



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **12th Grade** | Unit 10

COURSE TITLE 1210

THE CHRISTIAN

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The Christian

Introduction

Although we often acquire our beliefs from other people, especially our parents, we must make them our own by the conviction of the Scriptures through the Holy Spirit.

In this LIFEPAAC®, the Scriptures, God's nature and the basic truth claims of Christianity will be studied, for a clear understanding of these increases apologetic skills. Christian growth and how we mature will also be studied, as will how the Christian affects those they have contact with. Through teaching, we are called to defend the faith against cultic beliefs or heresies. Each life we touch, in turn, touches others.

Objectives

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

1. Discuss the Trinity.
2. Explain the meanings of Christ's redemptive work and justification by faith.
3. Tell the importance of the Biblical canon.
4. Describe the work of the Holy Spirit.
5. Identify the fundamental differences between cults and Christianity.
6. List activities that contribute to spiritual development.
7. Explain the truths upon which Christian conduct is based.
8. Identify the influences on vocational and ministry choices.
9. Explain the importance of proclaiming the Gospel.

Survey the LIFEPAK. Ask yourself some questions about this study and write your questions here.

1. WE BELIEVE

Scriptural doctrine is the basis of Christianity. The vanguard against error is discernment brought through study.

Our faith begins with the Trinity. Our sole authoritative source of information about the person of God is his written record, the Bible. The Bible is the

whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his glory, man's salvation, faith, and life. In this section, you will see how God dwelt with the nation of Israel, and how in these last days, he gives grace to all nations through Christ. The Spirit of God enables believers to discern the truth and defend it.

Section Objectives

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

1. Discuss the Trinity.
2. Explain the meanings of Christ's redemptive work and justification by faith.
3. Tell the importance of the Biblical canon.
4. Describe the work of the Holy Spirit.
5. Identify fundamental differences between cults and Christianity.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

canon

condescension

herald

polytheism

linguistics

scribes

metaphysical

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

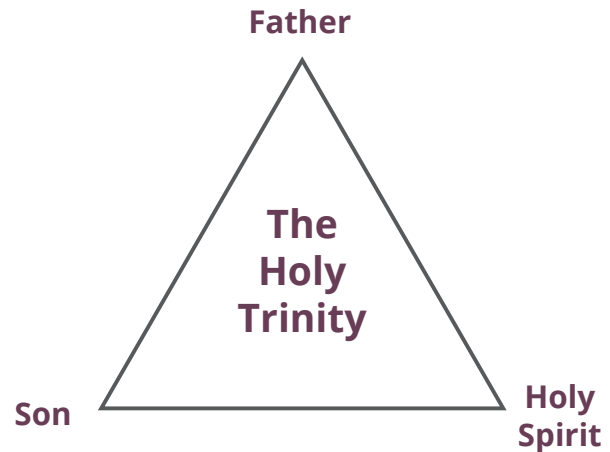
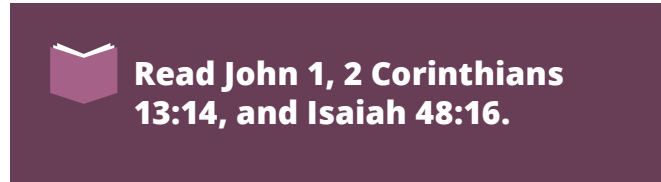
THE NATURE OF GOD

The Trinity is the single most important doctrine in Christianity. It is the linchpin upon which stands Christ's Atonement, his Incarnation, and ultimately, our Salvation.

The Trinity. Our only source of primary knowledge of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is the **canon** of Holy Scripture. The emphasis of the Old Testament was on the revelation of God as YHWH (I AM, Yahweh), the one and only God, contrasted with the **polytheism** of all other nations. The Israelites used what we call the Old Testament as their source of authority on personal and religious conduct.

