him in Heaven. If not, we'll be with Satan in hell. Everyone who has ever lived will be judged (Revelation 20.11-15). No negotiation, no pardon anymore, but final judgement based on the way you've lived (with or without Jesus).
- Tell the students that Jesus will come again any time. Are they ready? The only way to be ready to meet God is if we are God's friends through Jesus, instead of being His enemies (unrepented, not born-again, without forgiveness). When we are reconciled with God through Jesus, our names are written in the book of life.
- Ask the students if someone's name can be removed from the book of life when he or she sins.

Answer: No, God's people cannot be removed from the book of life. God keeps His people forever (John 6.39, John 10.28, John 18.9). When someone is forgiven, he or she is forgiven for good. This does not mean that God's people can live in sin (see lesson 6). When they live in sin, they disobey God and that has devastating consequences. They are forgiven and need to learn to live holy in God's eyes. If they love to do what God hates, it is a sign that in fact they have never yet been forgiven and that they are not one of God's people.

- Explain that Jesus' return is a big comfort for His people, because they know their Judge is their Friend, who has already set them free. He will completely set them free from all their enemies and take them with Him in heavenly joy and glory.

7. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today and say together: *I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again*

from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

- Pray.

Lesson 8 I believe in the Holy Spirit

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize lesson 7.
- Explain that we've learned about God the Father and God the Son, Jesus. Today we'll be learning about God the Holy Spirit.

3. The Holy Spirit – Who He is (20 minutes)

- Blindfold one of the students. Draw a picture on the blackboard and ask the blindfolded student to tell what you've drawn. He/she will fail to answer. Explain that everyone on earth is spiritually blind: unable to see the way God sees. Only those whose spiritual eyes are opened by God the Holy Spirit, are able to recognize themselves as sinners, God as holy and perfect and Jesus as their personal Saviour. Without the Holy Spirit, we're spiritually lost. The Bible teaches us that it is God Who takes the first initiative to save people. We believe and are saved, because He causes us to repent and believe in Him (Acts 13.48, 2 Thessalonians 2.13, Acts 2.47).
- Explain about God the Holy Spirit:
 - He teaches people to repent from their personal sins (to feel sorry, to confess, to stop) and to believe in Jesus for salvation (John 16.8-11, Zechariah 12.10, Acts 10.34-48).
The Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus (Who accomplished everything for sinners to be saved) and causes people to have faith in Jesus. Everything we need to be saved is given by God; even faith is given by Him (Ephesians 2.8). If you still want to contribute to your salvation, you won't be saved by Jesus! But He gives for free to those who solely depend upon His salvation. God provides everything out of grace. The Holy Spirit can change anyone, no one is hopeless. Ask Him!
 - He lives in God's people (e.g. 2 Corinthians 1.22, Galatians 4.6, John 14.15-26).
He helps them in their spiritual lives and daily lives, remains with them forever, purifies them, renews them in God's image, and strengthens them to be witnesses of Jesus.
- Conclude by saying that the Holy Spirit is like flashlight: a flashlight doesn't light itself, but only what it shines upon. The Holy Spirit doesn't draw attention to Himself, but to Jesus Christ: Who Jesus is and what He has done (John 16.13-14).

4. The Holy Spirit – Bible study (30 minutes)

- Read John 15.26-27 together and explain that we are called to be Jesus' witnesses. We must share the Gospel of Jesus with others. God the Holy Spirit equips His people to do so. The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus and also prepares God's people to testify of Jesus.
- Read Acts 2.1-13 together and answer the following questions together or in groups.

Questions

1. What day was it according to verse 1?
2. Which three things happened on the day of Pentecost, according to verses 2-4?

3. What happened when other people heard the disciples speak in different languages, according to verse 7?
4. What did the disciples of Jesus speak about in various languages?
5. How did the people respond when they heard the disciples speak in various languages?

