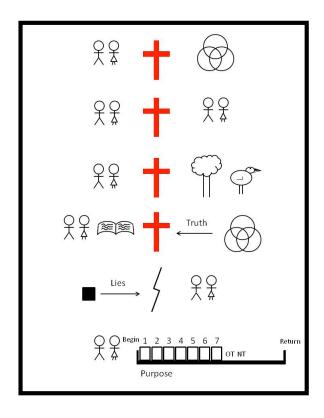
Truth and reconciliation

Book one

Jesus Christ reconciled all things



A summary of the gospel of the kingdom Teacher guide



Training of Pastors in Africa

Johannes Aucamp

Jesus Christ reconciled all things

A summary of the gospel of the kingdom Teacher's guide

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Acknowledgement

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 of many dear African brothers and sisters, Koos van Rooy, Hein v Wyk, Lizanne
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- From Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To God be the glory for ever. Amen (Rom 11:36).

Johannes Aucamp

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Teacher notes

Key objectives

- Tell the whole story of God by using the whole story pictures to help.
- Understand that God's plan is not just to save us, but to see all things restored that have been destroyed at the fall.
- To understand the 6 x "S" to disciple nations as **sons** and daughters of God we are **sent** to be **servants**, **stewards**, **students** and **soldiers**.

Materials

The whole story posters

Guidelines

- Discuss the questions of lesson one in groups and give opportunity for feedback.
- Tell the first chapter of the whole story of God a few times.
 (Use the whole story posters to help you.)
- Let the participants form groups of two and let them tell the first chapter of the whole story to each other.
- Ask one or two volunteers to come and share the first chapter with the whole group.
- Encourage sharing; thank them for their contribution and correct possible misunderstandings.
- Tell the first chapter again.
- Discuss the questions about the key truths in groups and give opportunity for feedback.
- Repeat the whole process for each chapter until the group is able to tell the whole story from creation till the return of Christ.
- Emphasise all people's blindness for the truth after the rebellion. You can use the example where you close your eyes and pretend that you are blind. Then you ask them where they are. You may not see them, but they are still there. They didn't change; it is you who have changed. God stayed the same from the beginning, but after the rebellion people changed. Satan deceived us and we became blind for the truth.
- Remember to regularly link the question why Jesus Christ died or shed his blood on the cross into the story.
- Give a lot of opportunity for the participants to practice the whole story.
 Encourage the participants to share the whole story with their wives, husbands, children or friends during the training.

Lesson 1: Jesus Christ sends

Who are sent to make disciples?

Read John 17:17-20

Every believer is sent into the world.

Ask the group to name people they know that are serving Jesus Christ full-time. Mostly they will name some pastors they know. In verse 18 Jesus said that He sends his disciples into the world. In verse 20 it is clear that with disciples Jesus meant every believer.

To what place are we sent to make disciples?

Mark 5:18-20

Most of us are sent to make disciples in our own community.

In this passage our Lord Jesus Christ saved a man from demons. The demons begged Jesus to permit them to go into a herd of pigs. After Jesus gave the demons permission to enter the pigs, the pigs ran into the sea. The people of that place asked Jesus to leave. When Jesus wanted to leave, the man that had the demons, begged Jesus that he may go with Jesus. Jesus said no. He sent the man to his family and community. He was sent to them to tell them about what Jesus did for him. Some Christians are sent to far away places, but most of us are sent to our own community.

If we want to tell our community what Jesus has done, we must know why Jesus died on the cross.

Why did our Lord Jesus Christ die on the cross?

Read Colossians 1:15-23

Jesus Christ died on the cross to reconcile all things with Himself.

History is about God. It is **HIS** story. To understand our true identity and role in **HIStory**, it is very important that every person knows why our King and Lord, Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross.

When this question is asked, most Christians would answer that Jesus died on the cross to save us. This is true, but only a part of the truth. Colossians 1:20 helps us to understand the whole story of God. Jesus died to reconcile **ALL THINGS** with Himself. The meaning of reconcile is that Jesus died to restore or bring together that once was perfect, but got destroyed.

What are all the things that Jesus Christ reconciled to Himself?

