

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES
QUARTER 1

The Bible — Welcome To God's Kingdom

Raymond and Pamela Williams
Beautiful Feet Ministries

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Raymond and Pamela Williams
Beautiful Feet Ministries
P.O. Box 80051
Springfield, Massachusetts 01138

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YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 1

THE BIBLE

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Bible is God's Word.

MEMORY VERSE: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,”
2 Timothy 3:16a.

The Bible is the Word of God. Our memory verse for this week is “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,” 2 Timothy 3:16a. The word *inspiration* is a Greek word that means God-breathed. What could that mean? **(Give time for answers.)** What this verse is saying is that all Scripture (Scripture is another word for the Bible) is God-breathed. God breathed His Word into the men who wrote the Bible, and they wrote what He told them to write. This makes the Bible different from every other book because it is inspired.

The Word of God is eternal. What do you think that means? **(Let someone answer.)** That means the Word of God will last forever. 1 Peter 1:25a says, “But the word of the Lord endureth forever.”

The Bible is different from any other book because it is God-breathed. God breathed His Spirit and His words into the forty different men who wrote the Bible. **(Ask the young people what they think a contradiction is. Let them offer ideas for a minute; then read the following definition).** A contradiction is saying the opposite of something else. It is one part disagreeing with another part. All the parts of the Bible agree with the other parts. Even though it took over 1600 years for those forty different men to write the Bible, there are no contradictions in it. Think about what a miracle that is!

God's Word is alive and brings you life as you read it, sing it, study it, think about it, or memorize it. Jesus said, “the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life” (John 6:63b).

The Bible is actually a big book that contains sixty-six smaller books. There are thirty-nine in the Old Testament part of the Bible and twenty-seven in the New

Testament part of the Bible. The Old Testament is the older part of the Bible and the New Testament is the newer part of the Bible.

(At this time, have the young people turn to a table of contents in a complete Bible. If complete Bibles are unavailable for all the children, then provide them with copies of a table of contents page. Show them how the Bible is divided into Old Testament and New Testament. Have them turn to the Old Testament and then the New Testament in their Bibles. Read the names of each book in the Bible with the young people, having them repeat the names after you. Show them that each book has a page number. Have them look up a Bible book with you; then show them how each book is divided into chapters and verses. Have them look up a chapter and verse or two. Of course, they won't remember every book name, but you are helping them to make sense of the Bible.)

(You can take a few moments to let the young people share what they have learned.)

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 2

THE BIBLE (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Bible is God's Word.

MEMORY VERSE: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,”
2 Timothy 3:16a.

Let's quickly review these points from last week:

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. This means that God breathed His Spirit into the men who wrote the Bible, and they wrote the words that God told them to write.
2. The Word of God will last forever.
3. God's Word is alive and brings us life as we read it, sing it, study it, think about it or memorize it.
4. The Bible is a big book made up of sixty-six smaller books—thirty-nine make up the contents of the Old Testament and twenty-seven make up the New Testament.

Psalm 119:1 says “Blessed *are*...[people]...who walk in the law of the LORD.” God's law can be found in God's Word. God's law and God's Word, the Bible, are the same thing. God says we will be blessed if we walk in His Word. What does it mean to walk in God's Word? Does that mean we should tie Bibles around our feet and walk around that way? **(Give time for answers.)**

Actually, there are four things we need to do to walk in God's Word. **(Have the young people repeat the following after each number.)**

1. Read God's Word.
2. Believe God's Word.
3. Do God's Word.
4. Speak God's Word.

(Repeat these again one at a time with the young people. Then have them say all four points together as a group. Quickly go through the list again asking what each point means—very briefly. Then have the group repeat the whole list again.)

1. Read God's Word, of course, means to read the Bible. 1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV) says "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." The Bible is your spiritual food. If you don't feed your spirit by reading the Bible, your spirit will be weak, starved, and never grow up. How often should you read your Bibles? Well, how often do you eat? Every day? Your spirit needs spiritual food every day too!

A good place to start, if you've never read the Bible before, is by reading the New Testament. Start at the beginning of the New Testament and read through from the beginning to the end—a little every day. After that, you can read the Old Testament.