- After 10 minutes, discuss the answers together. The right answers are as follows:
 1. **What day was it according to verse 1?**
Answer: the day of Pentecost.
 2. **Which three things happened on the day of Pentecost, according to verses 2-4?**
Answer:
 1. A sound from heaven as of a mighty wind filled the house (verse 2). Note that it was only the *sound* of a wind. The Bible compares the Holy Spirit with wind, because of the power and invisibility of both the wind and the Holy Spirit.
 2. Cloven tongues like as of fire sat upon the disciples (verse 3). Note that it was not real fire, but it *looked like* fire. In the Bible, fire often is a sign of God's presence and holiness that consumes all unholiness (e.g., Exodus 3.2, Exodus 19.18, Isaiah 66.15, Hebrews 12.29). The cloven tongues as of fire may be a sign of the pure and powerful preaching of the Gospel of Jesus.
 3. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke different languages (verse 4). Everyone around them could understand what they said about Jesus. Everyone had to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. We must tell everyone about Him.
Note that what happened at Pentecost, is different from what is often referred to as 'speaking in tongues'. At Pentecost Day, the disciples spoke different languages so that everyone could understand what was being said. Nowadays, when we hear about 'speaking in tongues', a language is used that no one understands, which brings confusion. Therefore:
 - Speaking in tongues is something between an individual and God to praise Him (1 Corinthians 14.2, 1 Corinthians 14.28)
 - We need to strive to do what benefits others, so we must speak what is being understood by them (1 Corinthians 14.9, 1 Corinthians 14.12-13, 1 Corinthians 14.18-19).
 - There needs to be explanation and examination of what is being spoken in tongues (1 Corinthians 14.26-29).
 3. **What happened when other people heard the disciples speak in different languages, according to verse 7?**
Answer: They were confused because they heard the disciples speak in their mother languages.
 4. **What did the disciples of Jesus speak about in various languages?**
Answer: The wonderful works of God (salvation of man through Jesus Christ). Notice that the Holy Spirit always draws the attention to the Saviour and not to Himself (as a flashlight)
 5. **How did the people respond when they heard the disciples speak in various languages?**
Answer: Some doubted about the meaning, others mocked.
- Read [Acts 16.16-18](#) together and answer the following questions together or in groups.

Questions

6. Read verse 16 again. Who did Paul and his friends meet when they went to prayer?
7. How did the servant girl earn money? In which verse did you find the answer?
8. What did the servant girl say when she followed Paul and his friends? In which verse did you find the answer?
9. Was it true that Paul and his friends were God's servants who taught about salvation?
10. What did Paul command the spirit?
11. Does this mean that the spirit was good or bad? What does the Bible say about having a spirit of divination?
12. Is it possible for a bad spirit to impersonate a good spirit?
13. What is the difference between the Holy Spirit and all other spirits?

- After 10 minutes, discuss the answers together. The right answers are as follows:

6. Read verse 16 again. Who did Paul and his friends meet when they went to prayer?

Answer: They met a servant girl with a spirit of divination.

7. How did the servant girl earn money? In which verse did you find the answer?

Answer: She earned money by predicting the future and soothsaying.

8. What did the servant girl say when she followed Paul and his friends? In which verse did you find the answer?

Answer: She said that they were God's servants and that they proclaimed the way of salvation.

9. Was it true that Paul and his friends were God's servants who taught about salvation?

Answer: Yes, that was true.

10. What did Paul command the spirit?

Answer: He commanded the spirit to leave in Jesus' name.

11. Does this mean that the spirit was good or bad? What does the Bible say about having a spirit of divination?

Answer: It was a bad spirit. God doesn't want His people to have the spirit of divination (e.g., Deuteronomy 18.10-11).

12. Is it possible for a bad spirit to impersonate a good spirit?

Answer: Yes, it is possible. Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11.14). We need to be very careful and test everything (1 John 1.1-3).

