



# BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **7th Grade | Unit 10**

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# BIBLE 710

## God's Plan In Christ

INTRODUCTION | **3**

### 1. GOD AND HIS PLAN 5

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GOD AND HIS ATTRIBUTES | **7**

THE PLAN OF GOD | **13**

SELF TEST 1 | **16**

### 2. MAN'S HISTORY 19

---

HUMAN LIFE BEFORE CHRIST | **20**

HUMAN LIFE AFTER CHRIST | **27**

SELF TEST 2 | **29**

### 3. JESUS CHRIST FULFILLS GOD'S PLAN 33

---

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST | **34**

THE LIFE OF CHRIST | **38**

SELF TEST 3 | **50**

### 4. MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD 53

---

WORSHIP | **54**

GROWING IN CHRIST | **57**

SELF TEST 4 | **66**



**LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet.** Please remove before starting the unit.

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# God's Plan In Christ

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## Introduction

The purpose of this last LIFEPAC® in the Bible 700 series is to summarize the material that you have studied in the previous nine LIFEPACs. It is exciting material to review! In one sense, this LIFEPAC gives a “big picture” of the most important events that have ever happened! It gives a broad overview of *God's plan in Christ*.

From all eternity, God existed. In His wisdom and love, God created everything that exists, both in heaven and on earth. In the first section of this LIFEPAC, you will study about God and His plan for Creation, especially man. Next, you will review man's history, both before Christ and after Christ. Third, you will see how God's eternal plan for Creation was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Finally, in the last section of this LIFEPAC, you will review how man should respond to God's loving plan in Christ. You will see how part of man's response to God should be through worship and though growing in Christ.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe several aspects of God's essence.
2. Describe three key attributes of God toward man.
3. Explain the eternal plan of God, especially for man.
4. Describe the key events in the history of man before Christ.
5. Describe human life after the time of Christ.
6. Explain how Jesus Christ fulfills God's eternal plan.
7. Tell about the key Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ.
8. Describe the key events in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
9. Explain how man is called to respond to God's plan in Christ.
10. Explain the meaning and some forms of worship.
11. Describe how all are called to grow in Christ.

# 1. GOD AND HIS PLAN

Over time, God has revealed Himself to human beings in many ways. First of all, He has revealed that He exists. For example, when God revealed His name to Moses on Mt. Sinai, His very name includes the fact that He exists (Exodus 3:14): "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM." God's very name reveals that He is real and that He exists.

Not only can we know that God exists, but we can also know many things about God because He has revealed them to us. For example, God has revealed Himself to us as one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call this revelation of God the Trinity, or Holy Trinity. The Trinity of God is perhaps the greatest revelation of God's essence that He has made to us.

God is also spirit. He has no body. Because God is spirit, He can be everywhere at the same time. The Bible says in Psalm 139:7–10:

*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*

We call the ability of God to be everywhere at the same time His **omnipresence**. Omnipresence is an important attribute of God that He has revealed to us.

The Bible shows us that there are many important attributes of God. These attributes, or qualities, show us some things about God as a



| God said to Moses, "I AM THAT I AM."

person. They describe God. For example, five of God's attributes are *love, truth, faithfulness, goodness, and knowledge*. In this section of the LIFEPAK, you will review three important attributes of God that are particularly expressed toward human beings: *love, mercy, and grace*.

God has not only revealed many things to us about Himself, but He has also revealed many things about His plan for Creation. He has also revealed much to us about His plan for human beings. Perhaps the most important thing He has revealed to us is His plan in Christ! In this section of the LIFEPAK, you will also learn more about the plan of God.

## Section Objectives

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe several aspects of God's essence.
2. Describe three key attributes of God toward man.
3. Explain the eternal plan of God, especially for man.

## Vocabulary

**Study these words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAAC.

**alteration** (ôl' tã rã' shãn). A change in something or someone.

**attribute** (at' rã byüt). Trait, characteristic, or quality that is basic to a person or thing.

**compensation** (kom pãn sã' shãn). A payment or making up of something owed or lacking.

**consequences** (kon' sã kwen' sãz). Something produced by a cause or necessarily following from a set of conditions.

**essence** (es' ns). The real or ultimate nature of a thing.

**immutable** (im myüt' ə bəl). Not capable of change.

**omnipresence** (om' ni prez' ns). Being present everywhere at the same time.

**pinnacle** (pin' əkəl). The highest point of achievement or development.

**redeem** (ri dēm'). To free from captivity by payment of ransom.

**restitution** (res tã tü' shãn). An act of restoring or a condition of being restored.

**unmerited** (un mer' i ted). Without merit; or something that is not earned.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cãre, fãr; let, ēqual, tēm; it, Īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



| God has a loving plan for man.