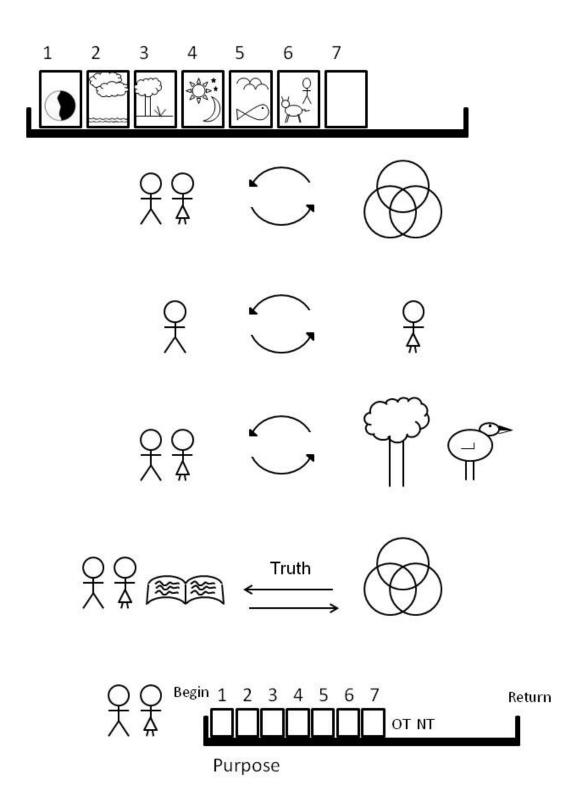
Read Colossians 1:15-23

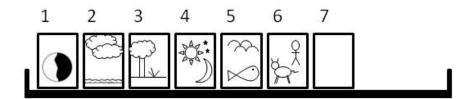
Lets go to Genesis 1 to try and see what was perfect in the beginning.

If we want to understand the **ALL THINGS** of Colossians 1:20, we need to go to Genesis 1 to see what things were perfect and to Genesis 3 to understand what are all the things that got destroyed. Only then it will be possible to understand what are the **ALL THINGS** that Jesus Christ reconciled through his blood on the cross. Only then we can find our Christian identity and role in **HIStory**.

Lesson 2: In the beginning

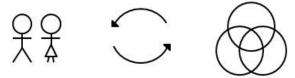
Genesis 1 & 2



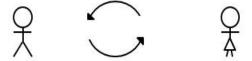


In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. On the first day God created light. God saw that the light was good and He separated the light from the darkness. On day two He separated the waters on the earth from the waters in the sky. On the third day God put all the water in one place and He let the dry ground appear. God saw that it was good. He created plants and He saw that it was good. On the fourth day God created the sun, the moon and the stars. Again He saw that it was good. On the fifth day God created the birds and the fish and saw that it was good. On the sixth day God created animals and saw that it was good. On the sixth day He also created people. People were created in the image of God. Male and female were created in the image of God. After the sixth day God looked at his work, at everything He had made and it was very good. On the seventh day God rested and did no work.

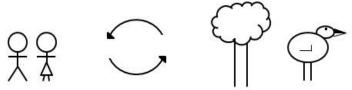
God is the Creator. He gives life to everything. God worked six days and rested on the seventh day. God uses time, day one to seven, purposefully to create and to rest. Everything He created was perfect.



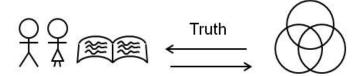
In the beginning the relationship between God and his people was perfect. There was no separation. God visited them and talked with them. God was very close to people and people were very close to God.



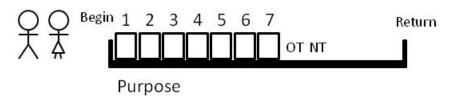
The relationship between people was perfect. There was no separation. There were peace and unity between people. When Adam saw Eve for the first time, he was very happy.



The relationship between people and the creation was perfect. There was no hunger and people had to rule and take care of creation.



People had perfect knowledge because they could listen and talk to God directly. They could know the truth because God was their source of truth. They knew for example that they could eat the fruit from all the trees in the garden except from the tree in the middle of the garden. God said that they would die if they eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden.



People also knew that God was the beginning of time. God had a plan and a purpose with their lives. They had to multiply and be fruitful. God gave them work. They had to rule and take care of creation. They understood that the purpose of their lives was to glorify God. Their lives had purpose because they had a very close relationship with God. They had access to true knowledge directly from God. There was peace between people and they took care of creation.

Who was the beginning of all things?

God was the beginning of all things.

How did God create everything?

God created everything **perfect**.

How was the relationship between God and people in the beginning?

The relationship between God and people was **perfect**.

How was the relationship between people in the beginning?

The relationship between people was **perfect**.

How was the relationship between people and creation in the beginning?