What are the four things we need to do to walk in God's Word. **(Go through them again.)**

1. Read God's Word.
2. Believe God's Word.
3. Do God's Word.
4. Speak God's Word.

Number 2 is what? Believe God's Word. What is a blessing? The definition of a blessing is that good things happen, right? Well, blessings or good things happen for people who believe God's Word, and bad things happen for people who refuse to believe God's Word. God has many promises for us in His Word, but unbelief in our hearts will keep those promises from coming true for us (Hebrews 3:12). God promises us that, if we believe and trust Him, we will be blessed.

What are the four things we need to do to walk in God's Word? **(Repeat one at a time and then all four together with the young people.)** 1. Read God's Word. 2. Believe God's Word. 3. Do God's Word. 4. Speak God's Word.

Next week we will talk about #3 Do God's Word and #4 Speak God's Word.

Any questions? What did you learn this week?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 3

THE BIBLE (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Bible is God's Word.

MEMORY VERSE: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,”
2 Timothy 3:16a.

Last week we found out there are four things we need to do to walk in God's Word. **(Again, go through these one at a time with the young people and then all together a couple of times.)**

1. Read God's Word.
2. Believe God's Word.
3. Do God's Word.
4. Speak God's Word.

Last week we talked about (1) Read God's Word and (2) Believe God's Word. This week we will talk about (3) Do God's Word and (4) Speak God's Word. What do you think (3) Do God's Word means? **(Give time for answers.)** Let's read a story from the Bible. **(Read Matthew 7:24-29.)** In this story, both the wise man and the foolish man heard the Word of God. What made one wise but the other foolish? **(Answers.)** The foolish man heard the Word of God but didn't do the Word of God. The wise man both heard God's Word and did God's Word. We can learn several things from this story. God expects us both to hear and to do what He tells us in His Word, not to hear only. God expects us to obey Him. As we obey Him, He will protect us.

So far, we have talked about (1) Read God's Word, (2) Believe God's Word, (3) Do God's Word. What is number (4)? Speak God's Word. There is power in speaking God's Word.

In Isaiah 55:11 (NIV), God says, “so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” God's Word returns back to Him in the same way that rivers return to the oceans. God's Word returns back to Him and

makes great things happen along the way. Where does God's Word return to Him from? It returns to Him from you and me when we speak God's Word.

The Bible calls God's Words seeds (Luke 8:11). When you speak God's Words and words that are in agreement with God's Words, you are planting good seeds. Those good seeds grow and make good things happen in your life. When you speak the devil's words or anything that isn't true according to God's Word, you are planting weed seeds. Weed seeds can grow up and choke out the good plants (Matthew 13:7, 25). Then bad things can happen.

The Bible says the power of life and death are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21). Learn what God's Word says about you and speak those words.

Of the following statements, what would God's Word say and what would the devil say?

(1) By Jesus' stripes I am healed and God promises me long life.

(1 Peter 2:24; Psalm 91:16)

or

(2) I guess I'm going to get cancer and die next week.

(1) I must be stupid and I'm sure God hates me.

or

(2) I have the mind of Christ and the Bible says God loves me.

(1 Corinthians 2:16; John 3:16)

(1) I'm afraid the "boogie man" will get me.

or

(2) God's Word promises me that God's angels are taking care of me.

(Psalm 91:11-12)

When your words agree with the devil's words, you and the devil are planting a crop of bad things for you to reap. When your words agree with the Bible, you are planting yourself a crop of good things.

Which of these words do you think the devil wants you to say? "Oh, I guess the devil is going to mess up my life!" or "Go away devil and leave me alone, in Jesus' Name!" **(Let the young people answer.)** Okay then, let's be paying close attention to what is coming out of our mouths.

What did you learn this week?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 4

SALVATION

THEME OF THE WEEK: Asking Jesus to be our Lord is our ticket to heaven.

MEMORY VERSE: In John 14:6 Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”

If you wanted to take an airplane trip, would you be allowed to board the plane by using a train ticket? **(Answers.)** Why not? **(Answers.)** But maybe you paid a lot for that train ticket. Is this fair? Some people work hard doing good things in the hopes that God will let them into heaven when they die. They hope that good works and maybe even acting religious will be their tickets into heaven. But doing these things is not the right ticket to get into heaven. The right ticket to get into heaven is asking Jesus to be your Savior and Lord. Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior and Lord? We will call asking Jesus to be your Savior and Lord your Jesus ticket.

