



## P.7 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SELF- STUDY LESSONS SET 1

### LESSON 1

**TOPIC : INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE**

**SUB TOPIC : GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**

**By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:**

- Read and retell the story of the rescue of the Israelites from slavery
- State the ways the Israelites disobeyed God

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- ❖ In this lesson, we are going to learn about God's plan of saving man kind from the original sin.
- ❖ God created man with the purpose of living forever but man failed to live up to God's expectations as noted in the bible. (Genesis 3)
- ❖ As result sin, death and suffering ruled over mankind. However, God worked out a way of getting mankind out of consequences of the original sin and this plan started by the call of Abraham in order to form a nation from which a savoir would be born.
- ❖ God promised Abraham many descendants and formed the nation of Israel.
- ❖ During the time of Jacob, God's people went to live in Egypt due to famine out break on Isreal.they were invited by their brother Joseph who was sold to Egypt by his brother.
- ❖ They lived in Egypt for 430 years as slaves until God called Moses to go and rescue them.(Gen.46-50,Exodus 3-12)

**Read the above scriptures and attempt the guiding questions in the sub topics below.**

## **The Israelites journey to the promised land of Canaan (Ex.12:12-20)**

The bible shows us how God smite all the first born children of the Egyptians in order to rescue the Israelites out of bondage.

God gave the Israelites guidelines through Moses on what to do during the Passover so that the angel of death passes over them and instead kills all the Egyptian firstborns and those of their livestock.

After that last plague, Pharaoh released the Israelites and they were able to go and worship their God on Mt.Sinai.

1. What punishment made Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of Egypt?
2. Mention the immediate problem Israelites faced after leaving Egypt
3. Why do the Israelites celebrate the Passover festival?
4. How were the Israelites able to cross the Red Sea?

## **The Israelites cross the Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-18)**

The bible reading above shows us that even after the last plague that forced Pharaoh to allow the Israelites go out of Egypt; he still got a hardened heart and commanded his army to run after them and return them back to Egypt.

We see that the Israelites were also disappointed in Moses for making them suffer at the hands of Pharaoh.

Moses prayed and believed God and He opened up the Red sea, made a dry path for them to pass. After they had passed, God destroyed the Egyptian army which drowned in the waters of the Red sea.

The Israelites continued to experience difficulties on their journey. Study the bible reading and answer the questions below:

5. Mention any two problems the Israelites faced after crossing the Red Sea.
6. In four ways, show how God showed cared and concern to the Israelites during the Exodus

## **The Israelites turn against God (Exodus.17)**

Despite God's love and care for the Israelites, they failed to live up to the laws of God.

Through Moses God gave the Israelites laws on which to live but they never obeyed or trusted God.

They doubted the power of God, murmured against Moses; they made many demands which showed their lack of faith in God.

7. State three ways the Israelites sinned against God while in the wilderness
8. Mention any two punishments God gave to the Israelites after disobeying him
9. Which covenant did God make with the Israelites on Mt. Sinai?
10. Why did the Israelites make for themselves a golden calf?  
"The Lord is my flag" who said these words? (Ex.17:15)
11. What happened to the above person before?
12. Why did God deny Moses and Aaron to reach the promised land of Canaan?
13. Why did God choose Joshua to succeed Moses?
14. How did Moses sin against God?
15. Where did Moses and Aaron die from?
16. Where was Moses buried?
17. How were the Israelites able to defeat the Amalekites?

## LESSON TWO

TOPIC : INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

SUB TOPIC : GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

CONTENT : GOD RULES HIS PEOPLE THROUGH LEADERS  
(Ex.18:13 & Deut.1-9:18)

**By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:**

- State the different groups of leaders that led Israel
- Give the names of the kings of Israel
- Read and retell the stories of King David and king Saul

### **God rules His people through Leaders (Ex.18:13.Duet.1-9:18)**

#### **Introduction**

- ❖ God chose Moses to lead His people to the promised land of Canaan
- ❖ However, the work was so tiresome for Moses to do it alone.
- ❖ So God instructed Moses to appoint other leaders to help him.
- ❖ These included:
  - Priests
  - Judges
  - Kings and prophets

The bible readings highlighted above are meant to guide you to understand this concept more, read them and attempt the guiding questions below to fully understand this sub topic.