The relationship between people and creation was **perfect**.

Where did people get knowledge in the beginning?

They received knowledge directly **from God**.

What kind of knowledge did people get from God in the beginning?

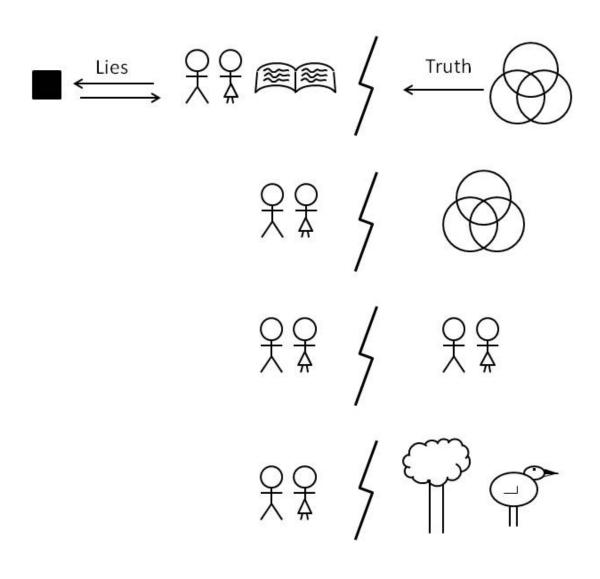
They could know the **truth**.

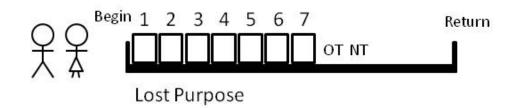
How did people use the time that God gave them in the beginning?

They used the time with **purpose to glorify God** in all areas of life.

Lesson 3: The rebellion

Genesis 3







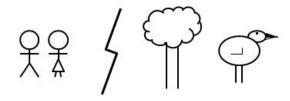
In Genesis 3 Satan came in the form of a snake. He told three lies to Eve. <u>Lie 1</u>: *Did God really say you are not allowed to eat of any of the trees in the garden?* Eve replied that God said that they could eat the fruit from any tree in the garden except from the tree in the middle of the garden. If they touch or eat from the fruit in the middle of the garden, they would die. <u>Lie 2</u>: *You surely will not die.* <u>Lie 3</u>: *You will be like God.* Eve ate from the fruit and also gave some to Adam. People believed the lies from Satan and exchanged the true knowledge from God for the lies from Satan. They became blind for the truth of God and their disobedience led to death and destruction.



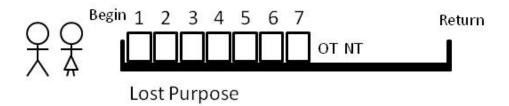
Their disobedience led to separation in the relationship between people and God. The unity between people and God was destroyed. People separated themselves from God. When God came to visit them, they hid behind the trees (Gen 3:8). God was still the God of love, God searched for them. "Where are you?" They told God that they became afraid of Him because they were naked (Gen 3:10). God asked them who told them that they were naked. He also asked them whether they ate from the tree in the middle of the garden. Adam blamed God: The wife you gave me ... (Gen 3:12). He was saying: It is your fault, God. You gave me this wife.



Their disobedience also destroyed the relationship between people. Adam blamed Eve for their disobedience (Gen 3:12). Their first child Cain murdered his brother Abel (Gen 4:8).



The relationship between people and creation was also destroyed. There was separation between people and creation. They became enemies. The snake would bite people, people would kill snakes and thorns would hurt people (Gen 3:15-18). It was the beginning of hunger and poverty.



People lost the purpose of their lives. They were created to love God and other people, to rule and take care of creation and get true knowledge from God. Instead of worshipping God with their whole lives, they sinned and did evil all the time. God was sad that He created people and punished his creation through the flood (Gen 6:5-6).

Where did people get knowledge in Genesis 3?

They got their knowledge from **Satan**.

What kind of knowledge did people receive from Satan?

They received **lies** from Satan.

What happened with the relationship between God and people?

The relationship between God and people got **destroyed**.

Who changed and who stayed the same when people disobeyed God?

People changed and God stayed the same.

What happened with the relationship between people?

The relationship between people got **destroyed**.