## God and His Attributes

In the introduction to this section, several aspects of God's **essence** were mentioned: God's existence, the Trinity (there is One God in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and the fact that God is spirit. We also mentioned that the Bible reveals many **attributes** of God. In this first part of the section, we will examine three attributes of God that are expressed in a profound way toward human beings: *love, mercy, and grace*.

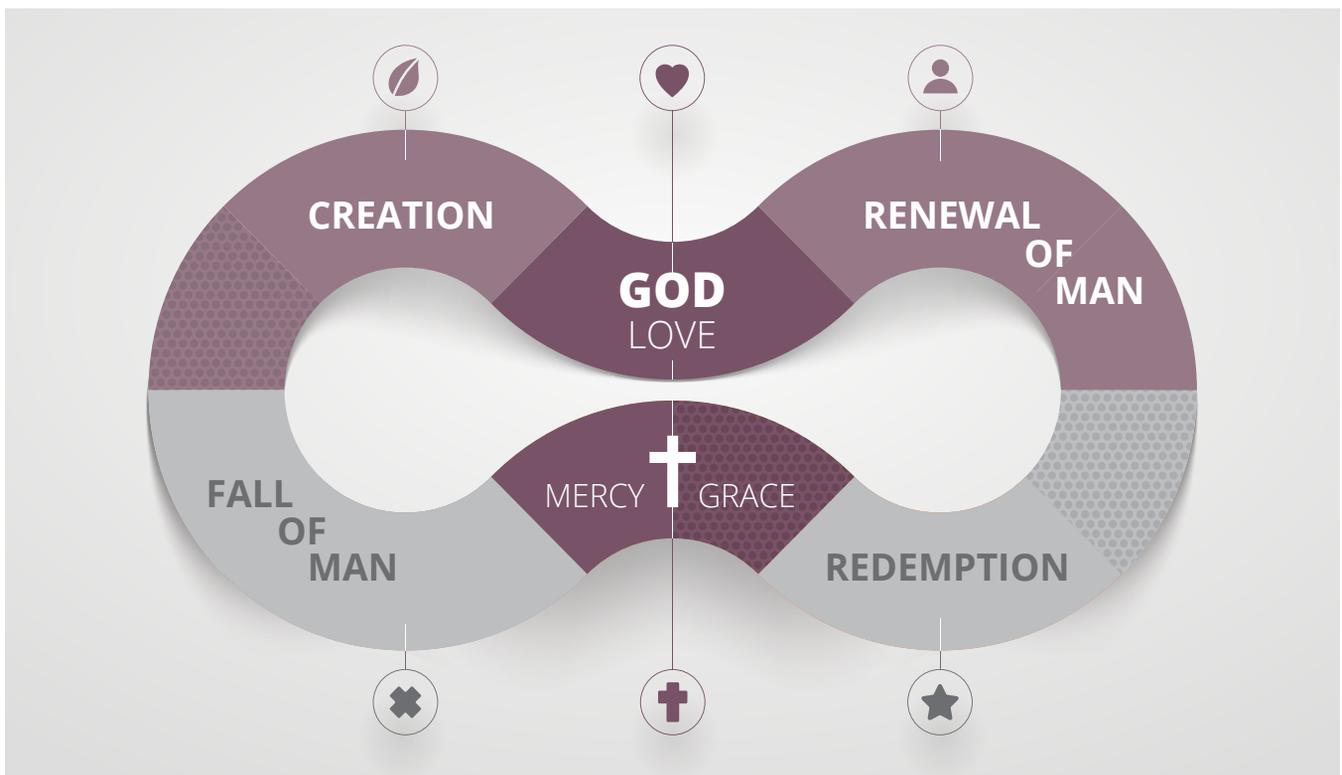
**The Love of God.** Love is a very important attribute of God toward man. Love is not only one of the most important attributes of God, it is also a very important part of the essence of God. As 1 John 4:8 and 16 state, "God is love." God is love; that is, love is part of God's very essence and nature. Out of love, God created all that exists. He particularly created man in love. He created *you* in love! First John 4:16 says, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and

he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." Therefore, love is both an attribute of God toward man and also part of God's essence. To understand God's love better, it is helpful to consider three aspects of His love.