13. What is the difference between the Holy Spirit and all other spirits?

- The Holy Spirit is **God** (e.g., 2 Corinthians 13.14). God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are **one**.
- The Holy Spirit **glorifies Jesus** (John 16.14). He makes people repent from their sins and believe in Jesus. He makes people to know all of Jesus, not only a Jesus Who performed miracles. He teaches people about Jesus as:
 - Saviour. Jesus, God's Son, came on earth. He suffered, died on a cross and rose from the death to forgive sins. The only way to be restored in a good relationship with God is through Jesus. The purpose of Jesus is to bring people back into a good relationship with God by forgiving their sins. Jesus' purpose is not for us to have a comfortable, easy life.
 - Lord. Jesus reigns over the whole earth. He reigns over His people. He purifies them so that they become the way God wants them to be. He teaches people to glorify God in their lives.
- The Holy Spirit is **separated from evil** (Romans 8.5, 1 Corinthians 6.10 and 11). The Holy Spirit fights against sin and purifies people from it (Romans 8.13). Other spirits don't mind if people live in sin. Instead, they encourage people to sin. For

example, to love money (1 Timothy 6.10), to be proud (Psalm 138.6), to find out about the spiritual world (Leviticus 19.31, Isaiah 8.19, Leviticus 2.27, Deuteronomy 29.29), or to teach falsely (1 Timothy 4.1).

- Only the Holy Spirit can cause people to **bear spiritual fruit** (Galatians 5.22-23). Bad spirits can make counterfeit prophets (Matthew 7.15, 1 John 4.1), false teachers (2 Peter 2.1), perform false miracles (Matthew 24.24), bring a false gospel (Galatians 1.6 and 7). But they can't cause people to bear spiritual fruit in their lives. Those fruits come from God the Holy Spirit, because He renews and purifies people (1 Peter 1.2, 1 Corinthians 6.11, Romans 8.13). Therefore, we need to look at the fruits of someone's life. Do they show love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness and faith?

Ask the students if they recognize the spiritual fruits in their lives. If yes, glorify God for what He has given you. If not, pray God for His Holy Spirit to teach you. He is willing to give Him to you (Luke 11.13).

- Read Acts 2.21 for the students and explain that this was spoken by Peter on Pentecost Day. Explain the meaning of this Bible verse. To call upon the Lord means to believe and trust Him as the only hope for salvation from sin. Our only hope is not our repentance, our prayer, or our devoted lives, but Jesus!
- Tell the students that every year on Pentecost, we remember that Jesus sent His Holy Spirit.

5. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today and say together: *I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. From there He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit.*
- Pray.

Lesson 9 The holy, universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in lesson 8.

2. The holy universal church (20 minutes)

- Ask the students if they usually go to church and, if yes, why.
- Explain that a church means: a group of people gathered by God, who belong to Him. Use the example of a family: a family has members that form a family together. God's children form a congregation, God's church, together.
- Ask them if going to church causes someone to be a true Christian.
Answer: no. Just like going to a bakery doesn't turn you into bread or going to a garage doesn't turn you into a car. It is possible that there are people who come to church (building), but they don't belong to God's family (congregation, ekklesia). Example: if neighbours come to visit and sit next to you, they don't become a part of your family.
- Read John 10.14-16 for the students and explain that Jesus (not pastors/prophets) gathers, defends and preserves His people (Acts 20.28, Matthew 16.18, Colossians 1.18). He builds His church through His Word, the Bible, and His Holy Spirit, Who teaches people to repent and believe in Jesus so that they become members of God's family (Romans 1.16, Romans 10.14-17, Acts 2.42-47). Therefore, teaching the Bible must be the first priority of pastors.
- God's church is *holy*: it consists of people who are set apart by God to be His, to worship and obey Him (Ephesians 5.27, Ephesians 1.4).
- God's church is *universal*: God's family consists of people from all over the world, in many different churches, who are His (Revelation 5.9, 1 Corinthians 1.2).