1. Who led the Israelites to the promised land of Canaan?
2. Mention any three examples of judges in the Bible
3. Why are the following people remembered in the history of Judges of Israel?
  - Gideon
  - Samson

- Deborah

4. Who was the first king of Israel?
5. Who anointed him as a king?
6. Why did God reject him as a king?
7. Who succeeded him as a king?
8. State any two lessons you learn from King David
9. Why was God well pleased with David?
10. Mention one way David sinned against God
11. Who was the last king of the united kingdom of Israel?
12. Why is King Solomon regarded as the wisest king of Israel?
13. State any two lessons you can learn from King Solomon.
14. Give two reasons why God was annoyed with King Solomon.
15. How did God punish him because of sinning against Him?

### **LESSON 3**

**TOPIC : INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE**

**SUB TOPIC : GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**

**CONTENT : GOD CALLS PROPHETS**

**By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:**

- Define the term prophet
- Read and tell the story prophet Samuel as a prophet in Israel
- Give the examples of the different types of prophets that God sent to Israel

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **God chooses prophets (1 Samuel 3:1-10)**

- ❖ A prophet is God's messenger. He is sent by God to deliver his message to His people.
- ❖ The time of prophets started with the Prophet Samuel.
- ❖ Samuel served as both a judge as well as the first prophet of Israel.
- ❖ The role of prophets in God's plan of salvation was to prepare people for

the coming of the messiah.

**Read the text about the call and the work of Prophet Samuel and answer the questions below:**

1. Which person in the Bible is referred to as the last judge as well as the first prophet?
2. Name the two types of prophets in the bible.
3. What roles were played by prophets in God's plan of salvation?
4. Mention any three prophets who proclaimed the coming of the messiah

**The birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-20)**

Read the story of the birth of Jesus in the bible scripture above and attempt these questions after.

1. Why was John the Baptist born before Jesus?
2. Name the parents of John the Baptist
3. How did John the Baptist prepare the way for the Messiah?
4. How was the birth of John the Baptist similar to that of Jesus?
5. Apart from baptism of water, mention two other types of baptism in the bible
6. What is meant by?

**(a)Prophet of doom**

A prophet of doom is a prophet who foretold bad things yet to happen.

## **(b)Prophet of loom**

A prophet of loom is prophet who foretold good things yet to happen.

### **Examples of prophets of doom**

- Prophet Ezekiel
- Prophet Amos
- Prophet Joel
- Prophet Jonah

### **Examples of Prophets of loom**

- Prophet Isaiah
- Prophet Jeremiah
- Prophet John the Baptist

### **Roles played by prophets to the people of the Old Testament**

- Prophets foretold future happenings to the people
- Prophets warned God's people
- Prophets delivered God's messages to the people
- Prophets taught / preached God's word
- Prophets prepared God's people for the coming of the Messiah

7. Write brief notes about the following prophets in Islam

- Adam
- Ibrahim
- Ayub
- Musa
- Dauda
- Isa
- Muhammad

## **LESSON 4**

**TOPIC : INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE**

**SUB TOPIC : GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**

**CONTENT : THE INCARNATION (Mat.1:18)**

**By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:**

- Define the term incarnation and re-incarnation
- Explain the above processes in reference to Jesus

### **INTRODUCTION**

- ❖ Incarnation was the process by which God the son appeared on earth in form of a human being.
  - ❖ Incarnation was a fulfillment of God's promise of salvation for mankind
  - ❖ The term incarnation also means the birth of Jesus.
1. What stage of God's plan of salvation marked the beginning of God's plan of salvation?
  2. Why was Jesus born?
  3. How was the birth of Jesus different from that of other human beings?
  4. How did God fulfill His plan of salvation?
  5. Why is Jesus also called?
    - i. The redeemer
    - ii. The prince of peace
    - iii. King of Jews
    - iv. The Messiah
  6. Mention the first and last prophet to proclaim Jesus' birth.

