

## **UNIT 6**

**Lesson 6A: The Three Basic Techniques of Bible Study (1)**

**Lesson 6B: The Three Basic Techniques of Bible Study (2)**

**Lesson 6C: The Announcements of the King's Birth  
(Matthew 1:18–25)**

### **Goals for Unit 6**

On completing this Unit you should be able to achieve the following goals:

1. Name three basic techniques of Bible study in the order in which they should be used.
2. Take part in a group discussion on what the Scriptures teach us about the use of these techniques in Bible study.
3. From a list of given points drawn from a Bible passage, name the technique used in each case.
4. Explain simply to an inquirer how the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the only one in all the universe who can bridge the gap between God and humans.

## Lesson 6A

# The Three Techniques of Bible Study (1)

*In Lessons 6A and 6B we are going to learn how to use some of the basic methods of Bible study.  
This is SEAN's logo:*



*As you can see, the verse which SEAN has adopted as its vision is 2 Timothy 2:2.*

*"And the things that you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others."*

1. By now you should have a really good grasp of the overall pattern of Matthew's Gospel. It is time, therefore, to take a closer look at some of the stories that he tells us about the Lord Jesus. This is important because God speaks to us through his Word, the Bible; he also has given us a helper who guides and counsels us in our understanding of what he is saying.

Read John 14:26.

Whom has God given to help us? \_\_\_\_\_

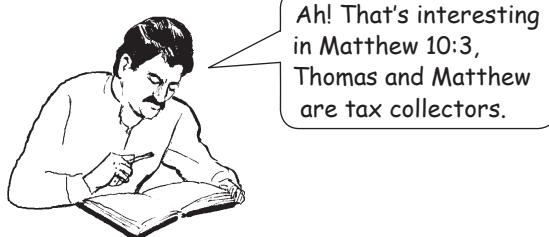


*Let's pause to ask God to give us the help of his Holy Spirit in our study today.*

2. The Holy Spirit helps us in each of the three basic techniques of Bible study. These are
1. The technique of **observing**: to spot the **main points in the Bible passage** that we are studying.
  2. The technique of **explaining**: to **make plain the meaning** especially of the difficult points.
  3. The technique of **applying**: to find ways in which we can **put the teaching into practice** in our lives.

Which of these three basic techniques of Bible study is used in order to

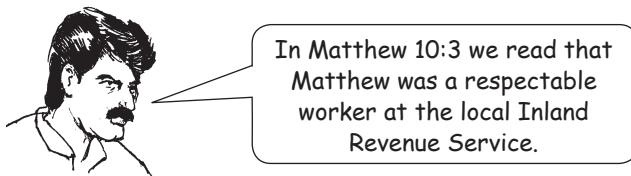
- a) make clear the meaning of the passage? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) spot the main points in the passage? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) put the main points into practice? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Let's take the story of how Jesus called the twelve apostles, in Matthew 10:1–4, as an example.
- To which of the Five Steps in the life of Christ does this event belong?  
The chapter should tell you. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Now let's see how easy it is to make mistakes if we don't use these three techniques properly.



Do you see the mistake the student is making?

- a) If we look carefully at what the passage says we can see that although Thomas and Matthew are mentioned together, only Matthew is the \_\_\_\_\_. .
- b) Clearly this student has made the mistake by not using well the technique of \_\_\_\_\_. .

## 5. Now look at this second mistake:



What is the mistake? Well, obviously the student was thinking of the kind of tax official who sometimes helps us fill out our income tax forms properly. He hasn't made clear that Matthew was collecting taxes for a foreign power and was therefore hated by his fellow Jews.

He has, therefore, not properly used the technique of \_\_\_\_\_.

## 6. Now look at this third mistake:



- a) Is this student putting into practice in his own life what he had learned that morning from the example of Jesus in his Bible reading?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Which of the techniques is he not using properly?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) Why? Because the passage shows us that
- a. we ought not to let those who have sinned badly take part in church decisions, even though they are now repentant and believing Christians.
  - b. we ought to accept such people as Jesus accepted Matthew.
  - c. we only ought to let people with a clean past take part in church affairs.

7. These three examples give us some idea of the mistakes we can make if we don't use the three basic techniques of Bible study properly. Fill in the following spaces:

- a) When I read the Bible I ought to pay careful attention to everything the passage says: Technique of \_\_\_\_\_
- b) I need to make plain the proper meaning, especially of any difficult parts: Technique of \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Finally, I must put what I read into practice in my daily life: Technique of \_\_\_\_\_

8. Now let's go back a little in the story of Matthew to the time when he began to follow Jesus. This will give us good practice in the three techniques of study.

Read carefully Matthew 9:9–13. In which of the five steps in the life of Christ did this event take place? \_\_\_\_\_

9. a) Which of the following points are to be found in this passage?

- a. Jesus saw a man named Matthew, sitting at the collector's booth.
- b. Four men fishing.
- c. Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John.
- d. Jesus invited Matthew to follow him.
- e. Matthew refused to follow Jesus.
- f. In Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" sat down with them at the table.
- g. The Pharisees asked why Jesus ate with such people.
- h. Jesus admits his mistake in eating with sinners.
- i. Jesus tried to hide the fact that he was eating with sinners.
- j. Jesus said, "*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.*"
- k. Jesus said, "*I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*"

- b) Which technique were you using here? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What are two of the most important points that you observed in Matthew 9:9–13? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use only your Bible; don't look back in your Workbook.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Let's continue studying this event.