3. Communion of the saints (20 minutes)

- Ask the students what a 'saint' is.
Answer: someone who is set apart by God to be His, a holy person who is cleansed from sin by God, someone who is separate from the world because of believing in Jesus (1 Corinthians 6.10-11, 1 Corinthians 1.2, Ephesians 2.19).
A saint, a child of God, can still sin (Galatians 5.17, Romans 7.18, 1 John 1.8). We are not perfect until we reach Heaven. Every day we need Jesus to cleanse and purify us (1 John 1.7, 1 John 1.9, Psalm 19.12).
This does not mean that it is normal for a child of God to live in sin continuously (Romans 6.1-2, Romans 6.14-15). Those who are forgiven from their sin, love God for the great gift of forgiveness through the blood of His Son Jesus. Therefore, they don't want to disobey God by sinning any longer.
Those who enjoy living in sin and don't fight against it, clearly show that they are not forgiven at all (1 John 1.6, Jude 1.4, Romans 3.8, 1 Peter 2.16).

- Ask the students what 'communion' is.
Answer: an intimate relationship.
- God's people have communion with:
 1. God Himself (1 John 1.3, 1 Corinthians 1.9, John 17.21, John 14.23). They are *His* people; they are of Christ. God speaks to them through the Bible, they speak to Him in prayer. Before they were saved by Jesus, they were far from God, now they are close (Ephesians 2.13).
 2. Each other (1 John 1.3, 1 John 1.7, Ephesians 2.19). They are in God's family; brothers and sisters. They are brothers and sisters, because God is their Father through Jesus Who brought them into God's family. This doesn't mean that everyone who *calls* himself/herself a brother/sister, is indeed in God's family, but only those who are born of the Spirit (John 3.6).
- Ask the students in what way born-again Christians have communion with each other.
Answer: e.g. encouraging each other, rebuking each other, teaching, loving, helping, praying together, doing Bible study together, fighting the spiritual war against Satan and sin together.

4. Game (15 minutes)

- Draw a head on the blackboard (no eyes, ears, nose and mouth).
- Ask several students to draw body parts connected to the head you've already drawn.
- Explain that all body parts look different. Some parts may look nice, others look less beautiful. Explain that Christians differ from each other: we all have different characters, different backgrounds, different qualities. However, we must love everyone in God's family as a brother/sister, because God, our Father, our Head, loves them.
- To clarify the explanation, read 1 Corinthians 12.12-26 for the students and explain that unity is very important. (Unity in Christ because Christ is the centre. No unity with those who deny the most important Bible truths).

5. The forgiveness of sins (30 minutes)

- Ask the students for the meaning of sin.
Answer:
 - Sin means to disobey God and to do what God has forbidden. God knows everything: our deeds, words and thoughts (Acts 1.24, Hebrews 4.13, Proverbs 15.3, Psalm 44.23).
 - Everyone was born with a sinful heart: we have the natural tendency to please ourselves instead of God. The Bible says that our hearts are the sources of our lives (Proverbs 4.23). Our feelings, desires and thoughts come from our hearts. Everyone sins, which means that everyone was born with a sinful heart (Job 15.14, Romans 5.12, 1 John 1.8). Everyone was born with feelings, desires and thoughts that contradict with what God wants. This means that everything we do is sinful. We are 100% sinful, not just a little bit. Therefore, everyone is guilty and under God's judgement (Romans 3.10-19, Romans 3.23).
 - We are 100% sinful and need Jesus to save us completely. Some people think that as people we are not as bad as it seems. They think that we can and must reach a certain level of righteousness and holiness through prayer and practice. They think that Jesus completes what we lack: we do our best to live according to God's standard and Jesus comes in when we fail. That is NOT what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that Jesus MAKES people righteous and holy by taking away their sin

(Romans 3.24, Romans 5.19, 1 Corinthians 6.11, Isaiah 53.11). The Bible does NOT teach us that God and men work together in salvation (remember lesson 1 and 5 in which we learned that we are spiritually dead and that spiritual life is a gift). We are righteous and holy because of being *in* Jesus, not because of trying our best. We must humble ourselves and agree that we have no hope for salvation within ourselves.