### **The re- incarnation of Jesus**

- ❖ Re -incarnation was the process by which God the son ascended to heaven.
- ❖ This was the last stage of God's plan of salvation

- ❖ The term Re incarnation also means the Ascension of Jesus.
- 7. Why did Jesus ascend to heaven after his resurrection?
- 8. What is resurrection?
- 9. Why is Mary regarded as a blessed woman among all women?

## **LESSON 5**

**TOPIC : OUR ANCESTORS, OURSELVES AND THE SPIRIT**

**SUB TOPIC : THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE EARLY CHURCH**

**CONTENT : THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:**

- Explain what is meant by the early church
- Tell what happened on the Pentecost Day
- State the ways the Holy Spirit helped the early church
- Tell the different ways the Holy Spirit helps Christians' today

### **INTRODUCTION**

- ❖ The term early church is used to refer to the first believers in Jesus Christ
- ❖ The church in Antioch was the first church among the gentiles
- ❖ The pentecostday marked the beginning of the Early Church.
- ❖ The lives of believers of early church were influenced by the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ In this lesson we are going to see how the Holy Spirit empowered the early church.

**Please, go through the guiding questions below:-**

1. Which promise did Jesus leave with his apostles
2. Why did Jesus make the above promise to his apostles?
3. How did Jesus fulfill the above promise?

### **The Pentecost day (Acts 2)**

4. What is the Pentecost day known for in Christianity?
5. How did the Holy Spirit descend upon the disciples on the Pentecost day

6. Where were the apostles gathered when the Holy Spirit descended unto them?
  7. What happened immediately to the apostles after receiving the Holy spirit?
  8. Mention the fruit that God give to his people through the holy spirit
  9. Name the gifts that God gives to his people through the Holy Spirit
10. What does each of the following symbols of the Holy Spirit symbolize?
- (A)Dove
  - (B)Flames of fire
  - (C)Strong wind

### **Ways through which the Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles**

- ❖ The Holy Spirit gave courage to the apostles to preach the word of God without fear.
- ❖ The holy spirit enabled them to perform miracles
- ❖ The holy spirit enabled them to overcome the trials and temptations
- ❖ The Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in different languages.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit inspired them to write the bible.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit helped them to start new churches.

### **Ways Christians benefit from the presence of the Holy Spirit today**

- ✚ The holy spirit guides Christians to choose right from wrong
- ✚ The Holy spirit encourages and strengthens the faith of Christians
- ✚ The Holy spirit enables Christians to preach the word of God
- ✚ The Holy Spirit enables Christians to know more about God
- ✚ The Holy spirit enables Christians to read and understand the Bible
- ✚ The Holy spirit helps us to overcome trials and temptations
- ✚ The Holy spirit enables Christians to perform miracles
- ✚ The Holy spirit makes us humble
- ✚ The Holy spirit gives us knowledge

 The Holy spirit enables us to pray to God

## LESSON 6

**TOPIC : OUR ANCESTORS, OURSELVES AND THE SPIRIT**  
**SUB TOPIC : PEOPLE INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT DURING THE EARLY CHURCH**

**By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:**

- State the different people in the bible whose lives were influenced by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Explain what Christians should do to cooperate with the Holy Spirit

### ❖ **St. Stephen**

- He was the first Christian martyr according to the Bible
- By the help of the Holy Spirit, He was able to:
  - a. Preach the word of God without fear
  - b. He was able to face death for God's sake.

### ❖ **Apostle Paul(formerly Saul)**

- Paul was a strong believer in the law.
- He persecuted Christians before converting to Christianity.
- He was touched by the Holy Spirit and converted to Christianity

### **Ways apostle Paul was empowered by the Holy Spirit**

- He was able to preach the word of God to the gentiles
- He established many churches
- He was able to write epistles/letters to the churches.
- The Holy Spirit enabled him to overcome trials and tribulations
- The Holy Spirit enabled him to endure suffering

### ❖ Phillip

- Philip was touched by the Holy Spirit and preached the gospel to an Ethiopian official
- He baptized him after accepting Jesus as his savior

### ❖ Peter and John

The Holy Spirit enabled them to;

- Boldly preach the word of God
- Perform miracles e.g. they healed a lame man at the gate called beautiful at the temple.
- They endured suffering for God's sake

### ❖ Constantine

- He was a roman Ruler
- He persecuted many Christians
- He was touched by the Holy Spirit and declared Christianity as a sole state religion across the Roman Empire.