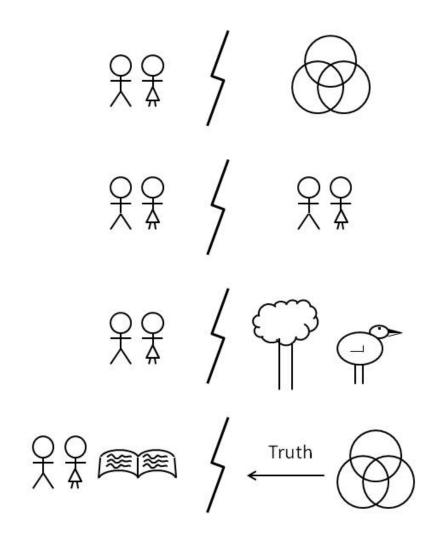
What happened with the relationship between people and creation?

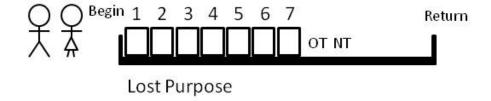
The relationship between people and creation got destroyed.

How did people use the time that God gave them after the rebellion?

They used their time to sin and lost their purpose for what God created them.

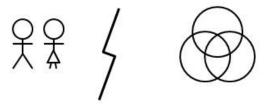
Lesson 4: God's mission (plan) Rest of Old Testament





God's truth brings reconciliation

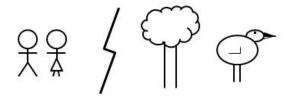
In spite of God's judgement of creation, God had a plan to restore his creation. He saved Noah, his family and the animals in the ark. He called Abraham and promised that all nations will be blessed through his descendant. This was a promise in the Old Testament of the coming of Jesus Christ. In the rest of the Old Testament we see God's plan to restore all the things that were destroyed in Genesis 3. God called and sent prophets, priests and kings to show people his plan and truth, but people remained blind and followed the lies of Satan in all areas of life.



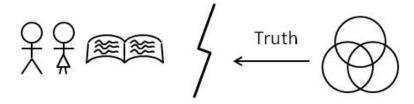
In the Old Testament we see that people started worshiping creation instead of God or worshipping it next to God. They worshipped the sun, trees, money, people and spirits of the dead. They remained blind. In Isaiah 44:14-20 people's blindness is explained. People will go to the woods and cut down a tree. A part of the tree is used to make fire to give heat and to cook food. Another piece of the tree was used to make an idol. God then asked: "How blind are you? You used half of the tree to prepare your food and you ask the other half to save you" (Isa 44:14-20). God alone is God (Ex 20:3). He alone is God of all nations (Isa 45: 20-22). God alone is the provider and giver of life (Deut 30:20).



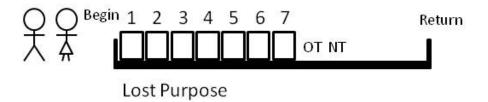
The relationship between people remained destroyed in the rest of the Old Testament. We read about war, hate and oppression. Children did not honour their parents. People killed each other. They stole each other's property. Husbands and wives divorced each other. In Exodus 20 God makes it clear that people should love each other. God does not want them to fast if they did not take care of the hungry, naked, homeless and their own family (Isa 58:6-7).



When we read the Old Testament it is clear that the relationship between creation and people stayed destroyed. There were drought, hunger, poverty and diseases. Wild animals were dangerous and could kill people. God still wants people to take care of his creation. Here are some practical examples. Their animals were supposed to rest on the Sabbath (Ex 20:10). Every seventh year the land was supposed to rest (Lev 25:4-6). They were not supposed to close the mouth of an ox when it was treading their grain (Deut 25:4). They were supposed to make their toilets outside the camp to avoid diseases (Deut 23:12-13). God promised if they love and worship Him, their relationship with creation would improve (Deut 28:1-14 and 2 Chron 7:14).



We see in the rest of the Old Testament that people continued to exchange the truth of God for the lies of Satan. God speaks the truth (Isa 45:19) but people tried to get knowledge from mediums that consulted the dead. God does not permit his people to go to mediums (witchdoctors) or the dead (Deut 18: 9-14). He said that there are no action, thought, knowledge or wisdom to gain from the spirits of the dead (Eccles 9:10).



Throughout the whole Old Testament it was clear that people continued to sin. They did not have hope and purpose. In spite of God making his will clear through prophets, priests and kings, people were without hope and direction. Their lives had no meaning because they did not trust in God alone. They did not understand that God created them with a calling and a purpose. Just as He called Jeremiah to be his prophet for the nations when he was still inside his mother's womb (Jer 1: 5-6), God created each person for his purpose and to be part of HIStory.

How was the relationship between God and people in the rest of the Old Testament?

