**THE PRE-GOSPEL PERIOD**

This means the period when the gospel was not yet written down but spread through the word of mouth (orally). It can also be called apostolic age or early church and this is the period when the first apostles or the eye witnesses of Jesus Christ still existed.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE EARLY CHURCH**

1. They spent time praising and worshipping God through hymns and songs.
2. They spent most of their time preaching and converting people into Christianity (Acts 2:41)
3. They baptized non believers as an outward sign to show that they have accepted Christianity.
4. They founded churches wherever they went eg, St Paul founded the Corinthian church.
5. They carried out prayers both individually and publically
6. They performed miracles using the power of the Holy Spirit.
7. They carried out fellowship where they encouraged each other
8. The early believers also carried out sharing where they shared according to everyone’s need
9. They appointed leaders who helped the apostles in preaching the word of God
10. They carried out missionary journeys by moving to other place preaching the word of God.
11. They wrote letters encouraging Christians who were facing different challenges.
12. They answered questions that troubled the new converts and non believers.
13. They broke the bread and shared it in memory of Jesus Christ.
14. They visited and helped the less privileged people e.g the poor, sick, orphans etc
15. They practiced confessing and repentance of sins.
16. They fasted from time to time as a way of self denial
17. They carried out liturgical and catechetical instructions to teach the new converts Christian principals
18. They laid hands to fellow Christians to help them receive the Holy Spirit and blessings.
19. The involved in physical work as a way of raising money to sup[port themselves
20. The early believers gave testimonies about the goodness of God and this raised hope among the converts
21. They composed songs and hymns which were used during worship and praising
22. They lived a Christian practical life which encouraged non believers into Christianity
23. They organized and attended Sunday services
24. They organized crusades which were public and open prayers
25. They carried out discussions which helped to deepen their faith

**Ways how the early church failed to live to the expectation.**

1. Some of them back-sided in matters of faith to the extent of abandoning preaching. (John 21:1-14)
2. There were a lot of divisions in the church based on personalities.ie Paul, peter and Apollo’s.
3. Some Christians continued to doubt the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
4. Some early believers lost hope in parausia and went back to their secular lives.
5. Some Christians misused the Lord’s Supper.
6. Some misused the spiritual gifts especially the speaking in tongues.
7. They practiced discrimination basing on outward appearance.
8. Some Christians prayed for bad intentions ie instead of praying for their enemies to repent, they pray to God to punish them.
9. Some continued to practice idol worship thus syncretism.
10. Some Christians peter inclusive emphasized Jewish culture instead of faith in Jesus
11. Some Christians continued to commit sexual immorality referring that what the body does, does not affect the soul.
12. Some Christians were selfish and not willing to share their wealth with others (Acts 5:1-10).
13. Some Christians failed to endure persecution and suffering for the sake of the gospel.
14. Some Christians boosted of their material wealth instead of using it to serve God.
15. Some involved in conflicts that negatively affected the church eg, Paul and peter at Antioch
16. Some Christians doubted the authority of the apostles eg the Galatians doubted Paul’s apostleship
17. Some Christians continued to take their fellow Christians into pagan courts.

**Lessons modern Christians learn from early believers**

Christians should always;

1. Preach the gospel without fear as the early believers did.
2. Participate in fellowship in order to deepen their faith
3. Carryout religious instruction such as catechism to impart Christian faith in the young ones.
4. Pray to God just like the early believers did
5. Should do charitable work eg, helping the poor, sick, etc
6. Share their wealth with one another in the spiritual hearts
7. Carryout crusades to preach the gospel to everyone
8. Compose songs and hymns that can be used in praise and worship of God
9. Give testimonies about the goodness of God
10. Participate fully in holy communion after total repentance
11. Confess and repent their sins the way early believers did.
12. Promote the spirit of love for one another as a command from Jesus
13. Carryout baptism of new converts to initiate them in the priesthood
14. Practice fasting as a way of self denial
15. Carryout religious journeys to holy places so as to deepen their faith
16. Provide needs to the less privileged people as it is a true Christian act
17. Wait for the second coming of Jesus Christ with a lot of hope
18. Establish churches in distant geographical areas
19. Pray for one another the way early believers did
20. Perform miracles in Jesus’ name so as to deepen the faith of new coverts
21. Participate in writing Christian literature to promote Christianity

