FINDING OUT ABOUT CHRIST · STUDY NOTES

Study 7: What is your response?

For personal study or groups

Your name

biblehelp.net

How to use these notes. Watch each part's video on biblehelp.net, or read the text below. Look up each passage in your own Bible and write the answer on the lines. The verses are printed at the back if you need them. At the end there are questions to think about on your own or to discuss in a group.

PART 1

Hearing and doing

Your verdict

The time has come for you to give your final verdict. Is Jesus just another remarkable person from history, or is He much more? If He is God's Son, the Creator of all, you cannot ignore Him. Jesus asked, "What do you think about the Christ?" (Matthew 22:42). In this course we have been finding out about Christ. What do you think about Him, and how will you respond?

Jesus wanted people to respond by acting on what He said. He told them to use their ears, and not to be indifferent, as if they were deaf.

You should respond to Jesus

There are terrible consequences for those who do not respond and "use their ears".

1 **Read Matthew 13:41–43**

What does verse 43 say about the righteous?

Those who respond are His family

Jesus warned against hearing God's word but not doing it. He counts those who do God's will as His own family.

2 **Read Luke 8:19–21**

Who does Jesus call His mother and brothers in verse 21?

PART 2

Two houses

The folly of ignoring Jesus

Jesus had many eager listeners, but not all of them were willing to repent and act on His teaching. They enthusiastically called Him "Lord", but didn't do what He said. They honoured Him with their lips, but their lives never changed.

Jesus told a story about two houses to show how foolish it is not to act on His words. One house was built on the ground with no foundation, the other on rock. When the flood came, the house on the rock stood firm, but the other collapsed. Those who respond to Jesus are like the house on the rock.

3 **Read Luke 6:46–49**

What happened to the house in verse 49?

If we are not saved, we will suffer

If we refuse to respond to Jesus, we are not simply turning down forgiveness; we are inviting eternal ruin, as the story plainly shows. Jesus spoke very plainly about eternal punishment (Luke 16:19–31). The broad road of this world leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13). We must be careful not to go the same way, or we will suffer what our sins deserve.

4 **Look up Acts 2:40**

What did Peter urge his hearers to do?

How should I respond?

The people who first heard the gospel wanted to respond, but didn't know how. So they asked, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter told them to repent and be baptised (Acts 2:37–38). You should respond in the same way: by turning from the things that displease God, trusting Christ as your Saviour, and showing your faith in Him through baptism.

Talking to God
You don't need special words. Tell God honestly that you have sinned, that you want to turn from your sin, and that you are trusting Jesus and His death on the cross to forgive you. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Those who repent and believe are promised a very special Helper: the gift of the Holy Spirit of God (Acts 2:38).

PART 3

A Helper for life

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit

Shortly before He died, Jesus promised His disciples that another Person would come to help them: the Holy Spirit. From the moment you know Christ as your Saviour, this Helper comes to live with you.

5 **Look up John 14:16**

Whom did Jesus say the Father would give, and for how long?

Dove and fire
The Bible uses a dove and fire as two pictures of God's Spirit: gentle peace, and a holy, purifying presence.

The Holy Spirit is the Christian's teacher and guide

God's Spirit is a wonderful gift to every Christian. The Christian life is not easy, but with the Holy Spirit to teach and help us we have all the strength we need, and we are never alone.

6 **Look up John 14:26**

What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do?

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray

One of the first signs of a true Christian is a desire to pray. God's Spirit encourages us to speak to God as our Father, now that we have been brought back to Him through Christ's death.

7 **Look up Galatians 4:6**

What does the Spirit teach God's children to call Him?

PART 4

God's family

They joined the church family

So how did those first believers respond to the gospel? They were baptised and joined the church. About three thousand were added in one day! It was natural for them to join, because they now belonged to the same family: the family of God. Soon they were strengthened by the warm friendship of other believers.

If you have come to faith in Christ, you should join a church that faithfully teaches the gospel. Join God's family, and meet with them regularly, just as they did.

8 **Look up Acts 2:41**

What did those who embraced the message do, and how many were added that day?

They grew within the family

In a family, we eat regular meals to stay healthy and strong. Every new believer needs the "milk" of God's word to grow.

9 **Look up 1 Peter 2:2**

What should a new believer crave, and why?

Peter and the other apostles taught these early Christians God's word. The New Testament contains their writings. Read them every day, and hear them explained at church. That way you will get the food you need to grow into a strong Christian.

They remembered Jesus together

The early Christians shared bread and wine in a memorial meal. They called it "the breaking of bread", because Jesus had taken a loaf and broken it, just as His body would be broken. The wine was a symbol of His blood, shed when He died for them. Jesus told His followers to eat the bread and drink the wine to remember His dying love on the cross (Luke 22:19–20).

