

Steps To Christ

Study Guides

Introduction

Lesson Preparation

1. Memorize Genesis 1:27.

“So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (NKJV)

2. Read *Steps to Christ*, Chapter 1.

3. Put in your own words, or write the passage in Chapter 1, that best describes the theme of the chapter.



4. List several key points as you read the chapter.



Scriptures (NKJV)

1. Where was God's promise of a Savior first made?

Genesis 3:15. "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your [redacted], And you shall bruise His [redacted]."

2. When was the plan of redemption made?

1 Peter 1:20. "He indeed was foreordained [redacted] the foundation of the [redacted], but was manifest in these last times for you."

3. Does God have a timetable for the events of salvation?

Galatians 4:4, 5. "7 But when the [redacted] God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

4. Has God's plan been written down for us to read?

Luke 24:27. "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the [redacted] the things concerning Himself."

5. Who is watching the unfolding of this plan of salvation?

1 Corinthians 4:9. "For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a [redacted] to the [redacted], both to [redacted] and to [redacted]."

6. How did God carry out the plan of salvation?

Matthew 1:23. “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘[redacted].”

7. What did God provide for mankind’s salvation?

John 3:16. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten [redacted], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have [redacted].”

8. How does God describe eternal life?

John 17:3. “And this is eternal life, that they may [redacted], the only [redacted]. and [redacted] whom you have sent”

Thought Questions

1. How can I know if I am really saved?

2. How can I change my life?

3. what should my motives be for doing right?

4. What is the unpardonable sin?

5. Can I be lost after being saved?

6. How perfect do I need to be?

7. What is the first step in being saved?

8. Why do I have to pray?

9. What is my part and what is God's part in my salvation?

10. Do I have to make public confession of all my sins?

11. When I give up all, do I have to give away all?

12. What will Satan do to try to keep me from being saved?

13. Is the God of the Old Testament like the God of the New Testament?

14. What do I do with my feelings when I don't feel spiritual, or feel like praying?

15. Why do I have to die for Adam's mistake?

16. How can I have peace in my life?

17. Do I have to go door-to-door witnessing?

18. How can I know what God requires of me?

19. How can I be sure God really loves me?

20. [Add your questions].

Problem Solving

You have just met a young mother of five boys, ages three, four, five, six and seven in the local grocery store. She said she was having trouble controlling the children, and then added that her marriage was not going well either. They married at seventeen, and he now travels a great deal in his job, being away from home for long periods of time. She is trying to go to school, so that she can apply for a job. Last week she found out that she is going to need major surgery. She is discouraged, and has no one to turn to for help. You mentioned that God had been a help to you in your problems, and she was interested in knowing more. She said she had been baptized, but had lost touch with God and her church. What could you do to help her find her way back to God?

Notes: (You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply).



Ellen G. White Quotations

“We should know what we must do to be saved. . . . We must meet the conditions laid down in the word of God or die in our sins. We must know what moral changes are essential to be made in our characters, through the grace of Christ, in order to be fitted for the mansions above.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 535).

“There are many who want to know what they must do to be saved. They want a plain and clear explanation of the steps requisite in conversion, and there should not a sermon be given unless a portion of that discourse is to especially make plain the way that sinners may come to Christ and be saved.” (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 157).

“No matter who you are or what your life has been, you can be saved only in God’s appointed way.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 218).

“The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. In Christ glorified they will behold Christ crucified. Never will it be forgotten that He whose power created and upheld the unnumbered worlds through the vast realms of space, the Beloved of God, the Majesty of heaven, He whom cherub and shining seraph delighted to adore—humbled Himself to uplift fallen man; that He bore the guilt and shame of sin, and the hiding of His Father’s face, till the woes of a lost world broke His heart and crushed out His life on Calvary’s cross. That the Maker of all worlds, the Arbiter of all destinies, should lay aside His glory and humiliate Himself from love to man will ever excite the wonder and adoration of the universe. As the nations of the saved look upon their Redeemer and behold the eternal glory of the Father shining in His countenance; as they behold His throne, which is from everlasting to everlasting, and know that His kingdom is to have no

end, they break forth in rapturous song: 'Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His own most precious blood!'