The relationship remained **destroyed**.

How was the relationship between people in the rest of the Old Testament?

The relationship remained **destroyed**.

How was the relationship between people and creation in the rest of the Old Testament?

The relationship remained **destroyed**.

Where did people go to get knowledge in the rest of the Old Testament?

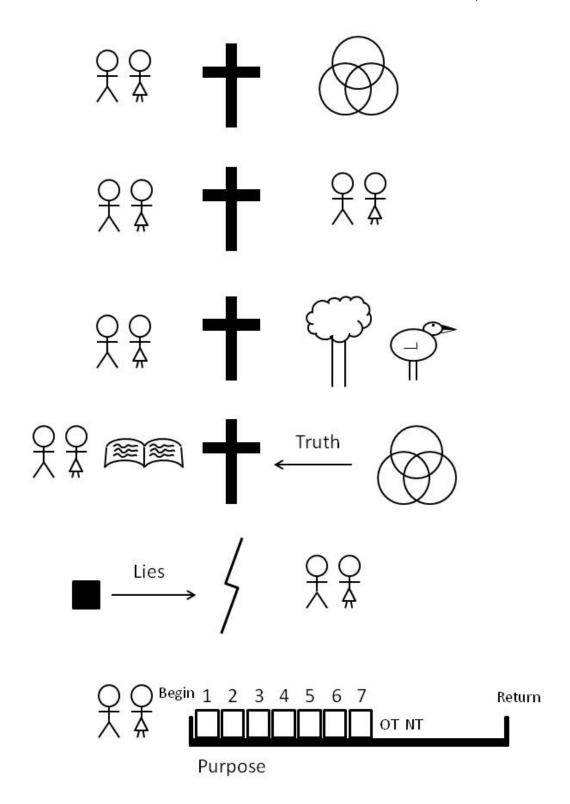
People got there knowledge from sinful people, witchdoctors, the dead, and Satan.

How did people use the time that God gave them in the rest of the Old Testament?

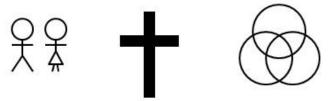
They continued to used their time **to sin** and **lost** the their **purpose** for what God created them.

Lesson 5: The cross

Colossians 1:19, 20



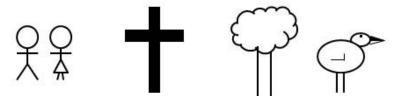
In the beginning we saw that all things were created perfectly. In Genesis 3 we hear that all things got destroyed when people turned their backs on the truth of God and followed the lies of Satan. In the rest of the Old Testament we hear that all things remained destroyed. We also see that God has a plan to restore all things that got destroyed. Now it is possible for us to understand why Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross. Jesus Christ came to reconcile all things that got destroyed in the beginning.



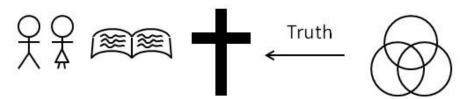
Jesus Christ reconciled our relationship with God. Through his blood on the cross He built a bridge between people and God. He is the only way back to God the Father (John 14:6). He is a gift that people must accept through faith. We can do nothing to save ourselves and have nothing to boast about. We were not saved through our own works, but we were saved by grace through Jesus Christ (Eph 2:8). We can be sure of our salvation. "When we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we are saved" (Rom 10:9-11).



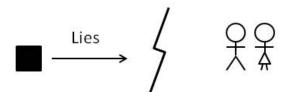
Jesus Christ also reconciled our relationship with people. He loves people (Luke 10:27) and He serves people (Matt 20:28).



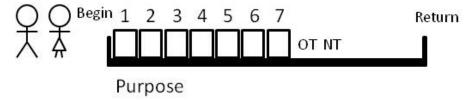
Jesus Christ also brought reconciliation with creation and the destruction caused by the rebellion in Genesis 3. He gave food for the hungry. He healed the sick. He raised the dead. He has power over creation. He could command the wind and could tell his disciples where to cast there net to catch fish. He taught that God gives life. God takes care of the birds and gives plants their beauty.



Jesus Christ shows us Who are the Truth and where we can find real truth. Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6) and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth that will lead us in all truth (John 16:13). If we stay in the Truth, Jesus promises that the Truth will set us free (John 8:31-32).