**Ways how fellowship and worship was conducted in the early church**

*It was conducted through:*

1. Singing songs and hymns that gave praise to God
2. Expressing and exercising the spirit of brotherhood by loving and sharing the needs of life
3. Fellowshipping where the leant from one another and gave encouragement
4. Performing charitable work to the less privileged
5. Giving testimonies about the goodness of God of their lives
6. Preaching the word of God in the way Jesus did
7. Carrying out liturgical and catechetical instructions to teach the new converts young ones
8. Participating in the breaking and sharing of bread among themselves
9. Confessing and repentance of sins either individually or publically
10. Collecting baptism as an external sign that one has accepted Christianity
11. Performing miracles in the name of Jesus Christ using the power of the holy spirit
12. Using symbols such as kneeling down, clapping hands and raising hands in air.
13. Giving offerings to God as a sign of thanksgiving
14. Reading and interpreting the old testaments scriptures and message about the risen Jesus
15. Converting non-believers into Christians
16. Appointing leaders to support the apostles
17. Settling disputes among Christians as a way of promoting unity

**Reasons why unity and brotherhood was practical in the apostolic church**

Because;

1. The early believers were anxiously waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ
2. They were guided by the power of the holy spirit which was still active in the church
3. At that time, only adults would be baptized who knew what they were doing
4. The early believers had many enemies and so needed to be united
5. Many Christians had genuine faith
6. Christianity was still very new and many were eager to join it
7. Early believers had a common language “Greek” which made communication easy
8. Christian church was still small and easy to unite since they knew each other
9. Christians concerned about spiritual matters rather than wealth
10. The message about Jesus’ resurrection was still fresh in their minds
11. The spirit of praying to God and to one another was still a new concept and many loved it
12. They were still anxious to fulfill Jesus’ commands eg, sharing bread & wealth
13. There were miner divisions in the church since it was still small
14. Many eye witnesses of Jesus Christ were still alive
15. They wanted to attract non believers into Christianity by acting well
16. Many Christians had concern for one another since they were few.

**Reasons why unity and brotherhood in the modern church is dying out**

1. The increasing economic hardships has limited the practice of sharing
2. Pride among Christians and some religious sects has affected the unity
3. Religious pluralism has increased conflicts and disunity in the modern church.
4. Many Christians today are occupied by earthly things and the desire to accumulate wealth
5. The church of Christ has increased in number geographical coverage
6. There’s moral degeneration in modern societies
7. There’s increasing number of false prophets and fake testimonies aimed at making money
8. Because of formal education that creates division between the educated and the illiterates
9. Failure to understand some doctrine and beliefs such as the trinity
10. Because of commercializing church services and miracles which has made the poor abandon church
11. Division in the modern church related to tribalism and outward appearance
12. Because modern Christians have waited for parausia for so long
13. Today many people are joining Christianity with other objectives other than faith
14. Because the power of the holy spirit is rarely felt in the modern church
15. Disunity in the church based on political parties
16. Unity and brotherhood is dying out because of jealousy especially among religious leaders

**Ways of fellowship and worship in the modern church**

*Worship in the modern church involves;*

1. Fasting as a way of self denial and seeking for God’s blessing
2. Singing songs and hymns praising God.
3. Baptizing new converts and initiating them into Christianity
4. Preaching and interpreting scriptures for the Christians
5. Carrying out the Lord’s supper as food from heaven
6. Collecting material things for raising funds to support church projects and activities
7. Performing miracles as a way of raising people’s faith and hope
8. Bible study before the main service is conducted
9. Speaking in tongues and this is common among the Pentecostals
10. Sunday and Saturday services for other Christians and Adventists respectively
11. Giving offertories to the Lord as part of thanksgiving
12. Praying to God asking for His blessing and favour
13. Helping the poor as a way of putting their faith in action
14. Cleansing with water olive oil especially in the catholic church
15. Giving testimonies about the goodness of God aimed at giving hope to other Christians
16. Ordaining of religious leaders eg priests, pastors, reverands, etc
17. Repenting of sins either individually or publically

**Ways how the gospel is spread today**

*The gospel today is transmitted through;*

1. Preaching it in different places such as churches, streets etc
2. Mass media using electronic machines such televisions, radios, internet etc
3. Perfuming miracles in the name of Jesus Christ as a way of deepening faith
4. Carrying out crusades with the aid of loud speakers to cover a big audience
5. Promoting bible study and donating bibles
6. Preaching on burial sites and during memorial masses
7. Teaching CRE in schools were moral living is imparted in the young ones
8. Writing Christian religious books concerning the ministry of Jesus
9. Composing songs and hymns that praise God
10. Practical Christian living characterized by love, sharing, forgiveness and reconciliation
11. Founding Christian schools where Christian morals and the good news are taught
12. Praying for the sick and healing them in Jesus’ name
13. Conducting religious conferences and seminars
14. Video films especially concerning Jesus ministry
15. Conducting various Christian music festivals
16. Exercising the gift of holy spirit eg, speaking in tongues, preaching and healing
17. Celebrating Christian festivals eng Christmas, Easters, etc