"The mystery of the cross explains all other mysteries. In the light that streams from Calvary the attributes of God which had filled us with fear and awe appear beautiful and attractive. Mercy, tenderness, and parental love are seen to blend with holiness, justice, and power. While we behold the majesty of His throne, high and lifted up, we see His character in its gracious manifestations, and comprehend, as never before, the significance of that endearing title, 'Our Father.'

"It will be seen that He who is infinite in wisdom could devise no plan for our salvation except the sacrifice of His Son. The compensation for this sacrifice is the joy of peopling the earth with ransomed beings, holy, happy, and immortal. The result of the Saviour's conflict with the powers of darkness is joy to the redeemed, redounding to the glory of God throughout eternity. And such is the value of the soul that the Father is satisfied with the price paid; and Christ Himself, beholding the fruits of His great sacrifice, is satisfied." (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 651, 652).

"The plan of salvation had its place in the counsels of the Infinite from all eternity." (*Christian Education*, p. 83).

"But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe. To this result of His great sacrifice—its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man—the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: 'Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I

be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me.' John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin." (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 68, 69).

"By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.' John 3:16. He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. This is the pledge that God will fulfill His word. 'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.' God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the 'Son of man' who shares the throne of the universe. It is the 'Son of man' whose name shall be called, 'Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.' Isa. 9:6. The I AM is the Daysman between God and humanity, laying His hand upon both. He who is 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,' is not ashamed to call us brethren. Heb. 7:26; 2:11. In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven

is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love.” (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 25, 26).

“Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.’ Rev. 5:12.” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 131).

“All things are God’s, not only by creation, but by redemption. All the blessings of this life and of the life to come are delivered to us stamped with the cross of Calvary.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 362).

“It will be seen that He who is infinite in wisdom could devise no plan for our salvation except the sacrifice of His Son. The compensation for this sacrifice is the joy of peopling the earth with ransomed beings, holy, happy, and immortal. The result of the Saviour’s conflict with the powers of darkness is joy to the redeemed, redounding to the glory of God throughout eternity. And such is the value of the soul that the Father is satisfied with the price paid; and Christ Himself, beholding the fruits of His great sacrifice, is satisfied.” (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 651, 652).

“Higher education is an experimental knowledge of the plan of salvation, and this knowledge is secured by earnest and diligent study of the Scriptures. Such an education will renew the mind and transform the character, restoring the image of God in the soul. It will fortify the mind against the deceptive whisperings of the adversary, and enable us to understand the voice of God. It will

teach the learner to become a co-worker with Jesus Christ, to dispel the moral darkness about him, and bring light and knowledge to men. It is the simplicity of true godliness—our passport from the preparatory school of earth to the higher school above.

“There is no education to be gained higher than that given to the early disciples, and which is revealed to us through the word of God. To gain the higher education means to follow this word implicitly; it means to walk in the footsteps of Christ, to practice His virtues. It means to give up selfishness and to devote the life to the service of God. Higher education calls for something greater, something more divine, than the knowledge to be obtained merely from books. It means a personal, experimental knowledge of Christ; it means emancipation from ideas, from habits and practices, that have been gained in the school of the prince of darkness, and which are opposed to loyalty to God. It means to overcome stubbornness, pride, selfishness, worldly ambition, and unbelief. It is the message of deliverance from sin.” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 11, 12).

“The character of Christ is the one perfect pattern which we are to copy. Repentance and faith, the surrender of the will, and the consecration of the affections to God are the means appointed for the accomplishment of this work. To obtain a knowledge of this divinely ordained plan should be our first study; to comply with its requirements, our first effort.” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 50).

“The concerns of eternity are of sufficient importance to take precedence over every other enterprise. ‘What must I do to be saved?’ should be the great and solemn question with us now.” (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 48).

“Our salvation depends upon our knowledge of God’s will as it is contained in his word. Never cease asking and searching for truth.

You need to know your duty. You need to know what you must do to be saved. And it is God's will that you shall know what he has said to you. But you must exercise faith. As you search the Scriptures, you must believe that God is, and that he rewards those who diligently seek him." (*The Youth's Instructor*, July 24, 1902 par. 9).