### ❖ John Newton

- He was a notorious captain of a slave ship
- He persecuted the slaves
- He was later converted to Christianity and became a priest
- By the help of the Holy Spirit, he composed the hymn "Amazing Grace".

### Ways the Holy Spirit worked in the lives of the Uganda martyrs

- The Holy Spirit enables them to face suffering with hope for life after death
- The Holy Spirit enabled them to overcome trials and tribulations
- The Holy Spirit enabled them to be faithful to God even in times of suffering.

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### **Ways we can co-operate with the holy spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is the promised teacher and comforter that Jesus promised to send his disciples after He ascended to heaven. He is still our helper today and we can achieve spiritual growth, protection, and comfort when we cooperate with him.

#### **❖ Through prayers**

- For our prayers to be heard by God, we must be guided and directed by the Holy Spirit. We should allow the Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us how to pray.

#### **❖ Through reading the Bible**

- The Holy Spirit enables us to read and understand the scriptures. The bible is God's word and instructions on how we must live our lives. The Holy Spirit helps us to interpret and obey the word of God.

#### **❖ Listening to advice**

- The Holy Spirit guides to choose between good and bad advice.

#### **❖ Through meditation**

- This is a silent way of thinking about God.

#### **❖ Through listening to the inner voice.**

- The Holy Spirit always warns us from listening and making bad decisions. He is the voice that talks to us from deep within our hearts.

**Qn. Give two ways St. Stephen was inspired by the Holy spirit**

## **LESSON 7**

**TOPIC : OUR ANCESTORS, OURSELVES AND THE SPIRIT**

**SUB TOPIC : MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS**

**CONTENT : WORLD RELIGIONS**

## **By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:**

- State the different religions of the world
- Mention and explain different religious symbols

## **Introduction**

- + The word Religion simply means belief in spiritual beings
- + Some Religions worship God, gods, goddess or goddesses

## **Examples of world Religions**

- ✓ Christianity
- ✓ Islam
- ✓ African Traditional Religion
- ✓ Judaism
- ✓ Hinduism
- ✓ Buddhism
- ✓ Bahai Faith e.t.c.

## **Signs and symbols of Religions**

- A Religious sign is an action used to convey a particular religious message.

## **Examples**

- Baptism
- Holy communion
- Ablution
- Circumcision
- Prostration
- Removing shoes before entering a worshipping place e.t.c.

## **Examples of religious symbols**

Different religions of the world have different religious symbols .some of them are:

- Wine and bread

- Cross
- Rosary
- Palm leaves
- Crescent and star
- Bible
- Koran
- Sacred cow
- Statues

### **Meaning of different religious signs and symbols**

- ❖ **Baptism** -Baptism means the initiation of one into God's family.
- ❖ **Holy Communion** -It represents the blood and body of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ **Ablution** -Ablution means purification
- ❖ **Circumcision** - consecration of one's body
- ❖ **Prostration** -Prostration represents respect
- ❖ **Removing shoes before entering a worshipping place**
  - It represents respect for the worshipping place.
- ❖ **Wine and bread**-The blood and body of Jesus Christ
- ❖ **Cross** -It represents salvation
- ❖ **Rosary**
- ❖ **Palm leaves** -Palm leaves represent victory
- ❖ **Crescent and star**-They represent the beginning of new month.
- ❖ **Bible** -It represents the presence of God
- ❖ **Quran** -It presents the presence of Allah
- ❖ **Sacred cow** - It represents the mother of Hindus
- ❖ **Statues** - Spiritual being

## **LESSON 8**

**TOPIC : OUR ANCESTORS, OURSELVES AND THE SPIRIT**  
**SUB TOPIC : MAJOR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**

