

GOD'S PLAN OF RESTORATION

Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of Lesson 3: This lesson puts meat on the skeleton that was briefly discovered in lesson 1. Its great importance is in the fact that the concept of "God's plan of restoration" is the central, backbone theme and illustration device for this entire series of thirty-three studies. It provides the framework for reducing the Bible study series from a long list of topics to one, God-given "way of life" – in Christ. It continually forces the teacher to discover and present doctrine as a way of life, rather than as a subject. It also forces the teacher to discover and present each doctrine in terms of how it leads the student to a more mature relationship with Christ, rather than simply more facts to know, more "things" to believe, more obedience to perform. It guides the teacher and student to see all doctrines as the means to an end, not the end itself. Most important of all, it helps us to see the centrality of the cross, and the great truth that we must lead people first to accept Christ, then unfold for them the way of life in which the converted Christian will choose to walk. In short, we present the Lord of the Sabbath, before introducing someone to the Sabbath of the Lord.

During the study itself: Strive in this study to focus the attention of your students on the illustration. Help them come to the place where they can almost dream about it at night. Help them, as time passes, to see it as the simple foundation upon which you build every study. It can serve as a tremendous intrinsic appeal in every study. Everything is built around the cross. The emphasis is always relationship with a person, not just acceptance of another subject.

Appeal: Use question 7 to build desire, and question 8 to focus on how to achieve the desire. Question 7 helps people to want to go to the restored land. Question 8 shows that we must have faith in, and accept, the Restorer if we are ever to be taken to the restored land.

Illustration: Keep it simple and clear. When finished, even have your students close their eyes with you, and lead them through the points on the completed visual aid.

