

1. JESUS' EARLY LIFE

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What events occurred when Jesus was taken to the Temple following his mother's period of cleansing?*
2. *What gifts did the Magi bring to the young Jesus and what were their significance?*
3. *What events helped the development of Jesus prior to his ministry at the age of 30 years?*
4. *What significant event took place at the Temple when Jesus was 12 years of age? What does it show about Jesus' attitude?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Discuss the providence of Yahweh in the early life of Jesus.*
2. *Describe the visit of the Magi in search of Jesus. What lessons can we learn from this visit?*
3. *Outline the events, which led to Jesus being taken by Joseph and Mary from Bethlehem to Egypt and then to Nazareth. What Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in these events?*
4. *Outline the things that we know about Jesus' boyhood and growth to manhood. What was Mary's attitude to these? What lessons do we learn from this?*

2. JESUS IS BAPTISED AND TEMPTED

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What did Jesus mean when he said to John the Baptist: "Thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness"?*
2. *How was Jesus shown to be the Messiah at his baptism? How did John know he was the Messiah?*
3. *What are the three ways that the apostle John says sin arises? Connect these three ways with the threefold temptation of Jesus.*
4. *Outline the main purpose of the ministry of John the Baptist.*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Why was Jesus baptised? Mention in your answer why it is also necessary for us to be baptised.*
2. *How does Jesus contrast with both Adam and Eve, and Israel in the matter of his temptation?*
3. *How was Jesus able to overcome in the Temptation? What lessons can we learn from his example?*

3. NICODEMUS COMES TO JESUS BY NIGHT

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *Why did Jesus cleanse the Temple when he came to Jerusalem at the beginning of his public ministry?*
2. *What “sign” did Jesus give after he cleansed the Temple at the beginning of his ministry? Who later remembered what he said about this sign?*
3. *Explain the following statement which was made by Jesus to Nicodemus: “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God”.*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Malachi the prophet said: “The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple”. Write an essay on this comment as far as it relates to the ministry of Christ.*
2. *Write an essay on the conversation that took place when Nicodemus came to Jesus by night.*
3. *What did Jesus say to Nicodemus about him being “lifted up”? Mention in your answer the relevant event in the Wilderness Wanderings and also the lessons that this incident and Jesus’ words have for us.*

4. DRAMATICALLY ACCEPTED AT SAMARIA

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *Who were the Samaritans and what did they believe? What did Jesus tell the Samaritan woman about true worship?*
2. *Describe how Jesus showed to the woman of Samaria that he was a prophet.*
3. *What lessons do we learn about true worship from the incident involving the Samaritan woman?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Recount the events that took place when Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well.*
2. *Outline the steps by which the woman of Samaria was brought to acknowledge Jesus as Messiah.*
3. *What lessons did the disciples have to learn from the meeting of the Samaritan woman? How did Jesus teach these to them?*

5. JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *How did John the Baptist point out Jesus to his disciples? What do the words that he used teach us of Jesus?*
2. *Describe the calling of Nathanael.*
3. *After their initial calling, some of Jesus' disciples went back to their original occupations. How did Jesus show them that they must have total commitment in their work for God?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Describe the way in which the work of John the Baptist prepared the men who would follow Jesus.*
2. *Name the twelve apostles, and describe some of the notable features and characteristics of these men.*
3. *Summarise the calling of the disciples and selection of the twelve apostles.*

6. JESUS TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What are the "Beatitudes"? Comment briefly on two of the lessons they have for us.*
2. *Whose character is described in the Beatitudes? How can we try to attain that same character?*
3. *How can the deceitful and wicked heart of man (Jer. 17:9) be made 'pure'?*
4. *"They shall see God". What does this mean?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Briefly describe the character of the saint as outlined in the Beatitudes.*
2. *Explain the terms "blessed", "poor in spirit" and "theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven".*
3. *Write an essay on three of the Beatitudes.*

7. JESUS TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *Where does sin commence and how can it be avoided? Use Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount to illustrate your answer.*
2. *What does Jesus say about faith and riches in the Sermon on the Mount?*
3. *The Father "sendeth rain on the just and unjust". What was Jesus teaching by this statement in the Sermon on the Mount?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *How is Jesus' teaching contrasted with the Law of Moses? Give four illustrations from the Sermon on the Mount.*
2. *Tell what you know about the two "ways", the two "trees" and the two "builders" in the Sermon on the Mount.*
3. *Relate the character revealed in the Beatitudes to the practical instructions about living in the latter part of the Sermon on the Mount.*