## **By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:**

- Define the key terms on beliefs
- Give examples of common religious beliefs
- Define and state characteristics of ATR

## **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- ✓ **Theism** -The belief in existence of God or gods.
- ✓ **Deism** - The belief in existence of God the creator and Almighty.
- ✓ **Atheism** - The belief that God does not exist.
- ✓ **Agnosticism**

The belief that human beings cannot understand the true nature of God

## **Examples of common religious beliefs**

- Belief in existence of God or gods
- Belief in life after death
- Belief in existence of God the creator and almighty
- Belief that God does not exist
- Belief that Human beings cannot understand the true nature of God
- Belief in the Day of Judgment
- Belief in resurrection.
- Belief in angels

## **What are religious beliefs?**

- ✚ Religious beliefs are sets of ideas, principles and doctrines that are highly valued by a particular group of believers.

## **COMPARISON BETWEEN RELIGIONS**

### **African Traditional Religion (ATR)**

- ✚ It is an ancient religion in Africa and still having many believers across the continent

- ✚ It existed before Islam and Christianity were introduced in Africa.
- ✚ It was a religion of our ancestors i.e. our ancestors knew God before the coming of missionaries.

### **Ways in which our Ancestors knew God**

- ❖ They knew God as a creator
- ❖ They knew God as the protector
- ❖ They knew God as the provider
- ❖ They knew God as a giver of life

### **Evidence /proof that our Ancestors knew God**

- ❖ They offered sacrifices to God
- ❖ They had local names for God
- ❖ They searched for God's hope whenever their human understanding failed
- ❖ They believed in life after death.

### **Why is it wrong to say that missionaries were the first to introduce religion in Uganda?**

- ✚ ATR existed before the coming of missionaries to Uganda.

### **The Christians' understanding about God is different from that of our ancestors in the following ways:**

- ✓ Our ancestors knew God as harsh while Christians know God as a loving father.
- ✓ Our ancestors knew God as fearsome unlike Christians.
- ✓ Our ancestors believed the God lives very far from them while Christians believe that God is everywhere / omnipresent)
- ✓ Our ancestors believed that God exists alongside other gods while Christians believe that God is Almighty and cannot be worshipped

alongside other Gods.

## **LESSON 9**

**TOPIC : OUR ANCESTORS, OURSELVES AND THE SPIRIT**

**SUB TOPIC : COMMON BELIEFS OF ATR**

**CONTENT : COMMON BELIEFS OF ATR**

**By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:**

- State the common beliefs and practices in the ATR
  - Compare the practices and beliefs between Christians and ATR
- Common beliefs of ATR
- ❖ They believe in life after death
  - ❖ They believe in existence of God the creator they also believe in small gods
  - ❖ They believe in superstitions

### **Common practices of ATR**

- ❖ Offering sacrifices
- ❖ Removing shoes before entering shrines
- ❖ Caring for burial places
- ❖ Naming children after their Ancestors
- ❖ Polygamy
- ❖ Witch craft
- ❖ Burying the dead with tools / materials
- ❖ Human sacrifice
- ❖ Appeasing the dead
- ❖ Charms

### **Reasons why our ancestors appeased the dead**

- ✓ To get blessing from their ancestors
- ✓ To show respect to their ancestors
- ✓ To avoid punishments from their ancestors

## **Reasons why African Traditional believers offer sacrifices to the dead**

- To appease the dead
- To ask for forgiveness from the dead
- To get blessings from the dead

## **Why did our ancestors name their children after the dead?**

- To remember the dead
- To show that the dead are not dead.