As part of reconciling all things, Jesus turned his back on the lies of Satan and stood against Satan. Satan is the father of all lies (John 8:44). His plan is to deceive all nations (Rev 20:3 & 8). Jesus turned to the truth of God. Jesus never sinned and therefore He could be the only sacrifice for all who believe (Heb 10:12). No other sacrifice is needed. No blood of animals can take our sin away (Heb 10:4).



God the Father sent Jesus with a mission. He was born with a purpose. He had the purpose to testify about the truth and to reconcile all things. On the cross He said: "It is done" (John 19:30). He completed the task that his Father sent Him to do.

Why did Jesus Christ die on the cross?

Jesus Christ died on the cross to **reoncile all things** that got destroyed in Genesis 3 with himself.

What are the all things that Jesus Christ reconciled?

He reconciled our relationsp with **God, people and creation**.

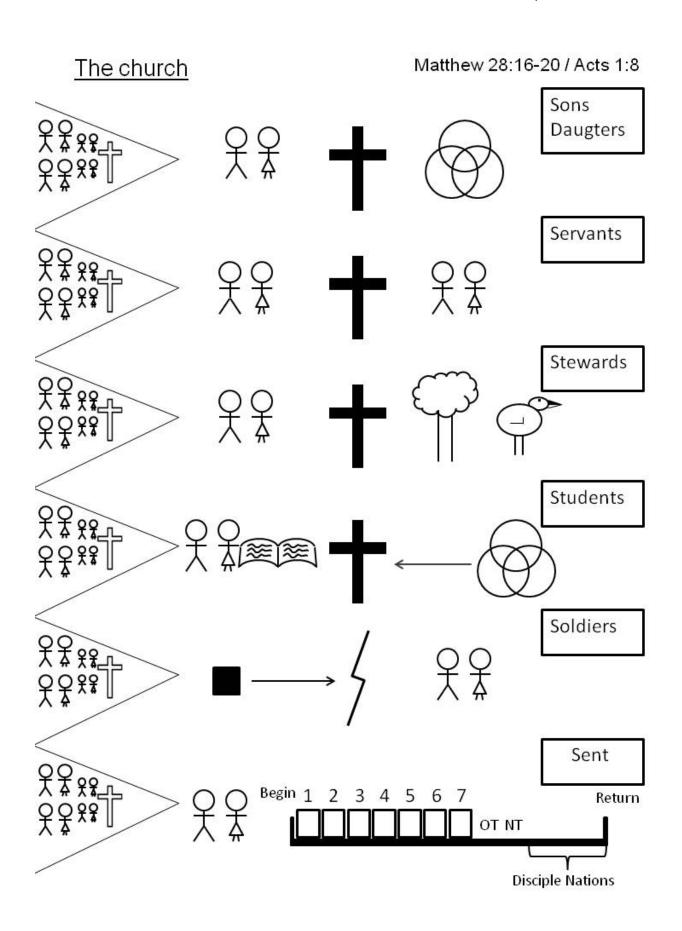
He showed us where to get true knowledge.

He showed us to oppose Satan and his lies.

He showed us that we are all sent and that God has a purpose with our lifes.

Lesson 6: The church

Matthew 28:16-20 / Acts 1:8



God's truth brings reconciliation

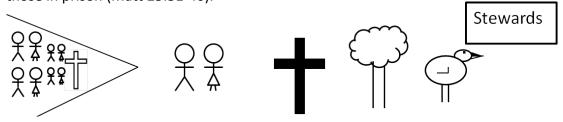
Those of us who accept God's gift and believe in Jesus Christ are called the church. We are now part of a new family, the family of God. We are to become more and more like Jesus and we are to disciple others in all the areas that Jesus Christ brought reconciliation. We are now ministers of reconciliation.



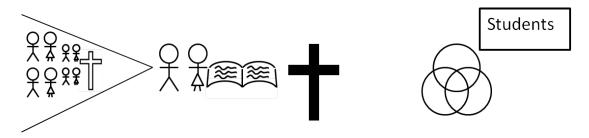
Now we are **sons and daughters** of God and we guide others to see that Jesus Christ is the only way to be reconciled with God. Everyday we live in the truth that God is strong. We believe that He is close to us and that He takes care of us. Jesus said He has all the power in heaven and on earth and that He is with us (Matt 28:16-20). He says that He takes care of the birds and plants and that He will take care of us. Like a good father, God will not give us a stone or a snake if we ask Him bread or fish (Matt 7:7-10). He knows how much hair is on our head (Matt 10:28-31). He promises that nothing can separate us from Him. No powers or demons can separate us from Him (Rom 8:31-39). Now we trust in God alone.