God dwelt in the presence of (yet separate from) his holy nation, Israel. He abode between the cherubim on the Mercy Seat (the gold cover on the Ark of the Covenant) (Exodus 25:22). The Ark was kept in the Holy of Holies to be seen only once a year, on the Day of Atonement, by a single high priest. During the wilderness wanderings, the Ark was carried in front of the people.

His presence continued with them until his wrath was finally kindled at Shiloh (Psalm 78:60). The Israelites followed other gods once again, thereby breaking their covenant with God, and he withdrew



from them. He delivered them into the hands of their enemies at Ebenezer. The sons of Eli took the Ark of the Covenant into battle, thinking it would save them. Israel was defeated by the Philistines and the Ark was captured.

Complete these sentences.

- 1.1 The three Persons of the Trinity are the a. _____ ,
b. _____ , and c. _____ .
- 1.2 Israelites used the Old Testament as their authority in a. _____ and
b. _____ conduct.
- 1.3 God withdrew his physical presence from Israel because _____
_____ .
- 1.4 Israel was defeated by the a. _____ , and the b. _____
was captured.

After God's "physical" presence departed from Israel, he ministered to them through kings, prophets, and the Law. Although allusions to multiple Persons within the Godhead are made, the Hebrew Bible is clear in its monotheism. He was called El or Elohim and YHWH (I AM). (See Bible LIFE PAC 1204, Section 1.)

God's names YHWH, Elohim, and Adonai were all later used to refer to Jesus, the Messiah. Jesus claimed, "Verily, verily, I say unto you before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58).

Jesus Christ, the Word of God, is God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:1-3). God the Holy Spirit was also active in Creation, for "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth ... And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:1, 2b).

God's personal name is YHWH (Exodus 6:3). In this name, he proclaims that he (I AM) is the self-existent

one not depending on anything to sustain him. To the Jews, he proclaimed himself as fully righteous. He called his people to be set apart (as he is) in righteousness among the nations, being in effect his **heralds** on the earth. Being Creator, he is involved and sovereign over all he created, while the pagan gods were only wood and stone.

When God the Son came to earth, he revealed to us God's trinitarian nature. We see what the Father is like through Christ himself, for he came to fulfill God's law in the flesh, and pay the price for the sins of all his redeemed. Before the foundation of the earth, the Trinity knew that Jesus would have to pay the price to save us from our sin. God's holiness cannot allow sin in his glorified presence. Therefore, Christ's righteousness alone gives us access to God, for any other way but him brings Judgment.

God, the Holy Spirit led national Israel through the wilderness and into Canaan. He leads us to Christ and enacts our salvation. He blesses us with wisdom and discernment.

Complete these activities.

- 1.5** On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions in one or two paragraphs. You may use any source or person to help you.
- What is your value to God?
 - Where does salvation come from?
 - What is the work of the Holy Spirit?



CHECK

_____ Teacher

_____ Date

Holiness. The Trinity is *holy*, meaning *separate* or *sanctified*. Yahweh created all things, yet is separate from his creation. He cannot be correctly compared to any created thing. Only through an act of his mercy did he allow us to understand his nature. The mercy was in his Son, Jesus. God explained his trinitarian nature in the best way man could understand. The Trinity is clearly fact, but to us it is a holy mystery. The Son desires to be subject to the Father to the point that he came to earth and physically dwelled with us in the midst of our sins and despair. Only in his **condescension** to humanity would man be saved.

Throughout Scripture, God is declared as being holy. In Leviticus the words, "I am holy" are frequently repeated (Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2, 20:26, 21:8). When the Holy One of Israel made a covenant with David, he proclaimed the holiness of the coming Messiah.

At the beginning of his ministry, Christ's followers did not realize he was the Holy One of God, but his identity was clearly known to evil spirits (Mark 1:24). Peter lived in the presence of God's holiness, but it took God, the Holy Spirit to reveal his true identity to



Read Hebrews 1 and Acts 1.

him. Not until after his sacrifice did his disciples fully realize his deity.