First, God's love is not influenced by the object of His love: man. Nothing in you, in me, or anyone else can attract God's love by anything we do or say. God already loves us! Deuteronomy 7:8 declares,

*But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

Our love for God is a response to the fact that He first loved us. The apostle John wrote (1 John 4:19), "We love him, because he first loved us." Because God loved us even though we might have been unlovable, we can know that His love



| Grace Expressed

for us does not depend upon the object of His love. His love is not influenced by who we are or by what we do or say.

Second, God's love is eternal. God's love always has been, and God's love will never end. In Jeremiah 31:3, God says, "...Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love...." This truth becomes a source of joy when we realize that God's love for us has always been there, and it always will be there. His eternal love also has no limits. Ephesians 2:4-6 tells us,

*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

Third, God's love for us is **immutable**. This means that the love of God never changes. God's love is stable and unchanging. James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." This tells us that God is neither contrary nor changeable. He is immutable, and His love is immutable, too. Another way to say this is that God's perfect love is not subject to **alteration**.

Romans 8:38-39 assures us,

*...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



**Write true or false.**

- 1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ In His wisdom and love, God created everything that exists, both in heaven and on earth.
- 1.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Not only can we know that God exists, but we can also know many things about God.
- 1.3 \_\_\_\_\_ God's presence in the universe is somewhat limited at times.
- 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_ God has not only revealed many things to us about Himself, but He has also revealed many things about His plan for Creation.
- 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ God's eternal love is somewhat limited at times.

**Complete these activities.**

**1.6** Identify the meaning of these terms.

a. essence \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. attribute \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. omnipresence \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.7** List four aspects of God's essence that have been mentioned in this LIFEPAK.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.8** List eight attributes of God that have been mentioned in this LIFEPAK.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

f. \_\_\_\_\_

g. \_\_\_\_\_

h. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.9** List three aspects of God's love.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

**The Mercy of God.** Mercy is another important attribute of God toward man. In the Bible, the term mercy is used to show a relationship between love and justice. Justice means to give someone what that person is due. In our legal system today, we hear a great deal about justice. When a law has been violated, the responsibility of a judge is to administer the due punishment to a person for that violation. This due punishment is called justice. Other times, people are wronged by another person, group, or organization. Justice would be administered by a judge when the people who are wronged receive the appropriate **restitution** or **compensation** for the harm caused to them by an offender.

However, a judge might decide not to give a person the just punishment for violating a law. The judge might give the person a lesser punishment for the violation—or even no punishment at all! In this case, the judge would show *mercy* to the person. Likewise, a person who is wronged could decide, out of love and forgiveness, not to require just compensation or restitution. This wronged person could decide to require much less, or even nothing at all, in return for the harm done to them. In this case, the wronged person would show mercy to the offender.

God's mercy is something like the judge and the wronged person. God shows mercy to sinful human beings when He does not give the just punishment due to violations of His law. He shows mercy when He does not require the just restitution or compensation when He is wronged. God's mercy to us flows from His love for us. The Scriptures tell us of God's mercy in many places. For instance, the Psalmist prays (Psalm 69:16), "Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies."

God is both just and merciful. First, He is a God of justice. If we violate His commandments and wrong Him by our sinful actions, we will suffer the **consequences** of God's just punishments.



| Through Christ, we can receive abundant mercy from God.

The Scriptures show this happening many times to the people of Israel. However, God is also very merciful and does not always treat us according to our sins. He is usually quick to show mercy when we ask for it. Again the Psalmist says (Psalm 25:6), "Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old."

On Mt. Sinai, God passed by Moses and proclaimed (Exodus 34:6-7), "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...."

We should continually rejoice that mercy is one of God's attributes. Mercy revealed itself fully when God offered an alternative to the punishment for mankind's sins. Out of love, God sent His own Son to the world to die for us that we might receive God's mercy instead of God's just punishment. Through the death of Jesus on the cross, God has poured out His mercy upon all. Jesus made restitution and compensation for our sins and offenses against God. Through Christ, we can receive abundant mercy from

God if we come to God asking for mercy and forgiveness.

There are two aspects of God's mercy: *general* and *specific*. God's general mercy is extended to all believers, unbelievers, and to all His creation. In the Book of Lamentations, we read (Lam. 3:22–23), "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." God's love and general mercy extends to all people and all creation. The Bible says in Psalm 145:9, "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works."

Jesus spoke about the way that God is good and merciful in a general way to all people. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:45), Jesus taught that we should be like our "...Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." This is an example of God's general mercy.