There are four things you need to know and three things you need to do to get and keep your Jesus ticket. The four things you need to know are these:

- #1. God loves you (John 3:16). Say this with me, “God loves me.”
- #2. Everybody in the world has sin and is separated from God (Romans 3:23). Sin is bad stuff in us which causes us to do the bad things we do. Say this with me, “I have sinned and am separated from God if Jesus isn't my Lord.”
- #3. Jesus Christ, God's Son died in my place to pay for my sins. That means Jesus took the punishment we deserved when He died in our places on a wooden Cross. God the Father raised Jesus from the dead after three days (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40). Say this with me, “Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in my place for my sins. Father God raised Jesus from the dead after three days.”

#4. You must repent (tell God you're sorry) for your sins (the bad things you've done) and receive or ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart to be your Savior and Lord if you want to go to heaven (Acts 2:38; Romans 10:4-10). Say #4 with me, "I must repent (tell God I'm sorry for my sins) and receive Jesus Christ by asking Him to come into my heart to be my Savior and Lord if I want to go to heaven."

Let's sum up the four things you need to know if you want to go to heaven: "Jesus loves me, but I do wrong things, so Jesus died for me. I'll be saved if I ask Jesus to come into my heart by asking Him to be my Lord." Let's read Romans 10:9-10. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

The three things you need to do to be saved are these:

1. Believe with your whole heart that these things are true and really mean what you're saying when you ask Jesus to be your Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10).
2. Ask Jesus to be your Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10).
3. Live for Jesus the rest of your life (John 3:16) (AMP). The Bible will tell you how to do that.

These last three points can be summed up this way. (1) Believe in Jesus. (2) Receive Jesus. (3) Live for Jesus.

If you're ready to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord, pray these words with me now. Remember to mean what you're saying!

"Heavenly Father God, I'm sorry for my sins—for the bad things I've done. Please forgive me. Jesus, I know you died for me—to forgive me of my sins. I also believe that Father God raised you from the dead after three days. Jesus, come into my heart and save me. Be my Savior and Lord and help me live my life for you. Thank you. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Turn to someone now and say "Jesus is my Savior and Lord."
Next week we'll find out why Jesus needed to die for our sins.

How were you blessed during God this week's lesson?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 5

SALVATION (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: Asking Jesus to be our Savior and Lord is our ticket to heaven.

MEMORY VERSE: In John 14:6 Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: John 3:16; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8; Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20

Last week we learned that God loves us, but that we have all sinned (done wrong) and are separated from God until Jesus becomes our Savior. Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in our places, taking the punishment we all deserve. After Jesus, the Son of God, had been dead for three days, His Father God brought Him back to life again. To be saved, we must ask God to forgive us and ask Jesus to be our Savior and Lord. But why are people separated from God by sin, and why did Jesus need to die for us to bring us back to God?

We look to the Bible for the answers to these questions. (The following narrative is gleaned from Genesis, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.) In the beginning, thousands of years ago, God created everything there is, including a man, Adam, and a woman, Eve. God blessed them and gave them authority over every living thing on earth. He told them to be fruitful, to multiply, and to fill the earth with people. All people everywhere come from Adam and Eve.

God made a garden, called the Garden of Eden, and put Adam and Eve there to live. In the garden, God placed two special trees. One was the Tree of Life; the other, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam and Eve that they were not to eat of this second tree. If they did, God said that they would surely die.

Before God made the world, God had prepared a place called Heaven. He had also made angels. These angels served and worshiped God. One of the chief

angels called Lucifer became proud and rebellious. He wanted to take God's place. He got some other angels to follow him. Probably long before God created the first people God punished Lucifer and his angel followers by casting them out of Heaven.

Lucifer, who is the devil, hated God. He desired to “get even” by destroying God's new creation. He came into the garden in the form of a snake. He tricked Eve into eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eve gave some of the fruit to Adam, who was with her, and he ate some also.

The disobedience of Adam and Eve was the first human sin. God made them leave the Garden of Eden. He knew that they would be tempted to eat of the Tree of Life and would then live forever in their sins.

Since that time, all their descendants, all people from that time until now, are born with a sinful nature, a desire to sin. It does not take long in a person's life for him or her to want to do wrong. Because of their sin, the curse of God came upon this first family.

God loves people. When He sent Adam and Eve out of the garden He promised that He would send a Savior to deliver people from the curse of sin. People waited for the Savior to come and free them from the judgment of sin.