- Explain the result of any sin in our lives:
 - We deserve God’s wrath (Romans 3.10-19). We are guilty of disobedience and need to be punished.
 - We are cursed by God (Galatians 3.10). We lost God’s trust and protection and are now weak and vulnerable.
 - We are sent away by God to be far from Him (Matthew 7.23, Micah 3.4). We brought shame over ourselves and have humiliated ourselves. We are miserable, defiled and spiritually poor.
- Ask the students for the meaning of forgiveness.
 Explain that forgiveness means that God, because of Jesus, takes away someone’s sins and never thinks about it again.
 A sinner is under God’s wrath, cursed and separated from God. Something has to be done so that God can be satisfied. Jesus, God’s sinless Son, is the only One who was able to satisfy God, because He took sin and died on the cross to undo the result of sin. Forgiveness does NOT mean that God just forgets about it because of His mercy, it means that He who is also just and holy, is indeed satisfied by what was done. Jesus is a 100% Saviour of a 100% sinner. There’s no contribution from us in salvation!
 - Jesus is able and willing to take away God’s wrath upon us (1 Thessalonians 1.10, Romans 5.9-10). If we are in Jesus, we are free!
 - He is able and willing to take away God’s curse upon us (Galatians 3.13). If we are in Jesus, the God of angel armies is our Father and we don’t need to fear!
 - He is able and willing to bring us into a good relationship with God (Ephesians 2.13, 1 Peter 3.18). If we are in Jesus, we are God’s children who are close to Him!
- Everyone who is forgiven by Jesus, is holy. He/she can still fall into sin, but doesn’t want to live in sin (see part 3). When a sin is committed, it is crucial to confess it to God, to repent and ask for forgiveness.

6. The forgiveness of sins – a forgiving God – Bible study (20 minutes)

- Read Psalm 130 together and discuss the following questions together or in small groups.

Questions

1. What is meant by ‘the depths’ in verse 1?
2. Why did the one who wrote this psalm, call upon God?
3. Read verse 3 again and answer the question, ‘Who will stand if God marks our iniquities?’
4. Where does forgiveness come from?
5. What must we do in order to receive forgiveness?

- After 10 minutes, discuss the answers together. The right answers are as follows:

1. What is meant by ‘the depths’ in verse 1?

Answer: a miserable situation, problems, sins.

2. Why did the one who wrote this psalm call upon God?

Answer: God was his only hope.

3. Read verse 3 again and answer the question, 'Who will stand if God marks our iniquities?'

Answer: no one will stand (Romans 3.23).

4. Where does forgiveness come from? In which verse did you find the answer?

From God (verse 4). Forgiveness is a gift we cannot attain in our own strength by doing what is right, but it is something we receive from God through Jesus Christ.

5. What must we do in order to receive forgiveness?

Wait upon God (verse 5) (1 John 1.9)

1. Repent from our sins (to feel sorry, to confess each sin, to stop doing them)
2. Ask God to forgive us through Jesus Christ the Saviour
3. To believe in Jesus (depend on His salvation, surrender ourselves to Him)

7. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today and say together: *I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. From there He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins.*
- Pray.

Lesson 10 The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in lesson 9.