8. JESUS TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES HOW TO PRAY

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What did Jesus say in the Sermon on the Mount about our attitude of mind when we pray?*
2. *What is the value of prayer?*
3. *“Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. Comment on these phrases in the Lord’s Prayer.*
4. *Jesus taught his disciples to pray: “Forgive us our debts us we forgive our debtors”. What does this teach us? Illustrate your answer by referring to the parable of the Unforgiving Creditor (Matt. 18).*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Choose three of the phrases in the Lord’s Prayer and comment upon them, showing the lessons which they teach us.*
2. *Quote the Lord’s Prayer and show how it places man in his correct relationship to God.*
3. *Write an essay about how the principles shown in the Lord’s Prayer have affected your outlook.*

9. MIRACLES OF HEALING AT CAPERNAUM

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *How did Jesus seek encouragement from his Father to perform the work before him? Illustrate your answer by referring to the events at Capernaum.*
2. *Jesus “bore our sicknesses”, said the prophet Isaiah. Show the truth of this statement by referring to the events at Capernaum.*
3. *Describe the healing of the palsied man at Capernaum. How did Jesus prove on that occasion that he had authority to forgive sins?*
4. *Why did Jesus perform miracles?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Write an account of miracles performed by Jesus in the region of Capernaum during his early Galilean Ministry. What lessons can be drawn from them?*
2. *Write an account of the healing of the first leper to come to Jesus. How did Jesus surpass the Law of Moses in dealing with a leper?*
3. *Write an essay on the way that Jesus used miracles to show he had the authority of God.*

10. BETHESDA: HEALING ON THE SABBATH DAY

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *The impotent man at the pool of Bethesda had been diseased for 38 years. In what way did he represent the nation of Israel?*
2. *Why was it right for Jesus to heal on the Sabbath day?*
3. *The Jews charged Jesus after he healed the impotent man at the pool of Bethesda with claiming equality with God. How did Jesus show that this was false?*
4. *Comment briefly on the three witnesses to the work of Jesus, which he spoke of after the healing at the pool of Bethesda.*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Give an account of what happened at the pool of Bethesda when Jesus healed the impotent man?*
2. *Jesus said: "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (Jn. 5:17. Explain what he meant.*
3. *What witnesses did Jesus bring forward to support his claims when he reproved the Jews after healing at the pool of Bethesda?*

11. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What made Jesus turn to speaking in parables?*
2. *What lessons are we taught by the stony ground and the thorny ground in the parable of the Sower?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *What is a parable? Why did Jesus speak in parables?*
2. *In the parable of the Sower, the seed lodged on four types of soil. Describe what each type represents and how the seed responded.*
3. *Explain the meaning of the parable of the Sower. Make special mention of those things which could stop our "growth" in the Truth.*

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *Why did Jesus seek to take the disciples apart into a desert place prior to the feeding of the 5,000?*
2. *Tell why the loyalty of Jesus' followers waned when he spoke to them in the synagogue in Capernaum on the day after feeding the 5,000.*
3. *"I am the Bread of Life", said Jesus Christ in the discourse that followed the feeding of the 5,000. Show how this thought developed out of the miracle.*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Recount the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. What is the spiritual significance of this miracle?*
2. *Why did a number of those amongst the 5,000 whom Jesus fed seek for him the next day? How did they compare him with Moses and what was his response?*
3. *"Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life". When did Peter say these words to Jesus and what led up to them? What lesson do we learn from this incident?*

13. DEFILEMENT AND HYPOCRISY

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What did Jesus say about the human heart when he taught about the source of defilement?*
2. *How was the commandment “Honour thy father and thy mother” annulled by the “tradition of the elders”?*
3. *Upon what basis was the Canaanite woman’s request to Jesus answered? What did Jesus say?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *In what way did the “tradition of the elders” contradict the commandments of God? Give an example.*
2. *Jesus showed the Pharisees that their ideas concerning defilement were wrong. Explain what he taught about defilement and the source of sin.*
3. *Describe what happened when Jesus was approached by “a woman of Canaan” when he was in the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.*