About 2,000 years ago, God fulfilled His promise. God's angel, Gabriel, visited a young virgin named Mary, to tell her that God had chosen her to be the mother of God's Son, Jesus. Because Mary was a virgin and was to stay a virgin until after the birth of Jesus, she asked how she could get pregnant. The angel explained to her that God the Holy Spirit would plant Jesus in Mary's womb.

Jesus, born in Bethlehem, lived for 33 years mostly in the land of Israel. He grew up, a child of Mary, his mother, and his step-father Joseph. Jesus lived a sinless life. He healed the sick and did many wonderful miracles. Many people loved Jesus and followed Him.

Some religious rulers became jealous of Jesus. One day, they grabbed Him. After an unfair trial they sentenced Him to die by being nailed to a large wooden cross. After three days in a grave, Jesus, the Savior of the world, rose from the dead. He came out of the grave and showed Himself to His disciples and friends. He was taken up into heaven, where He is today.

Jesus, the Son of God, died for a reason. He could have saved Himself. He chose to die and suffer the punishment of sin for each of us. He was judged by God, His Father, with the judgment we deserved. He bore or carried away our sins when He was crucified and died on the Cross. What sin destroyed in the Garden of Eden, Jesus bought back for us. He bought our tickets to heaven for us.

Now you can understand why Jesus needed to die for us and why no person, no matter how good he or she is, is free from the stain of sin. Just as you look like your parents, we all look like our first parents, Adam and Eve, in the area of sin, until Jesus frees us from that curse.

Next week, we will learn more about Jesus, the Son of God.

What did you learn this week?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 6

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD

THEME OF THE WEEK: Two kingdoms are at work in the world today: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil.

MEMORY VERSES: “[S]urely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”
Luke 11:20b (NKJV); “For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”
Luke 17:21b (NKJV).

Who can tell us what a passport is? (**Get answers.**) A passport is a piece of paper which gives someone permission to enter into a foreign country. Perhaps you have never prayed to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. But today you stand at the gateway of the land of His Kingdom. Christ is offering you the passport that will give you permission to enter.

Perhaps you have entered the gate to God's Kingdom by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, but you don't understand His laws or how to find your way around. You will begin to learn your way around if you continue to come to our meetings.

The place to start is to find the gate. There is only one gate that enters into God's Kingdom. Luke 13:24 says to [s]trive to enter through the narrow gate." So where is the narrow gate? Christ explains in John 10:9 that He is the gate or door and in John 14:6 He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.", and continues by saying “No one comes to the Father except through Me” (NKJV).

You are blessed because God has led you to the gateway of His great and everlasting Kingdom and He promises that anyone entering His gate will be saved (John 10:9). Will you choose to enter the gate? To enter, you must first allow God to give you a new spirit. This is called being born again (John 3:3; John 3:5&15).

We can tell you about the Kingdom of God in the same way that we can tell you about a distant country. Until you go to that country for yourself, you can't see it for yourself.

You are already living in a kingdom now. According to the Bible, there is the Kingdom of light or God's Kingdom and the kingdom of darkness or the devil's kingdom. The whole world system is under the power of the devil's kingdom (John 12:31; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

The simple answer as to why bad things happen is that Satan (the devil) is the king of this world system. Satan is a cruel ruler. In his kingdom you live in a fallen world and evil is all around you. But you can enter a different kind of kingdom—a kingdom where the ruler is merciful and kind—a kingdom in which the ruler loves you and has a plan for your life. The ruler of that kingdom is, of course, Father God and His Son, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit rules with them and comes to live inside us, so that He may set up God's Kingdom in our lives. If Christ is your Lord, then you have protection from the devil because the Holy Spirit in you and around you is stronger than the devil (1 John 4:4; Philippians 2:9-11).

Where is God's Kingdom? Jesus said, “the kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:20-21).

Christ empowered his disciples to preach, teach, heal the sick, cast out devils and do other amazing miracles. As they were doing God's work, they were to tell people, “The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you” (Luke 10:9).

If you have accepted God's passport into the Kingdom of God, then you are a disciple too. You carry God's Kingdom everywhere you go. God's Kingdom is found in God's people and works through them in the earth today. When Christians use the authority that Christ has given us to use over the devil's kingdom, people will be set free from the devil's power and they will give glory to God. Jesus will come again someday to rule and reign over the whole earth, but in the meantime He tells us to occupy until He comes (Luke 19:13). To occupy is a military term that means to take ground from the enemy and not to give it back.

