

# Green County Church of Christ

## Vacation Bible School - 2016

### *Diving into the Word of God*



### Lesson Three: The Isle of Confidence

“Let your gentleness be known to all men. The  
Lord is at hand.”  
Philippians 4:5

### **Primary Series Aim:**

Students will gain insight, understanding and reinforcement in the knowledge of Jehovah God that will lead them to fulfill an obedience of faith to the gospel of Jesus Christ and remain faithful to Him throughout their lives.

### **Secondary Series Aim:**

Students will have greater knowledge of Jehovah God's laws, teachings and commands so that they may have a full, clear and correct understanding of His workings, plans, and purposes in the world and in their lives.

### **Lesson One Aim:**

Students will have a Bible-based knowledge regarding topics current to the human experience on which God has given concerning Himself and His nature: God lives, God rules and God cares.

### **Suggested Lesson Format:**

First Session (30 minutes)

Reading

Discussion

Questions

Second Session (30 minutes)

Review

Testing

Crafts

## Memory Verse for Today

*“Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand”* (Philippians 4:5)

### The World’s Most Beautiful Island

Trying to decide what island is the most beautiful in the world would not be easy. Certainly ones with a lagoon<sup>[1]</sup> would definitely be in the running. These are small islands which enclose an area of shallow water which teems with life. They boast of white sandy beaches, tall palm trees, warm ocean breezes and sun-dappled waters. One can swim, snorkel, sight-see and enjoy all manner of sights, sounds, and sensations that can easily convey a sense of being in a true paradise. One such place is called Aitutaki Lagoon which lies close to the Cook Islands. There are people who have vacationed there who will testify to its sublime beauty. It has even been called, *“the most beautiful lagoon in the world.”* <sup>[2]</sup>

Because the water in the lagoon is often shallow and may be cut off by a coral reef from the main part of the ocean, most of the life within its waters is not harmful. One could swim and dive without worrying about sharks or other dangerous denizens of the deep like those inhabiting the Great Barrier Reef. The only problem might be that one cannot stay at such a place indefinitely or live there. One could easily get used to living in a tropical paradise.

### The Bible: The Most Beautiful Book in the World

Of all the books in the world, the Bible should be considered the most beautiful, not because it contains the finest prose or writing style, but for what it contains: the mind of God and His dealings with humanity through the Ages.

When studying it, the reader or student must remember that God dealt with people of different times in different ways. The Hebrew writer makes this clear: *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, who He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds”* (Hebrews 1:1, 2). Although God has an unchangeable moral foundation, the way He deals with flawed humans, His creation, did change. In quoting Paul the Apostle, in his sermon against the idolatry he saw in Athens, Greece, on Mars’ Hill, the inspired writer Luke in Acts recorded: *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent”* (Acts 17:30).

When one reads the Old Testament they will see God dealing with humanity sometimes in very strict and forceful fashion—times were different then, and reasons for His policies with mankind in the past are His own. Yet in the New Testament we see Jesus as the loving, compassionate, Savior and Lord who is devoted to God the Father and plainly testifies that God desires our company with Him forever but on His terms alone. Thus the New Testament must be the primary source of what God expects of us today. There is no other or greater source than it.

## Memory Verse for Today

*“Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand” (Philippians 4:5).*

### Lesson Introduction

There are at least three things we need to know about God for us to truly understand Him to enjoy the fellowship (company) He wants with us and the blessings He wants to give to us. The New Testament gives us marvelous insights into these things. It will profit us greatly to know them, and once we know them, to apply them to daily living.

### God Lives!

It is not hard to find people who think they know God. Many religious systems have been devised and taught throughout the world during its history. Christianity is an exclusive religion, that being, it calls us to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and no other. Any other system is a counterfeit; it is something humans, often with the devil’s help, have designed. For example, one cannot be a Christian and a Buddhist, a Hindu, or a Muslim. *“Therefore God has also highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father” (Philippians 2:11).* One of the greatest tests of devotion and allegiance to Christ is the confession of faith that Jesus Christ is divine. Jesus Himself said: *“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him will I also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32, 33).* The word ‘confession’ in the original language of the New Testament (common Greek of the time) which means, ‘to agree with.’ The agreement in question is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (divine). Without that confession, one cannot be a Christian, a disciple of Christ. And if Jesus is divine, He is the only one whose will we must obey and whose word we must follow.

That being the case, we can be sure that God indeed lives! Forget the foolishness of any who claim otherwise. God lives and will always be. The world will end and time will be no more one day. The Apostle John writes: *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17).* Key to any response to God is to be convinced that He lives, He exists. We can be confident of it, take heart in it, and live accordingly.

### God Rules!

Despite the confusion of the world, its apparent chaotic state, and the doings of evil men and women, God rules the world! He always has. Do not let appearances fool you. Just because the subjects of a king are not all willing followers or disobedient to his commands, does not mean he does not rule. Unbelievers like to use that as an argument against God: “Well, if God exists, why does He allow evil to go on; why does He permit the devil to tempt people; why do bad things happen to good people? And so on. They are trying to understand the mind of God having only a human mind.