Although Christ taught his disciples many things after his Resurrection, they were still not equipped to be his witnesses. Before his Ascension, Jesus explained that he would not leave them alone. He promised to send God the Holy Spirit, who would reveal the meaning of all the teachings he had given them. He equipped them to perform the works that Christ performed and to even do greater works than he did (John 14:12-26).

The Spirit of God regenerates our soul, which is dead in sin. We immediately trust (have faith) in Christ's sacrifice to atone for our sins. The Holy Spirit is our seal for eternity. From then on, he is our Sanctifier as he works in our hearts, continually molding us in Christ's image.

Complete this activity.

- 1.6** Read Ephesians 4:23-32 and write the verse number on the line that best describes the results of the holiness of God in the believer's life.
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| a. _____ speaking truth | h. _____ being tenderhearted |
| b. _____ not grieving the Holy Spirit | i. _____ edifying talk that blesses believers |
| c. _____ working with your hands | j. _____ quickly overcoming anger |
| d. _____ forgiving one another | k. _____ putting away malice |
| e. _____ giving no room to Satan | l. _____ not stealing |
| f. _____ being kind | m. _____ not speaking evil |
| g. _____ giving to the needy | n. _____ not using foul language |

HOLY SCRIPTURE

The Bible is the only source that reveals all things necessary for God’s glory, man’s salvation, faith, and life. The teaching in the local church must be in conformity with Biblical doctrine.

The vast majority of humanity does not believe that the Bible is the only primary revelation of God. However, God chose to have his communication to us reduced to the simple form of the written word. Thus, both the Old and New Testaments are authoritative and authentic testaments about Christ from God.

These books were maintained in congregations of the Land of Israel, Asia-Minor, Greece, and Rome. They were copied and circulated among the groups of Christians, and during their dispersion, they remained intact. Some scholars believe that some early Christian writings have been “lost.” Just as the Dead Sea Scrolls were found centuries after their burial, perhaps one of Paul’s lost letters would be found on some occasion. However, God maintained for us the perfect record of all we need to know to be saved, live rightly, and glorify him.

If an ancient manuscript suddenly reappeared, it is subject to certain criterion before it could be considered authoritative. For example, our Bible was quoted widely by persons who lived soon after the canon was completed. Clement of Rome wrote to the church at Corinth in the year 95 (A.D.). In his book, he quoted from Matthew, Luke, Romans, Corinthians, Hebrews, 1 Timothy, and 1 Peter. In his letter to the Philippians in 110, Polycarp quoted from both Paul and Peter’s works. They were so quoted, because even then the writings were seen as Scripture.

During Diocletian’s reign in the early fourth century, a final effort was made to destroy Christianity. For ten years, Bibles were burned in market places by the agents of this Roman emperor. After his death, Constantine became emperor.

Constantine ordered fifty copies of the Bible for the church at Constantinople. Eusebius (bishop and historian) supervised the copying of the existing manuscripts and delivered them to Constantinople. He then determined what books besides the Old Testament were Scripture to believers. He differentiated them from the spurious or other heretic forgeries. The twenty-seven books accepted by the Council of Carthage (397 A.D.) are the same ones contained in the New Testament today.



| Trained scribes carefully transcribed copies by hand.

Throughout history, the Scriptures have been maintained. Prior to the advent of printing, trained **scribes** carefully transcribed copies by hand. They were mindful of every jot and tittle as they labored to make exact copies.

Hundreds of translations have been completed. The New Testament was originally written in Greek, while the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic. The Bible has been translated about twelve hundred times since the original books were written. Translations are written in order to place it in the language of local Christian groups. In 1978 scholars translated the Bible in order to yield a clearer English understanding of the authors’ original intent. The result was the New International Version. Most modern versions are an attempt to put the Scriptures in a more readable form.

Archaeological research throughout the world continues to provide material and language information helpful toward understanding the Scriptures. **Linguistics** continue to expand our technical understanding of the Bible’s texts.

While understanding the history of Scripture is important, nothing is more valuable than a solid knowledge of its *content*.



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