- a) What nationality was Matthew? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) For which nation did he collect taxes? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) From whom did he collect taxes? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) In most countries today, officials who work in the Inland Revenue Service are not considered to be social outcasts! Why then did the Pharisees class them as such and show such disapproval of them?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- e) Why do you think that Matthew invited tax collectors and sinners to his house to eat with Jesus?

- a. Because he still wanted to join in with their sinful ways.
- b. Because he wanted to introduce them to his new-found friend and master.
- c. Because he hoped they would persuade Jesus to join the ranks of the money-making tax collectors.

11. a) What were you doing in 6A.10 above?

- a. Observing what the passage said.
- b. Explaining some of the points that weren't quite clear, by using things you had learned earlier in this Course.
- c. Putting it into practice in your own life.

b) What technique were you using here? \_\_\_\_\_

12. In Matthew 9:11 there is a name that might not be clear to some people. They were members of a Jewish religious party who criticised Jesus.

What were they called? \_\_\_\_\_

 **Note:** We will be finding out more about this religious party when we get to Book 2.

13. What are two of the points in this story which are hard to understand and which should be explained? (Try to answer, without looking above.)
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14. Finally, what lessons can we learn from this story that we can put into practice in our own lives today?

- a. The value of inviting non-Christians to our homes with the aim of introducing them to the Lord Jesus.
- b. We can recognise Christ's tremendous love for us in spite of all our sin, and trust in his ability to heal us.
- c. The importance of never having contact with non-Christians.
- d. Not to spend so much of our time with believers that we never make contact with those who don't know Christ yet.
- e. The necessity of putting Christ first in our lives before efforts to be a success in our business.
- f. The necessity of giving first place in our lives to earning money for ourselves.

15. a) Are the points you marked in 6A.14 above merely explaining things that aren't clear in the passage, or are they things that we should put into practice in our own lives today?
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- b) To which of the three techniques do they belong? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What do you think is one of the most important lessons of this story that you can apply to your own life today?
- 
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(Compare your answer against 6A.14)

17. We should use all three techniques in every Bible study but always in their correct order.

- You cannot **explain** a point until you have first **observed** it accurately.
- You cannot **apply** a point properly until you have first **explained** it, or it could lead you into serious error.

In which order, then, must you use the three Bible study techniques?

1. Technique of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Technique of \_\_\_\_\_
3. Technique of \_\_\_\_\_

18. You need to be absolutely clear in your own mind about the difference between these three basic techniques of Bible study.

Which technique is used for

- a) making the meaning clear? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) spotting the principal points in the passage? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) putting it into practice? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Read Frame 6A.2 carefully again, thinking especially about what the words in bold print mean. Now what follows is a real test of your understanding of these three techniques. Keep clearly in your mind the differences between each technique as you tick the following points after reading Matthew 9:9–13. If you are not sure, check with the Answers after each point.

Write “O” for Observing; write “E” for Explaining and write “A” for Applying.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus saw Matthew, sitting at the tax collector’s booth.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew was a Jew.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ He collected taxes from his own people, for the Roman conquerors.
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus invited Matthew to follow him.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ I must put Christ first in my life, before all efforts to be a success in my job, just as Matthew did.
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ Many tax collectors and “sinners” sat down with them at the table in his house.
- g) \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew invited tax collectors and “sinners” because he wanted to introduce them to Jesus.
- h) \_\_\_\_\_ We should not be afraid to invite non-Christians to our house to introduce them to Jesus, just as Matthew did.

- i) \_\_\_\_\_ The Pharisees questioned the fact that Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners.
- j) \_\_\_\_\_ The Pharisees were members of a Jewish religious party.
- k) \_\_\_\_\_ The Pharisees classed the tax collectors as sinners and showed their disapproval of Jesus eating with them because the tax collectors were really traitors to their country.
- l) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus said: "*It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick.*"
- m) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus said: "*I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*"
- n) \_\_\_\_\_ We can rejoice because of Christ's tremendous love for us, in spite of all our sin and rebellion, and trust him to help and heal our weaknesses.

20. Now do Test 6A.

*If you are taking a break between the parts of each lesson (which is always a good thing to do), remember to look back at the goals of the whole Unit when starting each new part, to help you to pick up where you are in the whole study.*

*If the sick person is to receive the full benefit of his medicine, he must take three clearly defined steps, which illustrate the three basic techniques of Bible study.*

1. This drawing goes with the technique of

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Here's your medicine.  
It says, "A spoonful  
after every meal."

2. This drawing goes with the technique of

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Ah, I see! "After every meal," means,  
after breakfast, lunch and supper.

3. This drawing goes with the technique of

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I'll soon be  
well taking  
this medicine.

4. In this lesson we shall use a new Bible passage for practising the three basic techniques of Bible study, so that we can get really skilled in using them. The passage we will be studying is Matthew 22:15–22; it will deepen our knowledge of the influence of the Roman Empire in Jesus' day.

To which of the Five Steps in the life of Christ does this story belong?

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5. **Practice in the Technique of Observing**

Read Matthew 22:15–22 carefully. It is the story of the trick question that Jesus' enemies asked him. Be sure to observe the main points in the story.

a) What question did Jesus' enemies ask him?