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What was wrong in the Pharisees and Sadducees asking Jesus for a sign when they met him at Magdala?*
2. *What is the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees of which Jesus bade his disciples beware?*
3. *Why was Peter's confession so important to Jesus?*
4. *What did Jesus mean when he said, "Whosoever shall save his life shall lose it" (Matt. 16:25)?*
5. *Why did Jesus have to die in order to become the Messiah?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Relate the incident when Peter gave his great confession: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God". Why were these words so important? In what way did Peter use the keys of the kingdom?*
2. *How did Jesus prepare his disciples when faced with growing opposition and his own impending death?*
3. *Tell the story of Peter's confession and explain Jesus' words of commendation.*
4. *Why did Jesus say to Peter, "Get thee behind me, Satan"? (Matt.16:23)*

15. JESUS IS TRANSFIGURED

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What did Jesus mean when he said: Elias verily cometh first and restoreth all things . . . But I say unto you that Elias is indeed come and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed”?*
2. *Why did Jesus say to the father of the epileptic, ‘if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Outline the purpose of the transfiguration:*
 - (a) *for Christ*
 - (b) *for the disciples.*
2. *Outline the events that took place when Jesus was transfigured.*
3. *Describe the healing of the epileptic child. What lessons can we take from this incident?*
4. *Elias and Moses were with Jesus on the mount of the Transfiguration. How was it demonstrated that Jesus was the greatest of the three?*
5. *The joy that was set before Jesus enabled him to endure the cross. What part did the transfiguration play in this respect? Why is it important for us?*

16. JESUS TEACHES FORGIVENESS

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What did Jesus mean when he said, "Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire"?*
2. *List briefly the warnings Jesus gave his disciples when they asked him, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matt. 18:1)*
3. *What did Jesus mean when he said, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my father, which is in heaven" (Matt. 18:10)?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Write an essay about Jesus' teaching when the disciples asked him the question: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matt. 18:1).*
2. *Why did Jesus teach that it is important for us to forgive our fellows?*
3. *Tell the story of the parable of the Unforgiving Creditor. What lessons emerge from this parable?*

17. PARABLES OF FINDING THE “LOST”

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *Why did Jesus speak the three Parables of the Lost?*
2. *What lessons do we learn from the parable of the Lost Sheep?*
3. *What lessons do we learn from the parable of the Lost Coin?*
4. *What was wrong with the attitude of the older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Write an essay comparing the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Prodigal Son.*
2. *In the Parables of the Lost, what is the reaction of the shepherd, the woman and the father when:*
 - a) *the sheep, coin and son, respectively, are lost?*
 - b) *the sheep, coin and son, respectively, are found?**What do these reactions mean to you?*
3. *Tell the parable of the Prodigal Son, placing emphasis upon the personal lessons that emerge from it.*
4. *How is the grace of God revealed in the three Parables of the Lost?*
5. *Why does the parable of the Prodigal Son more vividly bring out the lessons of the parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin?*
6. *What personal lessons and exhortations emerge from the three “Parables of the Lost?”*

18. JESUS GIVES LIFE TO THE DEAD

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *Explain Jesus' statement: "I am the resurrection and the life".*
2. *In what way was the raising of Lazarus a highly significant event?*
3. *What was the reaction of the people to the raising of Lazarus?*
4. *Why did Jesus delay coming to Lazarus when he heard he was sick?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Briefly tell the story of the raising of Lazarus, and discuss its bearing upon the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.*
2. *What personal exhortations emerge from the story of the raising of Lazarus? What fundamental doctrines do we learn from this miracle?*

19. "BEHOLD YOUR KING"

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What was Jesus' purpose in riding triumphantly into Jerusalem?*
2. *What was Jesus teaching by cursing the fig tree?*
3. *What lessons do we learn from the conversion of Zacchaeus?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Describe the triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem. What was Jesus demonstrating by riding the colt into Jerusalem?*
2. *Describe the incident in which Jesus cleansed the Temple the second time. Explain his words and the reasons for his actions.*
3. *How does the cursing of the fig tree fulfil the parable of the Barren Fig Tree?*
4. *How did Jesus confound those who said to him, "By what authority doest thou these things?"*

20. ANSWERING HIS OPPONENTS

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *How did Jesus prove from Psalm 110 that he was the Son of God?*
2. *What did Jesus mean when he said that the poor widow had cast into the treasury more than all?*
3. *How does the statement "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" prove the resurrection?*
4. *What did Jesus mean when he said. "Render to Caesar the things that be Caesar's and to God the things that are God's?" (Mk. 12:17)*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *When Jesus was tried by the Jewish rulers on the matters of: -
a) giving tribute to Caesar;
b) the resurrection; and
c) the first commandment;
he answered them seriously and drew out the principles of utmost worth. Discuss these principles.*
2. *Discuss the answer of Jesus to the question, "Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not?" Comment on its application to you.*
3. *What is your understanding of the two greatest commandments that Jesus cited when asked what was the first commandment of all?*
4. *How did Jesus answer the Sadducees' question about the resurrection relating to the woman who was given to seven brothers in turn as they died?*