## **Mention any four evil practices done by African Traditional Believers**

- Charming
- Witch craft
- Polygamy
- Human sacrifice

## **Comparison between ATR and Christianity**

### Similarities

- ✓ Both Christians and African Traditional Believers believe in life after death
- ✓ Both Christians and African Traditional Believers in God the creator
- ✓ Both Christians and African Traditional Believers believes in life after death
- ✓ Both Christians and African Traditional Believers praise and worship their gods

### Differences

- Christians believe in judgment day unlike African Traditional believers
- Christians believe in the resurrection of the body unlike African Traditional Believers
- Christians believe in one God while African Traditional Believers believe in many gods.
- African Traditional Believers appease the dead unlike Christians.
- African Traditional Believers offer sacrifices to their gods unlike Christians
- African Traditional Believers believe superstitions unlike Christians

- African Traditional believers practice polygamy unlike Christians
- African Traditional Believers practice witch craft unlike Christians

### **Difference in beliefs about life after death between Christians and African Traditional Believers**

- Christians believe in the resurrection of the body unlike African Traditional Believers.
- Christians believe in the Day of Judgment unlike African Traditional Believers
- African Traditional Believers believe that after death, the deceased continues with his/ her occupation unlike Christians.
- Christians believe in going to heaven after death while African Traditional Believers do not
- African Traditional Believers believe that the dead can come back on earth to punish, bless or curse the living unlike Christians.

## **LESSON 10**

**TOPIC : OUR ANCESTORS, OURSELVES AND THE SPIRIT**

**SUB TOPIC : LOVE AND RECONCILIATION**

**By the end of the lesson, you should be able to:**

- Explain the term reconciliation
- State the causes and effects of misunderstandings among people
- Give the importance of reconciliation

❖ **Reconciliation is the process of restoring the lost friendship or friendship.**

- ❖ All human beings have weaknesses.
- ❖ A weakness is a strong liking for something that may have unpleasant affects e.g. Pride, Jealous, fear, greed and anger etc.
- ❖ Such weaknesses make man run short of love in order to endure each

other's mistakes hence leading to misunderstandings.

- ❖ A misunderstanding is a disagreement between two or more people. Misunderstandings spoil our good relationships with other members in the community.

### **Examples of misunderstandings**

- ✓ Quarrels
- ✓ Fights
- ✓ Wars/Conflicts
- ✓ Hatred

### **Causes of misunderstandings**

- Selfishness
- Lack of self control
- Greed
- Jealous
- Pride
- Adultery
- Witch craft
- False accusations
- disobedience

### **Effect of misunderstandings**

**Once misunderstandings are not resolved among people bad effects occur as a result.**

- ✚ Death
- ✚ Separation / Divorce
- ✚ Suffering
- ✚ Imprisonment
- ✚ Poverty

However, after a disagreement, there is need for the conflicting parties to come together and settle the misunderstandings.

- ❖ The process of restoring lost relationship is known as Reconciliation.
- ❖ Reconciliation takes place when the conflicting parties acknowledges their mistakes/ wrongs and willingly accepts to pardon one another.  
Jesus' death on the cross is a symbol of God's reconciliation with sinful man.(Romans :3)

Jesus reconciled sinful man to God through his death on the cross.

### **The need/ Importance of reconciliation**

- ✓ It helps to restore the lost love/ relationship.
- ✓ It promotes unity and co-operation
- ✓ It encourages forgiveness
- ✓ It prevents revenge
- ✓ It helps to settle conflicts

### **Traditional ways of reconciliation/solving misunderstandings**

**People of long ago practiced the following activities in order to reconcile with one another.**

- Paying fine    Sharing a meal
- Arbitration
- Peace talks    -    Dialogue

### **Religious ways of settling misunderstandings**

- ❖ Repentance/Penance
- ❖ Asking for forgiveness

### **Biblical teachings about reconciliation**

- ✓ Proper reconciliation takes place after repentance.
- ✓ We should reconcile with one another before offering our gifts to God.

(Mat. 5:23)

- ✓ Our sins can't be forgiven by God if we don't forgive others of the wrong they have done.

Read the case study of the story of King David and Uriah's wife on reconciliation (2 Sam 12:1-17).

1. Give two examples of peaceful ways of living in harmony with one another.
2. State two roles played by religious leaders in the process of settling misunderstandings among people.
3. How can misunderstandings in a family lead to the suffering of family members?
4. Mention two ways used by Old Testament believers to reconcile with one another.
5. Suggest two possible ways leaders today can prevent misunderstandings in the country.