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b) Why did they ask Jesus this question? \_\_\_\_\_

c) What did Jesus ask them to show him? \_\_\_\_\_

d) What was the name of this coin? \_\_\_\_\_

e) Whose portrait and inscription was on the coin? \_\_\_\_\_

f) What answer did Jesus give to his enemies' question?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

g) What was their reaction to Jesus' reply?  
\_\_\_\_\_

h) None of these questions helps to make difficult points clear but only to spot what was actually told in the Bible passage.

They are, therefore, all questions of \_\_\_\_\_.

6. **Practice in the Technique of Explaining**

As we have already observed from the passage, the coin they brought Jesus was called a “denarius”. It had the portrait and inscription of Caesar.

a) Look back to the picture of the 3 coins in Lesson 1B.5. Which of these is a denarius? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Was a denarius a Roman or a Jewish coin? \_\_\_\_\_

7. As the denarius was a Roman coin, why did the Jews in Palestine use it?
- a. Because they were under the rule of the Roman Empire.
  - b. Because they liked the Roman money.
  - c. Because they didn't have any Jewish money of their own.
8. The trick question that Jesus' enemies asked him was very cunning, "*Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?*"
- a) If Jesus had answered that the Jews ought to pay taxes to Rome, how would the Jewish people have reacted?
    - a. Against Jesus
    - b. In favour of Jesus
    - c. With indifference
  - b) On the other hand, if Jesus had said that the Jews ought not to pay taxes to Rome, how would the Romans have reacted?
    - a. Against Jesus
    - b. In favour of Jesus
    - c. With indifference
9. It seemed impossible for Jesus to get himself out of the trap. Whichever way he answered he would make someone angry, either the a) \_\_\_\_\_ or the b) \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Jesus answered by saying, "*Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.*"
- A. This answer would have caused offence to the Jews.
  - B. This answer would have caused offence to the Romans.
- Which of these statements, "A" or "B", is correct?
- a. Only A.
  - b. Only B.
  - c. Both A and B.
  - d. Neither of the two.
11. Jesus' enemies would certainly have known that there were those among the apostles who had differing political views, such as Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot. With their trick question they may well

have wanted to stir up the hatred that had once existed between them. They may have hoped that Christ would offend either Matthew or Simon in his reply to their question.

- a) If Jesus had answered that the Jews ought to pay taxes to Rome, which of the two might have been offended?
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- b) If Jesus had answered that the Jews ought not to pay taxes to Rome, which of the two might have been offended?
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- c) Which of the two would have been offended by the way Jesus actually answered?

a. Only Simon.

c. Both of them.

b. Only Matthew.

d. Neither of them.

12. Let's summarise some of the points that need clarifying.

- a) The coin given to Jesus had the portrait and inscription of Caesar. Who was Caesar?
- 

- b) To which empire did this coin belong?
- 

- c) For what did the Jews use these foreign coins?
- 

- d) Why did they have to pay taxes?
- 

- e) Jesus' enemies had asked him a trick question. Which two nationalities could have been angry had Jesus fallen into their trap?
- 
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

- f) Which two of Jesus' disciples could have been angered?
- 
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

- g) None of the answers to these questions can be found directly in the passage for they are questions that try to make the passage clear. So they are questions of \_\_\_\_\_.

13. There are two other names in this passage that could be unknown to some, which ought to be explained. What are these names?

- a) In v.15 \_\_\_\_\_

- b) In v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

14. We will make a thorough study of these later in the course. For the time being, it is enough for us to know that they were members of different Jewish political or religious parties.

Were the Pharisees and Herodians friends or enemies of Jesus?

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15. Practice in the Technique of Applying

- a) In the following list, underline those things that are the worst kinds of strife in your area.
- Cultural
  - Denominational
  - Political
  - Racial
  - Family feuds
  - Fights between neighbours
  - Personality conflicts
  - Struggle between the classes
- b) In Matthew 5:9, Jesus said, “*Blessed are the peacemakers*”. Think about the way Jesus acted as a peacemaker in this story and how he calmed the tension between these two political parties. What lesson do we learn from his example about how we should act in similar situations today?

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- c) What technique did you use in answering the last question?
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16. Now do Test 6B.

## Lesson 6C

# The Announcements of the King's Birth

(Matthew 1:18–25)

What sort of a fiancée are you? You leave home for three months and come back pregnant! I'll have to cancel our wedding!



*But he didn't abandon her. Why?  
The lesson will make it all clear.*

1. Do you remember the five steps (and the Introduction) in Matthew? We are now going to study Matthew 1:18–25, which belongs to
  - The Introduction.
  - The Infancy.
  - neither of these.
2. Remember, we call it the Introduction and not Infancy because it teaches us what happened (before/after) the birth of Jesus. Underline the correct word.

