

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

Lesson 13 – God Takes the Initiative (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Ask the opening question. Explain that in a relationship with God, He is always the one to take the initiative.

Study Notes:

John 6:28-29

Jesus said, "The work of God is to believe in the One He has sent."

How can this be a work of God? – To believe is a gift from God. He is the one who open our eyes spiritually to see. Salvation is a gift from God. (Ephesians 2:8)

John 6:44-45

Who can come to Jesus if the Father doesn't draw him? No one.

What does a person do who has listened to the Father and learned from Him? He comes to Jesus.

The Jews grumbled because Jesus had told them that He came from heaven. They only saw His humanity. That is why they couldn't believe. Without the power of God, none of us can see beyond our circumstances to the reality of faith.

John 6:51

What is the bread of life? Jesus

What is Jesus saying when he talks about "eating bread that comes from heaven?"

This question requires a little more thought on the part of the student. Ancient Christian critics had a problem with this passage, thinking that Jesus spoke of the practice of cannibalism. Clearly, this is not what Jesus said. He is talking about communion. Not exactly the type of "communion" that we receive when we participate in the Lord's Supper (even though that is a symbol Jesus talked about). Jesus was talking about communion with Him. The type of communion He talked about was that of identifying ourselves completely with Him – being one with Him in a real and personal relationship.

John 6:65

What is the only way that someone can come to Jesus? If the Father brings them to Him.

There is no one who seeks God on his own (Romans 3:10-12). However, if someone is searching for God, we can be sure that God has already taken the initiative in their hearts, bringing them to Him.

Summary: Only God can draw men to Himself. People who search for God have first been found by God.

Study Notes:

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 1:35-43

Verse 38 – Who spoke to whom first? Jesus spoke with the two disciples first.

Who invited whom to see where he was staying? Jesus invited the two disciples.
The first step in any relationship is to open the lines of communication. Jesus always did this.

Verse 42 – What about Peter? Who took the first step in his relationship with Jesus? Jesus. Even though Andrew (one of the disciples from the previous verses) brought Peter (his brother) to Jesus, Jesus actually gave Peter a new name. To name something signifies property. Jesus chose Peter, Peter didn't choose Jesus (read John 15:16).

Verse 43 – In Philip's case, who called whom inviting him to follow? It was Jesus who called Philip to follow Him.

Lesson 13 – God Takes the Initiative (Teacher’s Lesson)

The First Step

When you meet new people, do you feel comfortable going to them or do you wait until they come to you?

God desires a personal relationship with you. He desires it so much that He always take the initiative in this relationship. He doesn’t wait until we come to Him, He comes to us first. Read John 6:26-69 and answer the questions below. You can find the answers from the verses in italics.

Verses 28-29 – Jesus said, “The work of God is _____ in the one whom He sent.”

How can this be a work of God?

Verses 43-45 – Who can come to Jesus if the Father does not draw him?

What does a person do who has listened to the Father and learned from Him?

Verse 51 – What is “the bread from heaven?”

What is Jesus saying when he talks about “eating bread that comes from heaven?”

Verse 65 – What is the only way that someone can come to Jesus?

Taking the First Step

We have established that God, in order to have a relationship with human beings, must take the first step. No one searches for God if God hasn't drawn them first. So, how did God take the initiative?

1. The Cross

God demonstrated His love for us on the cross of Calvary, where His Son died for our sins. Let's look at Romans 5:8 and fill in the blanks.

God demonstrates His _____ for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Communication

God is the one who opens the lines of communication with His people. Read John 1:35-43 and answer the following.

Verse 38 – Who spoke to whom first?

Who invited whom to see where he was staying?

Verse 42 – What about Peter? Who took the first step in his relationship with Jesus?

Verse 43 – In Philip's case, who called whom inviting him to follow?

In all of these cases, Jesus was the one who took the first step to initiate a relationship. He communicated first. And what about your life? What has God done in your life that teaches you that He loves you? How has He drawn you into a personal relationship with Him? Write in the space below some of the reasons or events in your life that demonstrate that God took the initiative in His relationship with you.

Scripture to memorize:

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6