2. Resurrection of the body (20 minutes)

- Ask the students what happens when we die.
- Explain that:
 - Our soul immediately goes to Heaven or hell (Luke 16.22-23, Luke 23.43). There is no purgatory or state after death in which people can be cleansed from their sin. That's why our lives are so serious: it's preparation for either Heaven or hell.
 - Our body will be laid in a grave (you may discuss rituals that take place at funerals, discuss why they are done and evaluate them from a Biblical point of view. Don't take too long, but make the students aware that the Bible is our only directive in everything).
- In lesson 7 we learned that Jesus will come again. When He comes again, the dead will be raised. Everyone, no matter how that person died. God is almighty and able to do so.
- Everyone who dies, is judged immediately (see above) but everyone will also be judged when Jesus comes again (see lesson 7, Revelation 20.12). The first judgment is personal and the second will be public: everyone will see God's glory, justice and mercy for His people. This does not mean that the second judgment can differ from the first. There's no chance to get saved once we've died.
- Explain that everyone's bodies will be changed (1 Corinthians 15.42-44)
 - The bodies of God's people will be changed so that they are like Jesus' glorious body (Philippians 3.21).
 - The bodies of those who died without Jesus, will be changed so that they can endure eternal suffering in hell (Matthew 10.28, Mark 9.48).
- Explain that body and soul will be reunited to be in Heaven or hell forever. Our bodies are as important to God as our souls, so we must care for our bodies!

3. And the life everlasting – Bible study (20 minutes)

The students may have questions about the 144.000 mentioned in Revelation 7.4 and Revelation 14.1. Christians differ on how to interpret this number for various reasons. Therefore, do not to take long to discuss about it. Emphasize that the book of Revelation is a prophecy. We need to be careful when interpreting details.

The book of Revelation speaks about specific numbers of people, but also about a multitude before the throne of God (for example, Revelation 7.9). This means that before the throne of God there will be so many people that they can't be counted. We can therefore not say that only the 144.000 will be close to God in Heaven and the others will be living on the earth.

- Ask the students what everlasting life is, according to them.

Answer:

- To know God (John 17.3). If we know God through Jesus, Who is the Life (John 14.6), we have everlasting life. So everlasting life starts in this life!
 - To live a perfect life with God forever in Heaven.
- Explain that eternal life is only possible because of Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, they deserved death, and all of their descendants deserve death (which means to be separated from God forever). When Jesus came, He restored what we had lost. Because of Him, we can have eternal life. He *is* the Life (John 14.6).
 - Tell the students that God revealed to John what will happen in the future, after Jesus' second coming. Read together Revelation 21.1-8 and answer the following questions together.
 1. **Summarize what John saw.**
Answer: He saw everything renewed by God: heaven and earth. He saw God's Kingdom established and heard God speaking.
 2. **What will eternal life look like, according to verse 3 and 4?**
Answer: Intimacy between God and His people, life will be good (without diseases, death, etc). Heaven is the most wonderful place we can imagine.
 3. **Who is the Beginning and the End according to verse 6?**
Answer: God/Jesus. He is eternal. The Source of everything and the Destination.
 4. **What does God say of those who didn't repent from their sin?**
Answer: They'll be in hell forever. That is called the second death (their bodies have already died, now their soul will suffer for ever).
 5. **What does eternal death look like?**
Answer: It's worse than we can imagine, suffering in fire and brimstone, to be with Satan forever.
 6. **Where will you be in eternity?**
Answer: Let them answer for themselves.
 - Finish the Bible study by reading John 3.36 for them and urge them to find salvation and peace with God through Jesus Christ.

4. Amen (5 minutes)

- Ask the students the meaning of the word 'amen'. What do we use it for?
- Explain that 'amen' is a Hebrew word (Hebrew is an original language of the Bible) and it means: it is certain and true. It means that our confession is certain (without doubt) and true (according to the Bible).
- Tell them to be careful with using the word 'amen'; don't say it thoughtlessly, but only to confirm something that is certain and true.

5. Exam, optional (30 minutes)

- Let the students write the exam.
- Mark the exams. The correct answers are as follows:

1 B	3 A	5 B	7 C	9 C	11 A	13 A	15 A	17 B	19 C
2 A	4 C	6 C	8 A	10 B	12 A	14 B	16 C	18 C	20 A

6. Finish (5 minutes)

- Say together the Apostles' Creed: *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord Who was conceived by the Holy*

Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. From there He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- Urge them to be serious with what they believe and read the Bible!
- Pray.