### **Practice in Observing**

3. Now let's practise the first of our three techniques of Bible study, which is that of observing. Read carefully Matthew 1:18–25 observing all the main points.
4. Were Mary and Joseph married or only pledged to be married when Mary was found to be pregnant? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was Joseph going to do when he knew Mary was pregnant? \_\_\_\_\_
6. To whom did the angel appear in this passage, to Mary or to Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_
7. According to the angel,
  - a) what would be the name of the baby that was to be born? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) by whom had Mary conceived this baby? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who said long before that the name of the son of the virgin would be Immanuel (God with us), an angel or a prophet? \_\_\_\_\_
9. After hearing the angel's message, what did Joseph do?
  - a. He divorced Mary as he had originally decided.
  - b. He waited to see the reactions of their family and friends.
  - c. He took Mary as his wife.
10. In Frames 6C.3 to 9 above, what technique have you been using?  
The technique of \_\_\_\_\_

*Train yourself to read with care, observing the basic facts in all Bible passages, just as you have done here.*

11. Now we are going to add another technique to the three we learned in the last two lessons. This fourth technique will help you study the life of Christ, not only in one Gospel, but eventually in all four together. What would be the best name for this new technique which will help you study the four Gospels together?
- a. Technique of observing
  - b. Technique of comparing
  - c. Technique of explaining
  - d. Technique of applying

*This new technique of comparing can be used together with any of the three basic techniques but, as we shall see, it gives a far wider view of any particular event. So, open your Bible at Matthew 1 and at Luke 1, marking both chapters with slips of paper, and we will try this out.*

### Practice in the Techniques of Bible Study

12. Read Luke 2:4. Before going to Bethlehem (where Jesus was born), Mary and Joseph lived in the town of a) \_\_\_\_\_ in the province of b) \_\_\_\_\_.
13. It was to this town of Nazareth that an angel came to two different people with the marvellous announcement of the coming birth of Jesus. To whom did he make this announcement
- a) in Luke 1:26–27? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) in Matthew 1:20? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Which Gospel tells us of the announcement
- a) to Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) to Mary? \_\_\_\_\_
15. The angel made both announcements in the same town. Read Luke 1:26. In which town? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Although both announcements of Jesus' birth took place in the same town of Nazareth, there was an interval of several months between them, during which Mary went on a long journey to the house of Elizabeth her relative. Read Luke 1:56.

The announcement of the angel in Luke to a) \_\_\_\_\_ took place before Mary's visit to Elizabeth, while the announcement in Matthew to b) \_\_\_\_\_ took place afterwards, and at least c) \_\_\_\_\_ months later.

17. According to the angel, was Elizabeth a relative of Mary?

Read Luke 1:36.

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Elizabeth was the future mother of John the Baptist. Was Jesus, therefore, a relative of John?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. What was the name of the person Mary visited (John the Baptist's mother)?

\_\_\_\_\_

20. Mary had to make a long journey to get to Elizabeth's house.

In which province did Elizabeth live? Read Luke 1:39–40.

Galilee

Judea (Judah)

Perea

21. When Mary visited Elizabeth,

a. she stayed in her own province.

b. she crossed into another province.

c. she entered another country.

22. In which direction did Mary have to travel (write north or south)

a) in her journey to Judea?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) in her return to Nazareth in Galilee?

\_\_\_\_\_

23. Let's review. God announced the coming birth of Jesus on a) \_\_\_\_\_ occasions by the mouth of an b) \_\_\_\_\_. The first announcement to c) \_\_\_\_\_ is found in the Gospel of d) \_\_\_\_\_, whereas the second announcement was made to e) \_\_\_\_\_ and is found in the Gospel of f) \_\_\_\_\_. Both announcements took place in the town of g) \_\_\_\_\_. They were separated by a period of at

least h) \_\_\_\_\_ during which Mary stayed in the house of an older i) \_\_\_\_\_ called j) \_\_\_\_\_. In order to arrive at the house of her relative, Mary had to undertake a long journey towards the l) \_\_\_\_\_ until she came to the province of m) \_\_\_\_\_. After several months she returned to her own home in the town of n) \_\_\_\_\_ in the province of o) \_\_\_\_\_.

24. a) What three techniques have we been using in Frames 6C.12 to 23?

- a. Observing                            b. Explaining
- c. Comparing                            d. Applying

- b) Which of these is the new technique that widens our view of the event?  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. Let's continue to use our study techniques. When Mary went home to Nazareth, she was already three months pregnant, although she was only pledged to be married to Joseph.

 **Note:** Among Jewish people a couple “pledged to be married” had **committed** themselves to be married. We would consider them to be engaged, with one important difference: this commitment to each other could not be broken except by divorce or the death of one person.

At this stage Mary was

- a. married to Joseph.
- b. legally engaged, but still single.
- c. divorced from Joseph.

26. Read Matthew 1:18. The fact that Mary was pregnant before having sexual intercourse with Joseph proves that Joseph was not the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

27. Matthew 1:16 says that Joseph was the “*the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah*”, but it doesn’t say that Joseph was the father of Jesus, which is the word used of all the other male ancestors in turn.

Indeed, Joseph was the only man in the whole of Jesus’ genealogy who is not called a \_\_\_\_\_.

28. Now we can understand the importance of the basic message of the announcements. The angel announced to both Mary and Joseph the marvellous news that God himself was to be Jesus' father.

- a) To whom was the first announcement made? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b) Which Gospel tells us of it? \_\_\_\_\_

29. Mary, in her confusion, asked: "*How will this be since I am a virgin?*" (Luke 1:34). The angel answered, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*" (Luke 1:35)

Who then, was Jesus' father? \_\_\_\_\_

30. Joseph knew nothing of this therefore, when Mary returned pregnant three months later, he was very alarmed. He knew he wasn't the father of the child, and must have asked himself who it could be. Could it have been a stranger from Judea where Mary had been for a visit? If, in fact, it was another man then Mary, legally engaged to Joseph, was guilty of adultery by Jewish law; the punishment for this sin was to be stoned to death.