What did you learn this week?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 7

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: Two kingdoms are at work in the world today: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil.

MEMORY VERSES: “[S]urely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”
Luke 11:20b (NKJV); “For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”
Luke 17:21b (NKJV).

Every kingdom has a king and every kingdom has a people. God's people are the people who have become born again by praying to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. God's people are people who invite other people to enter God's Kingdom. Inviting other people into the Kingdom is called witnessing to people or sharing the Gospel.

God's people please God and bring glory to Him by obeying the Holy Spirit who lives in them. God's people obey the rules or laws of the Kingdom. God's people are very special to God and have important work to do on this earth. Let me read you a little of what the Bible says about you if you are a Christian: “[We] give thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,” (Colossians 1:12-13 NKJV); “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:5-6a NKJV); “But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who *were* once not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJV); Christ says of His followers that you “are not of this world, just as I (Christ) am not of this world.” (John 17:16 NKJV).

God's people put God first. “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise

the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (money).” “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:24, 33 NKJV).

If God's people don't make God #1 in their lives, they can become slaves to the world system. 1 John 2:15a&17 tells us “Do not love the world or the things in the world....the world is passing away...but he who does the will of God abides [lives] forever” (NKJV). “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,” (Romans 12:2 NKJV).

To be really successful in God's Kingdom requires work! You must press into the things of God. “Since...the kingdom of God has been preached,... everyone is pressing into it” (Luke 16:16b NKJV).

God's people walk by faith in an invisible God, not by what their eyes see, “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

What did you learn this week?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 8

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: Two kingdoms are at work in the world today: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil.

MEMORY VERSES: “[S]urely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”
Luke 11:20b (NKJV); “For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”
Luke 17:21b (NKJV).

Remember, you are each ambassadors whose home country is heaven. God is your King and the ideas, thoughts, and views that you speak to this foreign government—the world—need to be from the Bible. God's people must live in this world, but their citizenships are in heaven. God makes you ambassadors of His Kingdom to this earth. If you were an ambassador sent from this country to another country (a foreign country), then your job would be to speak your own country's ideas, thoughts, and views in that other country. You would not speak about your own private ideas, but only the words given to you from your own country's government.

If you were an ambassador for your country who said things such as, “I know my government says this, but that is wrong—this is how I think things ought to be,” then you wouldn't be an ambassador for very long. You would be considered a traitor. You would be called home and a better ambassador would take your place.

When people say they are Christians but speak things that disagree with the Bible and live their lives as though what God says in the Bible doesn't matter, then they are committing treason against God and the Kingdom of God. They are being bad ambassadors. God doesn't call them home right away, but someday when they die, if they've not repented first, they will have to answer to God for their bad ambassadorship. Let's all ask God to help us to be the best ambassadors we can possibly be. The world only needs to hear our ideas when our ideas agree with the Bible. 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV) tells us, “we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading [to people] through us.”

What is the world's attitude toward the Kingdom of God? If Satan is king of the world system, do you think he wants God's Kingdom and God's people invading his kingdom or territory? Here are a few Bible Scriptures to show you the world's attitude toward God's Kingdom people.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV) says "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

But our attitude is to be: "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" Matthew 5:11-12 (NKJV).

Unsaved people (people without Christ) don't understand you, and they don't understand the Bible. Before a person is saved or born again, his spirit is dead. The Bible can only really be understood by people whose spirits are alive.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV) shows us "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

So don't be surprised when people don't understand the love and excitement you have for Christ after you're born again. Sometimes even family members will persecute you because you've decided to follow Jesus.

(Teacher, read Matthew 10:32-40 out loud as young people listen or follow with you.)

Can you say in thirty seconds or less what today's lesson has meant in your life?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 9

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: Two kingdoms are at work in the world today: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil.

MEMORY VERSES: “[S]urely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”
Luke 11:20b (NKJV); “For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”
Luke 17:21b (NKJV).

When you became a Christian, at that time Christ began to prepare you to rule and reign with Him when He returns to earth. Let's look at some Scriptures about the Second Coming of Christ. **(Together read Daniel 2:31-35.)**

The statue represents some important earthly kingdoms. The stone that struck and destroyed the statue and that became a mountain that filled the whole earth is God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom will someday fill the whole earth.