"But Christ as the precious pearl, and our privilege of possessing this heavenly treasure, is the theme on which we most need to dwell." (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 118).

"Experience is knowledge derived from experiment. Experimental religion is what is needed now. 'Taste and see that the Lord is good.' Some—yes, a large number—have a theoretical knowledge of religious truth, but have never felt the renewing power of divine grace upon their own hearts. These persons are ever slow to heed the testimonies of warning, reproof, and instruction indited by the Holy Spirit. They believe in the wrath of God, but put forth no earnest efforts to escape it. They believe in heaven, but make no sacrifice to obtain it. They believe in the value of the soul and that ere long its redemption ceaseth forever. Yet they neglect the most precious opportunities to make their peace with God.

"They may read the Bible, but its threatenings do not alarm or its promises win them. They approve things that are excellent, yet they follow the way in which God has forbidden them to go. They know a refuge, but do not avail themselves of it. They know a remedy for sin, but do not use it. They know the right, but have no relish for it. All their knowledge will but increase their condemnation. They have never tasted and learned by experience that the Lord is good." (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 221, 222).

"Almost but not wholly saved means to be not almost but wholly lost." (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 400).

“Those who have trained the mind to delight in spiritual exercises are the ones who can be translated and not be overwhelmed with the purity and transcendent glory of heaven. You may have a good knowledge of the arts, you may have an acquaintance with the sciences, you may excel in music and in penmanship, your manners may please your associates, but what have these things to do with a preparation for heaven? What have they to do to prepare you to stand before the tribunal of God?

“Be not deceived. God is not mocked. Nothing but holiness will prepare you for heaven. It is sincere, experimental piety alone that can give you a pure, elevated character and enable you to enter into the presence of God, who dwelleth in light unapproachable. The heavenly character must be acquired on earth, or it can never be acquired at all. Then begin at once. Flatter not yourself that a time will come when you can make an earnest effort easier than now. Every day increases your distance from God. Prepare for eternity with such zeal as you have not yet manifested. Educate your mind to love the Bible, to love the prayer meeting, to love the hour of meditation, and, above all, the hour when the soul communes with God. Become heavenly-minded if you would unite with the heavenly choir in the mansions above.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, pp. 267, 268).

“More people than we think are longing to find the way to Christ. Those who preach the last message of mercy should bear in mind that Christ is to be exalted as the sinner’s refuge. Some ministers think that it is not necessary to preach repentance and faith; they take it for granted that their hearers are acquainted with the gospel, and that matters of a different nature must be presented in order to hold their attention. But many people are sadly ignorant in regard to the plan of salvation; they need more instruction upon this all-important subject than upon any other.” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 158).

QUIZ – Introduction

Select True or False according to the reference:

1. T F The requirements for eternal life have changed since the time of Adam and Eve (SC 7.14)
2. T F Education, culture and the exercise of the will can help in changing our heart. (SC 2.3).
3. T F Keeping God law has a part in providing for our justification. (Romans 3:20).
4. T F Answers to prayer are based on conditions. (SC 11.7).
5. T F God has only one way to be saved. (SC 1.7).
6. T F The real cause of doubt and skepticism is the love of sin. (SC 12.14).
7. T F The Christian grows in grace by abiding in Christ. (SC 8.7).
8. T F Confession to God is acceptable only when accompanied by repentance and reformation. (SC 4.7).
9. T F It is possible for man, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil. (SC 2.1).
10. T F Working for others is the only way to advance in the Christian life. (SC 9.12).

11. T F Faith is based on demonstration not evidence. (SC 12.2).
12. T F Love is the power that transforms the character. (SC 8.15).
13. T F Gaining self-esteem is one of the goals of the Christian life. (SC 3.19, 7.22).
14. T F The warfare against sin is the greatest battle that was ever fought. (SC 5.3).
15. T F All sins are of equal magnitude in God's estimation. (SC 3.20).

Select the radio button of the best answer according to the text.

16. If you have met God's requirements, which is true regarding the assurance of salvation? (1 John 5:11-13).

17. What is the true sign of discipleship? (SC 7.11).

18. What cannot exist where love is? (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

19. What is the condition of eternal life? (SC 7.14).

20. What is the proper exercise of the will? (SC 5.12).