Tortured by these thoughts, what did Joseph decide to do?

Read Matthew 1:19. \_\_\_\_\_

31. At this point the angel of God came to Joseph, as he had done a) \_\_\_\_\_ months before to b) \_\_\_\_\_, with a clear answer to his question, "Who is Jesus' father"?

32. Read Matthew 1:20. Who was Jesus' father according to the angel's announcement to Joseph?

- Another man
- God
- Joseph

33. Read Matthew 1:18–20. In which two of these three verses do we read that God is the father of Jesus by the Holy Spirit?

- a) Verse \_\_\_\_\_      b) Verse \_\_\_\_\_

34. **Exercise:** Underline in green, the words:

1. "*Through the Holy Spirit*" in Matthew 1:18.
2. "*From the Holy Spirit*" in Matthew 1:20.

35. His doubts gone, Joseph was completely convinced that **God** was Jesus' real Father, through the **Holy Spirit**.

How do we know that Joseph was convinced of this?

Read Matthew 1:24–25.

- a. Because he had Mary stoned according to the law.
- b. Because he divorced her as he had planned to do.
- c. Because he married her.

36. Turn to the Title Page of this Lesson 6C. Can you answer my question now as to why Joseph didn't abandon Mary after all? Write your answer in the space below.
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37. 700 years before, the great prophet Isaiah had predicted the same truth by the use of two special words you will find quoted in Matthew 1:23. Read them.

- a) His word for the mother was v \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) His word for the child was I \_\_\_\_\_.

38. "Immanuel" (or Emmanuel), like the word "Messiah", is a Hebrew word.

What does the word Immanuel mean according to Matthew 1:23?

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39. The word "virgin" means a girl who has not had sexual intercourse with a man. So then, Jesus had a human mother, but not a human father.

Which of Isaiah's two words, virgin or Immanuel, suggests that

- a) God was the father of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Joseph was not the father of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

40. From Matthew 1 we know that

- a) Joseph was not the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.
- b) Jesus' mother was \_\_\_\_\_, in whom he was conceived by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) Jesus' true father was \_\_\_\_\_ because he was conceived through the \_\_\_\_\_.

41. What does all this mean? It means that Jesus, unlike every other living being, had at his birth **two natures**; one **human**, the other **divine**.

 **Note:** Human means “**of humanity**”, divine means “**of God**”.

All living things in the world receive the nature of their parents. So, for example, young fish are also fish like their parents, and are not birds.

a) From whom did Christ receive his **human** nature?

- a. From Joseph
- b. From Mary
- c. From the Holy Spirit

b) From whom did Christ receive his **divine** nature?

- a. From Joseph
- b. From Mary
- c. From God the Father

42. Now look at the two diagrams in Figure 1 at the top of Supplement 9. The circle in each of the diagrams represents a child. One represents Jesus himself, the other represents any other child. Which of the diagrams, “A”, or “B”, or “A and B”, represents

a) \_\_\_\_\_ one who has a human father?

b) \_\_\_\_\_ one who has God as his father?

c) \_\_\_\_\_ one who has a human mother?

d) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus?

e) \_\_\_\_\_ any other child?

f) \_\_\_\_\_ one who has two natures, human and divine?

g) \_\_\_\_\_ one who has a human nature only?

 **Note:** Jesus was **born** with two natures; we were born into this world with only one, our human nature. God can later impart to us **his** divine nature by a **second** birth (2 Peter 1:4) but this of course is something quite different.

43. Jesus, like all people, is **one person**, although he has **two natures**. In Diagrams “A” and “B”, the circle represents the person.

Therefore we can say that Jesus has **two** a) \_\_\_\_\_ but is only **one** b) \_\_\_\_\_.

44. One of the most serious mistakes we can make is to be wrong about the person of Jesus. It is absolutely necessary that we clearly understand this truth: that Jesus has a) \_\_\_\_\_ natures but is only b) \_\_\_\_\_ person.

45. a) What does “Immanuel” mean, the name given to Jesus?

b) Which of the two diagrams, “A” or “B”, in Figure 1, symbolises “Immanuel”? Diagram \_\_\_\_\_

46. Now look at Figure 2, on Supplement 9. Five names are written in circles on this diagram. What are these names?

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47. In the following list, mark the right statements with “Yes” and the wrong statements with “No”. Jesus has

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ one nature and is one person.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ two natures and is two persons.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ one nature and is two persons.
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ two natures and is one person.

48. Look again at Figure 2. The arrows which point to each person stand for the **natures** of each one.

The **divine nature** is shown by the arrows which point down. The **human nature** is shown by the arrows which point up.