Let's read some more Scriptures about God's coming Kingdom **(Read Psalm 2:7-12 as a group.)** The Son here is Christ. The nations will be given to Him. He will destroy godless human government and set up His own godly Kingdom on this earth.

Let's read Revelation 2:26-27 (NKJV): “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—He [Jesus] shall rule them with a rod of iron; As the potter's vessels shall be broken to pieces.—...”; and let's read Revelation 11:15 (NKJV): “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”

Isn't that exciting? But how can you rule and reign with Christ when He comes back if you won't be serious about your commitment to Him now? If you're not serious with God, the devil will quickly pull you back into his kingdom.

A serious Christian will want to be baptized in water publicly (in front of people) to show God and people that he really meant what he said when he committed his life to God by praying to receive Christ (Romans 10:9-10). A serious Christian will ask God to baptize him or fill him with God's Spirit to help him have the power he needs to walk and to be a witness in God's Kingdom.

A serious Christian will read his Bible every day, pray every day, and attend a Bible preaching church every Sunday and go to midweek church services or home group nights if his church has them.

A serious Christian will share his faith in Christ openly. This means to tell others about Christ as God gives the opportunities.

If you haven't been a serious Christian, ask God to forgive you and decide you're going to get serious starting right now. If you are a citizen of the Kingdom of God, act like a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

Remember that a passport is a piece of paper which gives a person permission to enter into another (a foreign) country. Maybe you're still standing at the gate of God's Kingdom. Christ is offering you a passport to get in. Will you accept it?

These are the things you need to know and to do to get your passport:

- 1) Understand that God loves you (John 3:16)!
- 2) You have sinned and are separated from God (Romans 3:23).
- 3) Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in your place for your sins. Father God raised Jesus from the dead after three days (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40).
- 4) You must repent of your sins and receive Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20).

If you want to receive Christ's free passport, then pray the following prayer from your heart. Romans 10:9-10 tells us that confession is made unto salvation. In other words, you will need to pray out loud.

“Heavenly Father God, I am sorry for my sins; please forgive me. Jesus Christ, please come into my heart and life to be my Savior and Lord. Thank you Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

Now turn to someone and say “Jesus is my Lord.” Now turn to someone else and say “Jesus is my Lord.”

What did you get out of today’s message?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 10

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: Two kingdoms are at work in the world today: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil.

MEMORY VERSES: “[S]urely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”
Luke 11:20b (NKJV); “For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”
Luke 17:21b (NKJV).

When you become a Christian, you are a brand new person. Second Corinthians 5:17 teaches us that “if anyone *is* in Christ, *he* is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” Once you become a Christian, you don't live by the same rules as the unbelievers around you. When you prayed to receive Christ as your Savior and Lord, you gave yourself to God. With Christ's Blood and saving sacrifice on the Cross, God bought you—think about that—He bought you and saved you from slavery to sin and the world system. Some people think they were free people before Christ saved them, but they were actually in slavery to sin (Romans 6:6; 7:14; Jeremiah 2:20). We were all born sin's slaves. Only when we prayed to receive Christ, were we released from being chained up to sin to serve sin. Christ cut the chains and set us free. As long as we serve our new King, Jesus, sin can't catch us to make us slaves again, but if we turn away from following Christ, sin will catch us and drag us off into slavery again.

God gave you a brand new spirit and spiritual heart when you received Christ as your Savior and Lord, and you became a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 18:31; Ezekiel 36:26). When you receive Christ, you automatically receive the Holy Spirit, Who is your Counselor, Comforter, and Teacher. The Holy Spirit moves into you, causing you to become a temple, or a religious building, for God.

The Bible says you are not your own—you are bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23). You are not your own, living to please only yourself anymore; you are living safely in your Heavenly Father's care. Just think about it—the devil doesn't have the right anymore to drag you to hell!

Let's read John 10:10 together. As we read it, keep in mind that Christ is doing the speaking, He is the One who says He's giving you abundant (a full overflowing, blessed) life and the devil is the thief.

John 10:10 (NKJV): “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.”