A second aspect of God's mercy is His specific mercy toward those who are believers in Christ. God shows a specific mercy toward those who receive His provision for forgiveness of sins through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. God's specific mercy is always available to those who seek Him and to His people. The Letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 8:10–12) speaks of the new covenant that believers have through Jesus Christ and its offer of specific mercy:

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*



### Complete these statements.

- 1.10** In the Bible, the term \_\_\_\_\_ is used to show a relationship between love and justice.
- 1.11** Justice means to give someone what that person is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.12** God shows mercy when He does not require the just restitution or compensation when He is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.13** Through the death of \_\_\_\_\_ , God has poured out His mercy upon all.
- 1.14** There are two aspects of God's mercy: a. \_\_\_\_\_ , and  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.15** God's \_\_\_\_\_ mercy is extended to all believers, unbelievers, and to all His creation.
- 1.16** God's \_\_\_\_\_ mercy is toward those who are believers in Christ.



**Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

## SELF TEST 1

**Match these items** (each answer, 2 points).

- |              |       |                     |           |  |
|--------------|-------|---------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ | grace               | a.        | to give someone his due                        |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ | mercy               | b.        | credited to you when you accept Christ         |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ | God's love          | c.        | love, mercy, and grace                         |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ | abundant life       | d.        | sin  |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ | God's righteousness | e.        | general and specific                           |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ | justice             | f.        | unrighteousness                                |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ | works               | g.        | unmerited favor                                |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ | aspects of grace    | h.        | in John 10:10, Jesus says He came to give this |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ | aspects of mercy    | i.        | not influenced by its object; eternal and      |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ | attributes of God   | immutable |  |
|              |       |                     | j.        | shows relationship between love and justice    |
|              |       |                     | k.        | eternal and free gift                          |
|              |       |                     | l.        | do not gain salvation                          |

**Answer true or false** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.011** \_\_\_\_\_ In his wisdom and love, God created everything that exists, both in heaven and on earth.
- 1.012** \_\_\_\_\_ To say that God is omnipresent means that He is all-powerful.
- 1.013** \_\_\_\_\_ We can know not only that God exists, but we can also know many things about God.
- 1.014** \_\_\_\_\_ To say that God is immutable means that He is stable and unchanging.
- 1.015** \_\_\_\_\_ God's presence in the universe is somewhat limited at times.
- 1.016** \_\_\_\_\_ God's grace must be earned by human beings and is given according to their efforts.

- 1.017** \_\_\_\_\_ God has not only revealed many things to us about Himself, but He has also revealed many things about His plan for His Creation.
- 1.018** \_\_\_\_\_ The Christian is no longer in Adam; he is now in Christ.
- 1.019** \_\_\_\_\_ God's eternal love is somewhat limited at times.
- 1.020** \_\_\_\_\_ Man's good deeds can save him.

**Complete these lists** (each answer, 3 points)

**1.021** List two aspects of God's essence mentioned in this LIFEPAK.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.022** List three aspects of God's love.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete these statements** (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.023** God shows mercy when He does not require the just restitution or compensation when He is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.024** Through the death of \_\_\_\_\_, God has poured out His mercy upon all.
- 1.025** God's \_\_\_\_\_ mercy is extended to all believers, unbelievers, and to all His creation.
- 1.026** God's \_\_\_\_\_ mercy is toward those who are believers in Christ.
- 1.027** "For by grace are ye saved through \_\_\_\_\_; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God..." (Ephesians 2:8)

**Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.028** God the Creator set man as the \_\_\_\_\_ of all His material creation.  
a. low point      b. pinnacle      c. first made      d. least important
- 1.029** God knew from all ages that man would \_\_\_\_\_ and fall from God's grace.  
a. make mistakes      b. build many things      c. trip over the law      d. sin
- 1.030** God sent the Savior, Jesus Christ, to redeem man from the slavery of sin and help those who believe in Jesus to become \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. children of God      b. good people      c. more like Him      d. more intelligent

1.031 Jesus is both fully God and \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. like the angels  
c. fully man

b. fully intelligent  
d. an important person

1.032 Through Christ's death on the cross, our sins \_\_\_\_\_ and we can have a new life in God.  
a. increased greatly    b. are exposed    c. are forgiven    d. condemn us

**Answer these questions** (each answer, 5 points).

1.033 How is God's mercy like a loving judge or a loving wronged person? \_\_\_\_\_

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1.034 What did Adam's sin do for man, and what did Christ's obedience do for man? \_\_\_\_\_

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	<b>SCORE</b> _____	<b>TEACHER</b> _____	initials _____	date _____
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