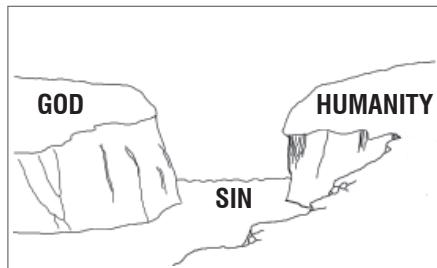
a) Which two persons have **only** a divine nature? Name them.

b) Which has **only** a human nature? \_\_\_\_\_

c) Which person has **neither** a human nor a divine nature?

d) Who is the only one in the whole universe who has **two** natures, one divine and the other human? \_\_\_\_\_

49. Now what is the importance of all this? We can see that it is the basis of our faith in Christ as our Saviour. Only someone who has both a divine and a human nature can live a perfect human life, and take on himself the punishment of all humanity's sin. Christ is the only one who can take away our sin, and bring us to God.



What is it that has separated humans from God, according to this drawing?

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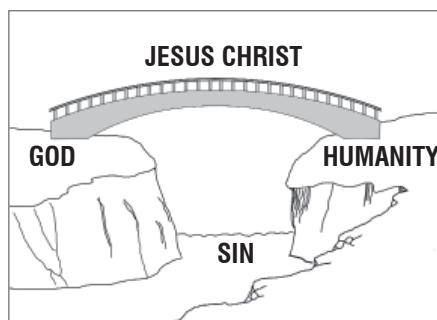
50. Clearly, if someone is to bridge the gap for us, it must be one who can reach both banks of the river, so that people can cross over, as we can see in this new drawing.

a) Who has bridged the gap of sin in this drawing?

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b) Why is he able to do this?

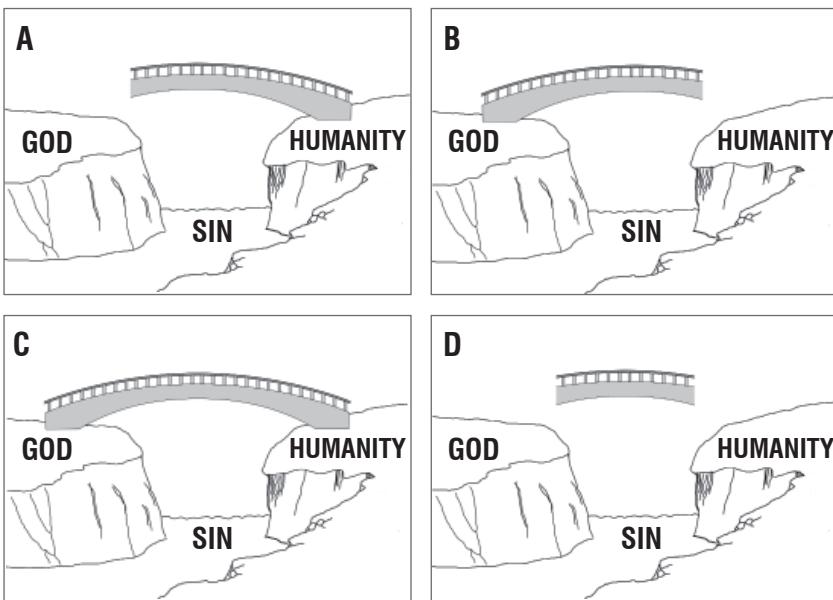
Because he alone has two natures, one h \_\_\_\_\_ and the other \_\_\_\_\_.



51. Now let's compare Jesus Christ with others who are not able to bridge the gap for us, so that we can understand the difference.

Which drawing on the following page represents each of the following:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ the virgin Mary?
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ God, the Father?
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ The angel Gabriel?
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ God, the Holy Spirit?
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ?
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ The minister of your church?



52. We have seen that if sinful humanity is to be saved, the gap of sin between humans and God must be bridged. Who alone of the following can bridge this gap? Write "Yes" or "No" accordingly.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ The archangel Michael      d) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ The virgin Mary                e) \_\_\_\_\_ A priest
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ Adam

53. Who then is the only one of the five in Figure 2 on Supplement 9 who can bridge the gap of sin between God and humans?

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54. Jesus is the only one who can save us. An angel can't save us; Mary can't save us. It is because Jesus has the two natures that he alone can bring us to God.

- a) Why did Jesus come, then?

Read Matthew 1:21. \_\_\_\_\_

- b) Who is the only one who can save us? \_\_\_\_\_

- c) Why is Jesus the only one who can save us?

Because he is the only being in the whole universe who has two natures, one h\_\_\_\_\_ and the other \_\_\_\_\_, and so can bridge the gap between sinful people and God.

## Technique of Applying

### 55. Important Exercise:

1. During this lesson we have looked carefully at each point in the story of the angel's announcement to Joseph of Jesus' birth, as told in Matthew 1:18–25. That is, you have used the technique of observing.
2. We have greatly widened our knowledge of the main events that preceded Jesus' birth by examining the parallel passage in Luke. That is, you have used the new technique of comparing.
3. Further, you should now understand why the Lord Jesus is the only one in the whole universe who can save us, by bridging the gap caused by our sin that cut us off from God. That is, you have used the technique of explaining.
4. Now remains the most important part: the technique of applying this teaching to our own life, and not being content with just observing, comparing and explaining it.

Have you personally crossed this bridge for yourself by accepting Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord? If you have any doubts about this, I suggest you talk it over with your group leader.