It is your responsibility to learn how to take authority over the devil and get him away from you and your stuff, and it is also your responsibility to find out how to receive or get an abundant life from God. Everything doesn't automatically come to you just because you are a Christian. You must make yourself learn about and use the Kingdom rules. It takes a great amount of time, study, and work, but the amount of those things (time, study, work) that you put in will make up the amount of wonderful things you get back out of your Kingdom life on this earth.

(Read): Matthew 6:33 (NKJV), “But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

What did you learn today?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 11

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: Two kingdoms are at work in the world today: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil.

MEMORY VERSES: “[S]urely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”
Luke 11:20b (NKJV); “For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”
Luke 17:21b (NKJV).

God's Kingdom is in heaven and on earth. God's Kingdom on earth operates within the same land territory as the devil's kingdom. Think of the world as a giant spider web and Satan as a giant spider. Satan is only a fallen angel and so can't be everywhere as God can be. Satan, however, does have a huge army of evil spirits to help him. Think of these evil spirits as vicious little spiders who are out to catch people.

Satan hates God; therefore he hates people because they are God's most beloved creation. Salvation, through Christ, is available to people, not fallen angels. Satan, in jealous anger, wants to drag you to hell with him. People choose hell by rejecting Christ.

If you are now part of God's Kingdom, a citizen of heaven, because you have asked Jesus to be your Savior and Lord, then dress yourself in God's spiritual armor of Ephesians 6:10-18. **(Read this portion of Scripture together.)** Although Satan certainly uses people to try to harass God's people, 2 Corinthians 10:4 shows us that the real battle is spiritual. Don't argue or fight with people; pray for them. Satan is using them as puppets for his evil plans. Learn how to fight a spiritual battle.

James 4:7-8 (NKJV) says, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” If you try to live by the rules of both kingdoms, sometimes for God, sometimes for the devil, often for the world, but usually for yourself, you will quickly wander onto the

devil's territory—his land—and out from under the covering of God's protection. The devil can make a quick meal of you.

A spider lays out its web to catch careless insects. It paralyzes them with its poisonous fangs and then wraps the victims in tight, cocoon shaped webbing. After its poison melts his victim's insides, it sucks the liquefied life out of his prey. Once finished, he casts the lifeless bodies tossed about like litter.

The great spiritual spider, Satan, catches his victims when he tempts people to not trust God anymore or to not believe the Bible anymore or to decide not to go to church anymore. Even people who think they are working for Satan are victims themselves. Satan's human workers mean nothing to him.

Also, remember that Satan can at times disguise himself to look like an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) who can even trick some of God's people when they're not careful (Mark 13:22). Our safety is in staying close to God and in resisting the devil (James 4:7-8). Remember, there won't be any partying in hell, only eternal suffering in a lake of fire. God doesn't send anyone to hell. People send themselves there by their rejection of Christ.

What did you learn from today's lesson?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 12

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF ME?

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Christian life requires us to find out how God wants us to live our lives and to live that way.

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 6:4b “[W]e...should walk in newness of life.”

God expects a lot of you, but that's because He knows you can be all He created you to be. The Bible says about you and me in Philippians 4:13 that “I [we] can do all things through Christ who strengthens me [us].” You can do all the things God tells you to do. God says you can!

God also says He will spit lukewarm Christians out of His mouth, so let's ask Him to “fire us up” for Him, and let's decide to stay that way. Being “on fire” for God doesn't mean being excited all of the time, but it does mean being serious about our commitment.

If you're serious about your commitment to God, you will want to know what God expects of you. Because of Christ's Blood, we are free from having to keep what is called the ceremonial and the civil laws of the Old Testament. These are laws that had to do with only the nation of Israel before Christ died on the Cross. We live under the New Covenant or New Testament. But even under the New Testament we are still required to obey the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament. The reason is very simple. The Ten Commandments are a mirror of Who God is—His Character. Character is what someone really is. Who God is doesn't change. Being moral means doing right. God is moral and He expects us to be moral as well. God says for us to be holy (to be and do right), as He is holy (to be and do right) (Leviticus 11:44; 20:7). God expects you to allow Him to build His moral character into you.

Let's read the Ten Commandments together. **(Read Exodus 20:1-17 straight through, slowly, but without explanations.)**

Now, let's go back and talk about each one of those commandments. **(Read each one. As you do, begin by asking what the young people think the passage means and afterward explain what still needs to be explained.)**

#1 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

#2 Thou shalt not worship any graven image.