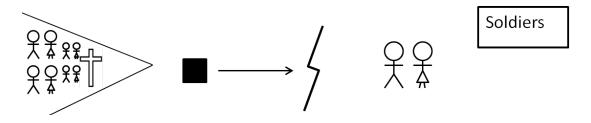
Now we are **servants** of each other (Matt 20:25-28). In the same way that Jesus loves people and serves people, we are also called to love and serve people. We are called to guide others and inspire them to love and serve their neighbours in words and deeds. When we serve, we don't just do what is required. No, like the Good Samaritan we go the extra mile. When Jesus returns, his judgement will be based on the loving service we showed to the hungry, the naked, the thirsty, the sick and those in prison (Matt 25:31-46).



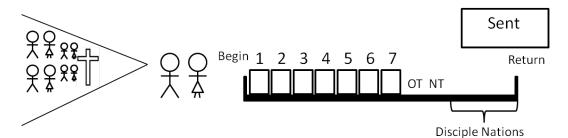
We are **stewards** of creation. Everything belongs to God. In the beginning God made people the caretakers of his creation. When we are in Christ, we are renewed in our relationship to creation. We are called to take care of creation and to help others to take care of creation. The Bible teaches that creation is longing for the sons of God to take up their role to nurture, conserve and rule over creation as God's stewards (Rom 8:19).



We are **students** of God's Word. We now have a passion for God's word and we help others to love God's Word. Jesus says that we must not live from bread alone, but from every word that comes from God (Matt 4:4). Just like Ezra we are now students of the Bible. We read and memorise the Bible. We pray the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and understanding of God's Word. We live and apply the truth we found in the Bible in our lives and we teach others the Word of God (Ezra 7:10).



In Jesus Christ we are now **soldiers** of truth fighting against Satan and the fallen angels that follow him (Eph 6:10-13). We also encourage others to be soldiers of the truth. We renew our minds. We oppose all lies in our lives and in our communities and replace it with truth (Rom 12:2). We do this under the guidance of the Holy Spirit with the sword of God's Word.



We are **sent**. We all live between the time that Jesus went to heaven and the time when He will return. We have hope and a calling. God has a plan with our lives. We are all sent to disciple nations in all areas of life (John 17:17-20). We are called to be ministers of reconciliation. We have a wonderful calling and purpose to glorify God with everything we do (1 Cor 10:31).

Now God is close to us. He loves us and makes us his sons and daughters. We love and trust Him alone. Now we are servants of other people. Now we are stewards of creation. We are students of God's Word. We are soldiers of truth and we are sent. We are part of God's history.

What do we believe about God?

God is **strong** and **close**.

As sons and daughters our relationship with God is reconciled to

trust God alone.

What truth do we believe about people?

People are **created in God's image**.

As servants our relationship to people is reconciled to

love and **serve** our neighbours.

What truth do we believe about creation?

Everything belongs to God.

As stewards our relationship to creation is reconciled to

take care of creation.

What truth do we believe about God's Word?

God's Word is the **truth**.

As students we are reconciled to

walk in God's truth.

What truth do we believe about Satan?

Satan is the **father of lies** and he **deceives all nations**.

As soldiers we are reconciled to

oppose Satan and all his lies.

What truth do we believe about time?

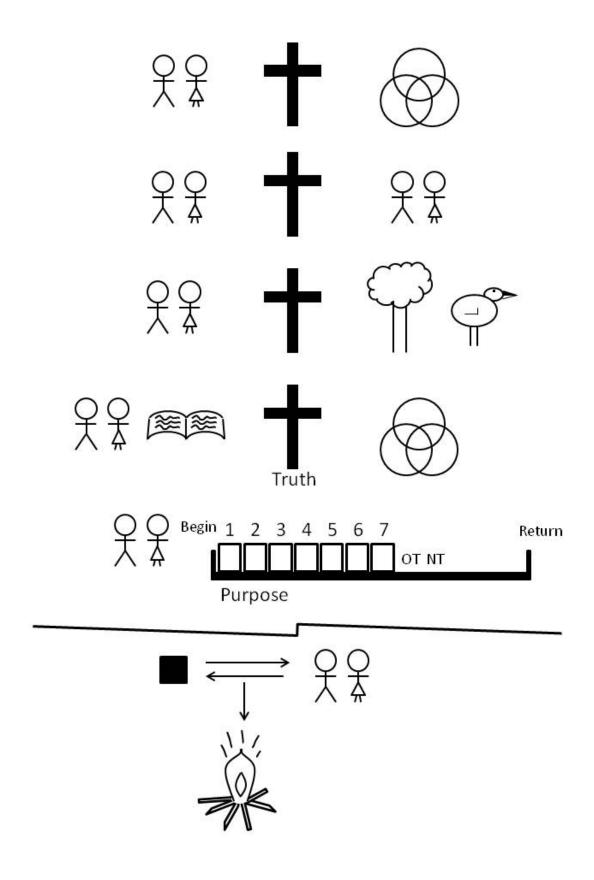
Time has a beginning and end.