### 56. Now do Test 6C.

**Answers to Lesson 5B****continued**

13. fifteen                    24. c.                    33. D  
 14. a) Provisional one      25. G                    34. c.  
       b) No                    26. a) Provisional Kingdom      35. a) D e) A  
 15. a) Provisional Kingdom      b) Punished Kingdom      b) D f) D  
       b) Promised Kingdom      c) Promised Kingdom      c) D g) A  
 16. Christ (the Messiah)      27. 600 years            d) D h) D  
 17. a) David                    28. a) Herod the Great      36. b. c. f.  
       b) Christ (the Messiah)      b) Christ/ Jesus            37. b. d. e. i. j.  
 18. a) C b) F                    29. Jesus                    38. 1. Promised  
 19. b.                            30. a) David                    2. Provisional  
 20. a) Abraham                b) Christ                    3. Punished  
       b) David                    31. a) 2000                    4. Perfect  
 21. Babylon                    b) 1000                    32. Perfect Kingdom  
 22. R                            c) 600

**Answers to Lesson 6A**

1. The Holy Spirit              10. d) taxes from their own people to give to the foreigners and to line their own pockets with extra wealth  
 2. a) Explaining                e) b.  
       b) Observing                11. a) b.  
       c) Applying                 b) Explaining  
 3. Year of Popularity        12. Pharisees  
 4. a) tax collector            13. • Matthew was a Jew  
       b) observing                • He collected taxes for the Romans  
       c) Applying                 • He was hated by other Jews, etc.  
 5. explaining                  14. a. b. d. e.  
 6. a) No                        15. a) Things for our own lives  
       b) Applying                b) Applying  
 7. a) observing                16. Feedback in 6A.14  
       b) explaining               17. 1. observing  
       c) applying                 2. explaining  
 8. Year of Popularity        3. applying  
 9. a) a. d. f. g. j. k.        18. a) Explaining  
       b) Observing               b) Observing  
       c) Make sure that your 2 points are in Matthew 9:9–13      c) Applying  
 10. a) Jewish                  19. a) O – The passage says this  
       b) Roman                  b) E – We are explaining something that the passage does not tell us  
       c) The Jews                c) E – Again we are explaining; the passage doesn't tell us this  
       d) Because they were traitors who took 20. d) O – The passage tells us this. We are not yet applying it to our lives today  
                                   e) A – Now applying it to our own lives. What we should do today  
                                   f) O – The passage tells us this.  
                                   g) E – The passage does not tell us why Matthew invited them  
                                   h) A i) O  
                                   j) E k) E  
                                   l) O m) O n) A

## Answers to Lesson 6B

1. observing
2. explaining
3. applying
4. Year of Passion
5. a) Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?  
b) To trap him (v.18)  
c) A coin  
d) A denarius  
e) Caesar's  
f) Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's  
g) They were amazed
6. a) A.  
b) Roman
7. a.
8. a) a.  
b) a.
9. a) Jews  
b) Romans
10. d.
11. a) Simon  
b) Matthew  
c) d.
12. a) The Roman Emperor  
b) Roman
12. c) To pay taxes  
d) Because they were under Roman rule  
e) Jews and Romans  
f) Matthew and Simon  
g) explaining
13. a) Pharisees  
b) Herodians
14. Enemies
15. a) and b) Feedback in Group  
c) Applying

## Answers to Lesson 6C

1. The Introduction
2. before
4. Only pledged to be married
5. Divorce her quietly
6. To Joseph
7. a) Jesus  
b) By the Holy Spirit
8. A prophet
9. c.
10. observing
11. b.
12. a) Nazareth  
b) Galilee
13. a) To Mary  
b) To Joseph
14. a) Matthew  
b) Luke
15. Nazareth
16. a) Mary  
b) Joseph  
c) three
17. Yes
18. Yes
19. Elizabeth
20. Judea (Judah)
21. b.
22. a) South  
b) North
23. a) two  
b) angel  
c) Mary  
d) Luke  
e) Joseph  
f) Matthew  
g) Nazareth  
h) three months  
i) relative  
j) Elizabeth  
k) John the Baptist  
l) South  
m) Judea  
n) Nazareth  
o) Galilee
24. a) a. b. c.  
b) Comparing
25. b.
26. father
27. father
28. a) To Mary  
b) Luke
29. God
30. Divorce her quietly
31. a) three  
b) Mary
32. God
33. a) Verse 18  
b) Verse 20
35. c.
36. An angel had told him that God was the father of Mary's child
37. a) virgin  
b) Immanuel
38. God with us
39. a) Immanuel  
b) Virgin
40. a) father  
b) Mary/ Holy Spirit  
c) God/ Holy Spirit
41. a) b. b) c.
42. a) A  
b) B  
c) A and B  
d) B  
e) A  
f) B  
g) A

**Answers to Lesson 6C****continued**

43. a) natures  
b) person
44. a) two  
b) one
45. a) God with us  
b) B
46. God the Father  
Holy Spirit  
Jesus Christ  
Angel Gabriel  
Virgin Mary
47. a) No  
b) No
48. a) God the Father/ Holy Spirit  
b) Virgin Mary  
c) Angel Gabriel  
d) Jesus Christ
49. Sin
50. a) Jesus Christ  
b) human/ divine
51. a) A  
b) B  
c) D
51. d) B  
e) C  
f) A
52. a) No  
b) No  
c) No  
d) Yes  
e) No
53. Jesus Christ
54. a) To save his people from their sins  
b) Jesus Christ  
c) human/ divine