Exam The Apostles' Creed

Name.....

1. What do we mean when we say 'I believe'?
 - A. We know that God exists and lives in Heaven.
 - B. We are convinced that the Bible is true and that Jesus has forgiven our personal sins.
 - C. We go to church every Sunday and give a tenth.

2. What is true about God?
 - A. God is eternal, Triune, holy and gracious.
 - B. God the Father has died on the cross.
 - C. The Holy Spirit is not God.

3. What is the meaning of the name Jesus?
 - A. Saviour
 - B. Master
 - C. Teacher

4. What is the meaning of the name Christ?
 - A. Shepherd
 - B. Saviour
 - C. Anointed (appointed and prepared by God)

5. What does it mean that Jesus is our Lord?
 - A. We know everything about Him.
 - B. He is our Owner and we want to obey Him.
 - C. He is eternal.

6. What is not true?
 - A. Jesus is 100% man and 100% God.
 - B. The Holy Spirit formed a body for Jesus to be born.
 - C. Joseph is Jesus' father.

7. Galatians 3.13 says, 'Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree'. What is meant by the curse of the law?
 - A. It means that it is illegal to cut trees.
 - B. It means that the law is bad.
 - C. It means God's curse over men, because of our disobedience to God's law.

8. Why did Jesus say, 'It is finished'?
 - A. Because He finished everything He had to do to save His people from their sins.
 - B. Because He was tired.
 - C. Because His enemies had won by killing Him.

9. After how many days did Jesus rise from the dead?
 - A. After 3 days.
 - B. After 4 days.
 - C. After 5 days.

10. What is Jesus doing in Heaven?
 - A. He rests and is waiting to come again.
 - B. He reigns, sends His Holy Spirit and prays for His people.
 - C. He sings God's glory.

11. What is not true about the Holy Spirit?
 - A. Without Him we can reach Heaven
 - B. He teaches sinners to repent and depend on Jesus for salvation.
 - C. He lives in God's people.

12. What do we remember on Pentecost every year?
 - A. The sending of the Holy Spirit.
 - B. Jesus' resurrection.
 - C. Jesus' ascension to Heaven.

13. Why do we say that God's church is *holy* and *universal*?
 - A. Because it consists of God's people from all over the world.
 - B. Because God's people meet at a special place to worship Him.
 - C. Because everyone is a member of God's family.

14. What do we confess when we say 'communion of the saints'?
 - A. We confess that God's people in Heaven are friends.
 - B. We confess that God's people have an intimate relationship with God and each other.
 - C. We confess that God's people partake of the Lord's Supper.

15. What happens when Jesus forgives our sins?
 - A. We are free instead of guilty, blessed instead of cursed, close to God instead of far from Him.
 - B. We go to Heaven immediately.
 - C. We will never sin again.

16. When will our bodies be resurrected?
 - A. We don't know.
 - B. Our bodies will not be resurrected.
 - C. When Jesus returns to earth.

17. What is everlasting life?
 - A. To be happy with whatever happens in our lives.
 - B. To know God through Jesus and live with Him in Heaven.
 - C. To live as long as we want.

18. Who has everlasting life?
 - A. Everyone who did the best he/she could in life.
 - B. We won't know until we die.
 - C. Everyone who believes in Jesus as his/her only, personal Saviour from sin.

19. Who are God's people?
 - A. Pastors and prophets.
 - B. People who can speak in tongues and do miracles.
 - C. Everyone who has received Jesus as his/her Saviour by grace.

20. Is there any chance we may reach Heaven in our own power?
 - A. No, we need to repent from our sins and ask God for forgiveness through Jesus.
 - B. Yes, if we do our best to live a better life.
 - C. Yes, if we obey the pastor and our parents.

Thank you!