To be able to answer those questions would mean one would have to have the knowledge of God and to be God ourselves. We have to accept what has been revealed to us and not everything has been. Moses wrote: *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, the we may do all the words of this law”* (Deuteronomy 29:29). We must trust God to always do the right thing, what He deems is best, having all the information, rather than what we think best with out limited knowledge. It simply boils down to a matter of trust. Solomon wrote: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path”* (Proverbs 3:5).

God rules the world now through Christ Jesus. In speaking of Christ and the great mystery of the redemption of humanity, Paul the Apostle wrote: *“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”* (Ephesians 1:22, 23). God, the Father, is the one who gave such authority to Christ. Jesus own testimony agrees: *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth’”* (Matthew 28:18). We can be confident in the fact that, no matter how things on earth may seem, Jesus Christ is still in charge. Since that is the case, we know we have a loving Lord and King who is always looking out for us.

### **God Cares!**

It would not matter if we had a God who was distant or unsympathetic to our troubles, would it? The Greeks viewed their pantheon (group of) gods in that way. Most of their gods were nothing more than over-powered, selfish, self-serving, humans in their thinking and actions. Not so with our God! God loves us so much that He died for us in the person of Jesus Christ (John 3:16). This means He actually cares for us and cares a great deal! When Jesus came and lived the life of a human being, God experienced what we experience to the full. He knew what it felt like to be hungry, tired, cold, hot, sick, tempted, betrayed by friends, and limited by His Father in doing all He was capable of doing, just like us. He escaped nothing we experience. He learned obedience through suffering just like we must (Hebrews 5:8). This enabled Him to serve as our High Priest and Judge since He can relate to our situation in a sin-scarred world.

God does not give us all the answers to life’s trials and misfortunes, but He does give us a promise: *“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”* (Revelation 2:10b). This faithfulness requires obedience to His commandments (John 14:15). Jesus commands us to: 1) Believe in Him as God’s Son (that He is divine) (John 8:24); 2) Repent (turn away) from wrongdoing (sin) (Luke 13:3, 5); 3) Confess Him (proclaim Him) as the Son of God (Matthew 10:32) and 4) Be baptized (put under water briefly) to conform to the likeness of His own death, burial, and resurrection to a new life (Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-7). The moment we do all these things (and they should be all done at the same time), He saves us, adds us to His church (Acts 2:47) and sets us on our way to do the good works He prepared for us to do: live righteously, love completely, and listen carefully to Him (Ephesians 2:8-10). We can then be confident of our salvation and future. We may never be able to know what life has in store for us, but we can know that we can have eternal life now and always. God’s care for us makes this possible. He wants our company for all eternity. If you are old enough to obey the gospel of Christ, have you? If not, *please consider it today.*

## Questions for Review

Instructions: Choose the *best* answer from those provided.

1. What makes the Bible, especially the New Testament for our Age, so important?  
 a. It is filled with interesting stories to entertain children and adults.  
 b. It tells people some good and effective rules for living.  
 c. It shows us all that God wants us to know and do to please Him.
  
2. How does Jesus Christ prove to us that God lives?  
 a. He could do extraordinary things (miracles) and knew things no one could have told Him except God because God was with Him.  
 b. His taught with authority (right to command) unlike anyone ever has.  
 c. He was resurrected from the dead and was exalted to God's right hand.  
 d. All of the above.
  
3. Write the part of the verse that proves Jesus Christ is now King and rules the world:  
Matthew 28:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 1:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ephesians 1:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Hebrews 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Revelation 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What is the greatest proof that God cares for us in sending His Son, Jesus, to earth?  
 a. The crucifixion; Jesus went to die on the cross to save us.  
 b. The wonderful things Jesus taught us.  
 c. The way Jesus lived so as to be a good role model for us.
  
5. Whose word and will must we obey to be saved from our sins?  
 a. God's Word, specifically, that contained in the New Testament.  
 b. The word of our pastor, preacher, or relatives.  
 c. The Law of Moses, the Ten Commandments.

## Conclusion

Just like the grandeur of a lovely island lagoon can fill our eyes with a spectacle of wonder and delight, so is the Word of God as it tells us of God: that He lives, He rules, and cares for each and every one of us. He does not want us to be mired in confusion nor to conform to the evils of this world. He wants us to be confident in all these things, so we may live happy and fruitful lives in His service. It is only possible by being in Christ Jesus, being born of water and the Spirit (John 3:3-5). Is this confidence yours?

*Thank you for your participation!*

## Exit Question

*What in this lesson impressed you the most, or may be something you just learned, or something you will share with others who need to know?*

[1] - an area of shallow water separated from the sea by low sandy dunes. - <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/lagoon>.

[2]- [www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g309706-d310852-r269805313-Aitutaki\\_Lagoon-Aitutaki\\_Southern\\_Cook\\_Islands.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g309706-d310852-r269805313-Aitutaki_Lagoon-Aitutaki_Southern_Cook_Islands.html)).