**Answers to Lesson 7A**

1. Divine/ Human
2. a) divine  
b) human
3. a) Divine/ God  
b) Human/ man
4. a. b. d. g.  
and I hope h.
5. a) As in Frame 4  
b) Jesus Christ
6. a) Son  
b) sonship  
c) sons  
d) Son
7. God with us  
Matthew 1:23
10. God with us
11. a) Mighty God  
b) Everlasting Father
13. a. c. d. f. h. i.
14. Isaiah
16. a) Mighty God/  
Everlasting Father  
b) child  
c) Immanuel  
d) God with us
17. Jesus Christ
19. a) Before his birth
- b) God
20. a) John 1:14  
b) The unique Son,  
Jesus Christ
22. a) Jesus Christ  
b) No
24. a) The Word  
b) God  
c) John 1:14  
d) flesh
25. a) Isaiah 9:6  
b) Mighty God/  
Everlasting Father
26. I AM
27. a) God  
b) Tried to stone him
28. a) He must be put to  
death by stoning  
b) He took God's name  
"I am" for himself
30. a) c.  
b) Because he really is  
God
31. a) I am  
b) John 8:58  
c) Exodus 3:14
32. a) My Lord and my God
- b) He accepted them  
c) He rejected worship
34. a) I am  
b) Exodus 3:14  
c) They picked up stones  
to throw at him  
d) John 8:58-59
35. a) Lord/ God  
b) John 20:28  
c) Paul in Acts 14
36. a) God  
b) Father  
c) Christ
37. one
39. a) Father  
b) me/ Father  
c) Everlasting Father
41. Christ
43. a) The Father  
b) Anyone who has  
seen me has seen the  
Father  
c) John 14:9
44. a) That we may believe  
that Jesus is God's  
Son  
b) John

**TEST 5B**

1. Who were the two people in the list of Jesus' ancestors to whom God gave a promise of a coming kingdom?  
a) \_\_\_\_\_ and b) \_\_\_\_\_
2. In which person do we see  
a) the imperfect fulfilment of the promise? \_\_\_\_\_  
b) the perfect fulfilment of the promise? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which are the four key names in the list of ancestors, and what is the title of the period corresponding to each?

Key Names	Title of the Period
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

**TEST 6A**

1. What are the three basic Bible study techniques? Write them in the order in which they should be used.  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Answer the following questions using your Bible but not your study unit.
  - a) Whom did Jesus see sitting at the tax collector's booth?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What did Jesus invite this tax collector to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c) What did the tax collector do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Who sat down at table with Jesus and his disciples in the house?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

- e) Who criticised Jesus for eating with these people? \_\_\_\_\_
- f) According to Jesus, who needs a doctor? \_\_\_\_\_
- g) According to Jesus, whom did he come to call? \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Who do not need a doctor? \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Whom did he not come to call? \_\_\_\_\_
- j) In answering these questions, which of the three techniques of Bible study have you been using? \_\_\_\_\_
3. a) To which of the five steps in the life of Christ does this event in Matthew 9:9–13 belong? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Why was Matthew's job so despised by the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Why did Matthew invite some of his old tax collector friends to a meal in his house? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) In answering these questions which of the three basic techniques of Bible study have you been using? \_\_\_\_\_
4. a) What lesson have you learned from this story that you could put into practice in your own life today?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) In answering this question which basic technique of Bible study have you been using? \_\_\_\_\_

## TEST 6B

1. a) What was the question that Jesus' enemies asked him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Why did they ask him this question? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What was it that Jesus asked them to show him? \_\_\_\_\_

*(Continued on next page)*

- d) Whose portrait and inscription did it have? \_\_\_\_\_
- e) How did Jesus answer their question?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f) What was their reaction to Jesus' answer?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g) Which of the three techniques of Bible study have you used to answer these questions?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. a) Mention just one of the several difficult points in this passage and make its meaning clear.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Which of the three techniques of Bible study have you used to answer this question?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. a) What is just one of the lessons you have learned from this story that you could put into practice in your life today?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Which of the three techniques of Bible study have you used to answer this last question?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### TEST 6C

1. Of how many announcements of Jesus' coming birth do we read in the Gospels?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. To which two people were these announcements made, and in which Gospel is the account of each one found?  
To \_\_\_\_\_ in the Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_.  
To \_\_\_\_\_ in the Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. In which town were both announcements made?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. By whom were both announcements made? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What period of time separated the two announcements? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In that period, Mary went to visit her older a) \_\_\_\_\_ called b) \_\_\_\_\_, who was to be the mother of c) \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and who lived in the province of d) \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Matthew 1 teaches us
  - a) that Joseph was not Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) that Jesus' mother was called \_\_\_\_\_ who conceived him by the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c) that Jesus' true father was \_\_\_\_\_ by means of the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. a) How many natures does Jesus have? \_\_\_\_\_  
b) What are they? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Jesus' two natures were perfectly united in the \_\_\_\_\_ person.
10. Describe in your own words why Jesus is the only person in the whole universe who can save us.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What does Immanuel mean? \_\_\_\_\_

### TEST 7A

1. Give an example of a son of God in
  - a) the special sense. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) the unique sense. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which prophet said that God would come as a child? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Of the four Gospels, which is the most appropriate for a person who wants to know if Jesus is the Son of God? \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on next page)