10 **Look up Acts 2:42**

To what four things did the first believers devote themselves?

They prayed

Notice that they prayed together. Praying with other Christians is a great source of strength. If you are a true believer in Christ, pray often, at home and at church. God is now your Father. He cares for you, so tell Him about your needs, and remember to thank Him too.

11 **Look up Philippians 4:6**

What are we to do with our anxieties?

Not ashamed

If you now consider yourself a Christian, don't be ashamed of Jesus (Mark 8:38). He was not ashamed of you when He stood before Pontius Pilate (1 Timothy 6:13) and went to the cross for

you. So be ready to speak about Jesus to others. God will honour it, and your own faith will grow.

What next?

If this course has helped you, or you have questions, we would love to hear from you through the contact form on BibleHelp.net. We can also help you find a church near you that faithfully teaches the gospel.

THINK IT THROUGH

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. What is your verdict about Jesus now?

2. What would it mean for you to build your life on the rock?

3. What is one step you could take this week in response to what you've learned?

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

Memory verse for study 7

Learn this verse by heart this week. Cut out the card and keep it where you will see it.

FINDING OUT ABOUT CHRIST · STUDY 7 · MEMORY VERSE

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

Berean Standard Bible · biblehelp.net

“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, BSB)

AT THE BACK

The Bible passages (BSB)

1 **Matthew 13:41–43** *41The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of His kingdom every cause of sin and all who practice lawlessness. 42And they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*

2 **Luke 8:19–21** *19Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Him, but they were unable to reach Him because of the crowd. 20He was told, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see You." 21But He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and carry it out."*

3 **Luke 6:46–49** *46Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' but do not do what I say? 47I will show you what he is like who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them: 48He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid his foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the torrent crashed against that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49But the one who hears My words and does not act on them is like a man who built his house on ground without a foundation. The torrent crashed against that house, and immediately it fell—and great was its destruction!"*

4 **Acts 2:40** *With many other words he testified, and he urged them, "Be saved from this corrupt generation."*

5 **John 14:16** *And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you forever—*

6 **John 14:26** *But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

7 **Galatians 4:6** *And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"*

8 **Acts 2:41** *Those who embraced his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to the believers that day.*

9 **1 Peter 2:2** *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,*

10 **Acts 2:42** *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

11 **Philippians 4:6** *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Quotations keep its American spelling. Like many English Bibles, it often says 'man', 'he' or 'brothers' where it means people in general, men and women alike.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Study 7: What is your response?

> **Memory verse:** “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16). Say it together at the end, and ask who can say it without looking.

Aims

- Bring each person to their own verdict about Jesus.
- Show the urgency of acting on Jesus' words (the two houses).
- Explain how to respond: repent, trust Christ, be baptised, and receive the Holy Spirit.
- Show what the Christian life looks like: church, the Bible, the Lord's Supper, prayer and not being ashamed of Jesus.

Suggested timing (about 85 minutes)

- **5 min** Welcome and short prayer.
- **15 min** Part 1 video (4 min); Matthew 13:41–43 and Luke 8:19–21.
- **25 min** Part 2 video (5 min); Luke 6:46–49, Acts 2:40, and time for personal response.
- **15 min** Part 3 video (4 min); John 14:16, 14:26 and Galatians 4:6.
- **20 min** Part 4 video (5 min); Acts 2:41–42, 1 Peter 2:2, Philippians 4:6 and the discussion questions.
- **5 min** Closing prayer.

Tips

- This is the decision study. Be gentle and clear; never pressure. Give people space to respond privately.
- After Part 2, offer to talk or pray with anyone individually.
- Have information ready about your church, and about baptism, for anyone who wants to take the next step.
- Encourage everyone to finish the online quiz and download their certificate.

Answers to watch for

- **Matthew 13:43:** the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom.
- **Luke 8:21:** His family are those who hear the word of God and carry it out.
- **Luke 6:49:** the house without a foundation fell, and great was its destruction.
- **Acts 2:40:** "Be saved from this corrupt generation."
- **John 14:16:** the Father will give another advocate to be with them for ever.
- **John 14:26:** the Holy Spirit will teach all things and remind them of what Jesus said.
- **Galatians 4:6:** the Spirit in our hearts calls out, "Abba, Father."
- **Acts 2:41:** those who accepted the message were baptised; about three thousand were added.
- **1 Peter 2:2:** crave pure spiritual milk, to grow up in your salvation.
- **Acts 2:42:** the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer.
- **Philippians 4:6:** don't be anxious; by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.