21. THE OLIVET PROPHECY AND TODAY

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What warnings does Jesus give our generation in the Olivet Prophecy?*
2. *Jesus said that Jerusalem would be “trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”. How was this fulfilled in the Six Day War in 1967?*
3. *How is Isaiah 24 quoted or alluded to in the Olivet Prophecy in Luke 21?*
4. *Jesus said in the Olivet Prophecy, “When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth near”. What did he mean?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *What signs did Jesus give his disciples of the coming desolation of the Temple? How were these fulfilled?*
2. *In the Olivet Prophecy Jesus gave many signs of the times before his advent in power. Show how these signs are being fulfilled today. What warnings does he give our generation?*
3. *Show how the prophecies in the Olivet Prophecy have come to pass: -*
 - a) *in the year A.D. 70 when the Temple and Commonwealth of Israel were destroyed by the Romans;*
 - b) *in these last days of the Gentiles.*
4. *Write an essay on the significance of the Olivet Prophecy to you.*

22. THE LAST PARABLES: HOW TO BE WISE AND FAITHFUL

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *Explain Jesus' statement, "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).*
2. *Explain the attitude and judgment of the "wicked and slothful servant" in the parable of the Talents.*
3. *What happened to the 5 foolish virgins when the cry was made, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh"?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Give an account of the parable of the Ten Virgins and explain its meaning.*
2. *Explain the parable of the Talents. What lessons are taught in this parable?*
3. *Jesus said: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?" (Matt. 24:45). Show how this statement is amplified in the parables, which followed; namely, the Ten Virgins, the Talents, and the Sheep and the Goats.*
4. *Explain the parable of the Sheep and the Goats.*

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *How does the new covenant, which Jesus instituted at the Last Supper, differ from the old covenant given by Moses in Exodus 24?*
2. *What did Jesus mean when he said: "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matt.26:28)?*
3. *What did Jesus mean when he said, "He that . . . drinketh my blood dwelleth in me, and I in him" (Jn. 6:56)?*
4. *Why did Jesus tell Peter, in the garden of Gethsemane, to put his sword back into its sheath?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *What instructions have been left for those in Christ to remember Jesus week by week?*
2. *What do the bread and wine taken by Jesus and his disciples at the last supper symbolise?*
3. *Describe the events which took place in the garden of Gethsemane, including the arrest of the Lord. Include in your answer as many of his words as you can remember.*

24. TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION**PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:**

1. *What charges were brought against Jesus during the course of his trial?*
2. *How was Jesus given an honourable burial?*
3. *Caiaphas rent his garments. What did this signify?*
4. *“When he was reviled, he reviled not again “ (1 Pet. 2:23). How was this principle seen in the trial and crucifixion of Jesus?*
5. *How was Jesus’ care for others seen when he was crucified?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Make a list of events in the trials, death and burial of Christ that were foretold in the Old Testament.*
2. *Make a summary of the trials Jesus underwent before his crucifixion. What lessons are there for us in these trials?*
3. *Write a brief essay on the shame, the suffering and the loneliness of Jesus when he was crucified.*
4. *Describe Jesus’ trial before Pilate showing how Pilate changed his mind.*
5. *Outline Jesus’ trial before the Sanhedrin.*
6. *What lessons do we learn from Jesus’ example on the cross?*

25. ALIVE FROM THE DEAD

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:

1. *What action did the rulers take regarding the body of Jesus? How does this strengthen our belief in his resurrection?*
2. *When the disciples saw the wounds in Jesus' hands and feet they believed. How does this foreshadow the conversion of Israel?*
3. *What does the death and resurrection of Christ symbolise for the believer?*
4. *What is the significance of the resurrection of Christ?*

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. *Write an essay on the sequence of appearances Jesus made after his resurrection (as in Luke 24).*
2. *Give an account of the events that followed when Jesus joined the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. How did their understanding of the Messiah differ from his explanation of his Messiahship?*
3. *What evidence is there for believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead? What difference should this make to our lives?*
4. *Write an account of the events which took place when the women came to the tomb of Christ on the first day of the week.*