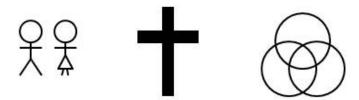
Between the resurrection and return of Christ we are sent

to disciple nations.

Lesson 7: The return

Revelation 21:1-8

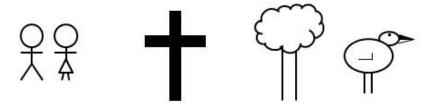




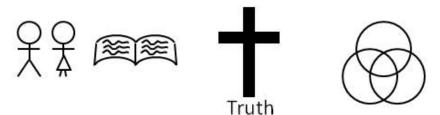
When Jesus Christ returns, all things will be made new (Rev 21:5). People will have a perfect relationship with God. God will stay among us again (Rev 21:3). He will be our God and we will be his sons and daughters (Rev 21:7).



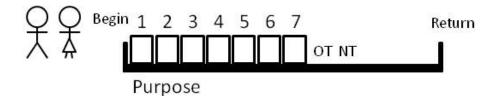
The relationship between people will be perfect again. There will not be any mourning, tears, death and pain (Rev 21:4).



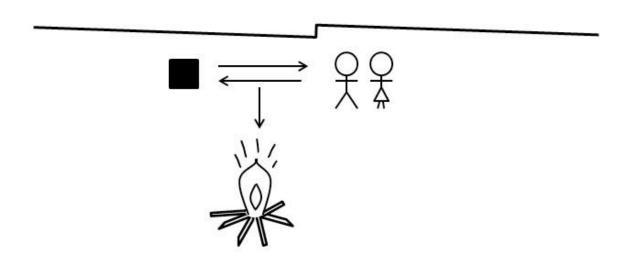
The relationship between people and creation will be perfect again. There will not be any mourning, tears, death and pain (Rev 21:4).



We will have a perfect relationship with God again and will have perfect knowledge. We will know the truth (Rev 21:5).



We will live with perfect purpose. It is done; Jesus is the Alfa and the Omega, the beginning and the end. All things will be new and we will glorify God with everything we do (Rev 21:7).



At the end there will be a separation. Those who followed Satan and his lies will be separated from God and stay in hell forever (Rev 21:8).

How will the relationship be between God and people when Jesus Christ returns?

The relationship between God and people will be **perfect** just like the **beginning**.

How will the relationship be between people when Jesus Christ returns?

The relationship between people will be **perfect** just like the **beginning**.

How will the relationship be between people and creation when Jesus Christ returns?

The relationship between people and creation will be **perfect** just like the **beginning**.

What knowledge will people have when Jesus Christ returns?

People will know the **truth** just like in the **beginning**.

How will people use their time when Jesus Christ returns?

Just like in the beginning people will purposeful glorify God in all areas of life.

What will happen to Satan and people who believed his lies?

Satan and his followers will be **separated** from God in **hell** forever.

Action steps

What is the most important thing that you can do to show your family and community that you trust in God alone?

What is the most important thing that you can do to serve your family and community?

What is the most important thing that you can do to show your family and community that you are a caretaker of creation?

Africa for Christ

Jesus Christ reconciled all things. A summary of the gospel of the kingdom for Africa

Sons and daughters of God: Reconciled to trust in God alone.

Servants: Reconciled to love and serve people.

Stewards: Reconciled to take care of creation.

Students: Reconciled to follow God's truth.

Soldiers: Reconciled to oppose Satan and his lies.

Sent: Reconciled to disciple nations in all areas of life.

Contact details

For any information regarding Hope for Africa or TOPIA – Training of Pastors in Africa, contact:

Hein van Wyk hein@hopeforafrica.co.za

Johannes Aucamp johannes@topia.org.za

For any information regarding Worldview and Disciple Nations Alliance, please visit the following website:

http://www.disciplenations.org