#3 Thou shalt not take God's Name in vain. **(Explain that this includes more than cursing. It also includes speaking the words *God* or *Jesus Christ* mindlessly such as when people say, "Oh God!" etc, and this applies to euphemisms for God or Jesus Christ, such as *gosh, golly, gee (Jesus)whiz*, and even such terms as *bloody* (British – from the Blood of Christ), etc.. Also, whenever we use a Bible Name for God, we need to use it with awareness and respect for who God is.)**

#4 Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.

#5 Honor your father and mother.

#6 Thou shalt not kill. (Strong's Greek N.T. Dictionary of the Bible #7523 *ratach* means to commit murder. This commandment is quoted by Christ in Matthew 19:18 [NKJV] when He says: "You shall not murder").

#7 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

#8 Thou shalt not steal.

#9 Thou shalt not bear false witness.

#10 Thou shalt not covet. **(Explain that the word covet is not simply the desire for something, but rather it is the desire for something that belongs to someone else.)**

The first four commandments speak of our relationships to God, the last six of our relationships to people. Christ said, therefore, that all ten commandments and indeed the entire Old Testament (Matthew 22:40) could be summed up in just two simple commandments.

#1 Toward God, He says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37) (NKJV).

#2 Toward people, He says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39) (NKJV).

It's not hard to see that if we are serious about these two commandments, we will keep the Sabbath day holy, not steal from people, etc..

Christ said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15 (NKJV).

Let's finish up by reading Matthew 5:17-20 together. **(Read now.)** Remember that God expects us to do our best, but when we fail, we can ask for forgiveness and God forgives.

1 John 1:9 instructs and comforts us with these words: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

What did you learn from today’s lesson?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 1 LESSON 13

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF ME? (continued)

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Christian life requires us to find out how God wants us to live our lives and to live that way.

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 6:4b "We...should walk in newness of life."

Last week we learned that God still expects us to keep the Ten Commandments:

- #1 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- #2 Thou shalt not worship any graven image.
- #3 Thou shalt not take God's Name in vain.
- #4 Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.
- #5 Honor your father and your mother.
- #6 Thou shalt not kill.
- #7 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- #8 Thou shalt not steal.
- #9 Thou shalt not bear false witness.
- #10 Thou shalt not covet.

Christ said the Ten Commandments could be summed up in just two commandments:

- #1 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" Matthew 22:37 (NKJV).
- #2 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" Matthew 22:39 (NKJV).

Christ does expect you to study the New Testament to find out His definition of what it really means to love God and to love your neighbors. The only way you can safely know your life is pleasing to God is by living according to New Testament Christian standards. Of course, you can't possibly know what those

Christian standards are if you don't know what the New Testament says. Read it for yourself. Read the New Testament over and over and over and then read it again. Obey God and live a blessed life!

Remember when I said the world is like a big spider web and Satan is King Spider? God can protect you from becoming a spider-snack, but you will need to cooperate with Him. Right away you need to make sure you are cooperating with God by doing these things: First of all, have you asked Christ to be your Lord and Savior? If not, you need to know these four things:

1. God loves you (John 3:16)!
2. You have sinned and are separated from God (Romans 3:23).
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in your place for your sins. Father God raised Jesus from the dead after three days (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40).
4. You must repent of your sins and receive Jesus Christ into your heart as your Savior and Lord (Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20).

If you would like to receive God's gift of salvation, repeat this prayer from your heart to God! "Heavenly Father, I repent of my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. I ask Jesus Christ into my heart to be my Lord and Savior. Thank you, in Jesus' Name. Amen." Now turn and tell someone "Jesus is my Savior and Lord," and believe in Christ for your salvation (Romans 10:9-10)!

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, you've just made the most important decision of your life. These next five things are important for your new life as a Christian. Each one is your decision.

1. Be water baptized (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38).
2. Read your Bible daily (Acts 17:11).
3. Spend time in prayer daily (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
4. Fellowship at a church, every week, where the Bible is preached (Hebrews 10:25).
5. Share your faith in Christ with other people (Matthew 28:19-20). Don't hide your faith (Acts 1:8)!

If you decide not to do any one of these things, King Spider will be knocking on your front door. You can expect him for dinner. What are those five important things? **(Repeat the above list.)**

What did you learn today?