**Problems Christians face in spreading the gospel today**

1. The strong beliefs in African culture that cannot let Christians follow the gospel alone.
2. Divisions in the church due to different religious sects.
3. The high level of poverty which makes some Christians fails to attend church.
4. The limited number of committed gospel preachers e.g. priests, pastors, reverends etc.
5. The increasing power struggle among religious leaders leading to division in the church.
6. Commercialization of the gospel by some religious leaders.
7. The increasing number of false prophets that divert people from the flock of Jesus.
8. Competition among religious sects’ e.g. Islam and Christianity as well as Christian churches.
9. The delayed parausia that has discouraged many believers hence some abandoning church.
10. High level of discrimination based on wealth and outward appearance.
11. Many people are work oriented hence lacking time for God and the church.
12. There is a problem of language barrier due to many languages today.
13. The problem of hostile tribes who do not want to listen to any foreigner.
14. The poor example of some religious leaders who scandalize the faith of young ones.
15. The misuse of spiritual gifts especially speaking in tongues and healing where one needs money to be healed.
16. Poor preaching and interpretation of the gospel that encourage immorality and non Christian practices eg revenge.
17. Political instability that makes preaching the gospel in some areas risky.
18. Embezzlement of church funds by some church leaders instead of using it properly.
19. The influence of western culture especially on the youth who prefer western behavior to Christian ones.
20. The poor roads connecting to some areas also make preaching the gospel difficult.

**Problems that hindered the spread of the gospel in the early church.**

1. The small number of the apostles compared to the rate at which the church expanded.
2. The low level of education of many eye witness of Jesus Christ and the high level of illiteracy among roman people
3. Divisions among Christians based on personalities i.e., Paul, Peter and Apollo.
4. Luck of genuine faith among some Christians i.e. they would backslide due to persecution and suffering
5. The problem of false preachers such as the Greeks who misinterpreted the lord’s supper
6. The aging and death of so eye witnesses of Jesus Christ
7. They delayed parausia made some Christians lose hope and patience
8. The strong belief in the Jewish culture by the Judaisers such as Peter. Who mixed Christianity and culture
9. Discrimination in church based on outward appearance
10. The misuse of the agape meals through creating division rather unity
11. The cultural practices that denied women to speak in public chased some from the church
12. Poverty among early believers could not let them invest in the preaching of the gospel
13. Paul’s personal background as a persecutor of the church hindered the spread of the gospel as he took a lot of time defending his apostleship
14. The poor transport in some parts of the roman empire
15. The misuse of spiritual gifts as those with them despise those without them
16. The conflict between Jews and gentiles on the issue of circumcision was a problem too
17. Persecution and martyrdom of some Christians in the Roman empire scared many Christians

**Attempts taken by the early church to solve the problems**

1. With the issue of persecution, Christians encouraged one another to endure since a great reward awaited them in heaven
2. On the issue of opposition, church with help of the holy spirit explained what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ
3. With poverty, the spirit of sharing according to each ones need helped them
4. The issue of division, the apostles guided Christians into the right paths of a Christian living
5. The issue of disunity according to personalities, Paul wrote to the Christians tell8ing them that the apostles were co-workers
6. On illiteracy, the church educated members through catechetical schools
7. On false teaching, the church formed the criteria which was used in selecting the 27 books of the new testament
8. On the issue of agape feast, Paul advised them to eat a little before going for fellowship
9. On the parausia, the apostles encouraged the Christians not to lose hope
10. About misuse of spiritual gifts, Paul explained to them that all the gifts come from the same holy spirit
11. On cultural conflicts, Paul wrote them informing them that salvation is not attained by the law but faith in Jesus Christ
12. They missionary journeys while preaching the word of God
13. They made philosophical debates to reason out the false teachings
14. The appointed 7 deacons to carry out special duties among gentile Christians to increase on preachers
15. The apostles were sup[ported by the rich and educated disciples to write the gospel
16. The Jerusalem council solved the problem of what makes one a Christian i.e., it is faith
17. The apostles taught Christians to forgive one another and to carry one another’s burden

**The influence of the holy spirit in the spreading of the gospel in the early church**

1. The holy spirit, empowered Christians with strength to come out of their hiding places
2. Enabled the apostles to endure persecution and suffering which they faced in spreading the gospel
3. Enabled the early believers to perform various miracles that attracted many to believe the gospel. (Acts 3:1-10)
4. Empowered Christians to establish new churches in different areas
5. Enabled the apostles to defend the gospel before Jewish leaders
6. Enabled early believers to share material goods in a spirit heart. (Acts 4:32-36)
7. The holy spirit guided early believers on how to carry out the lord’s supper
8. Guided early believers on how to select the books of the new testament
9. Facilitated conversion and baptism of people into Christianity. (Acts 2:41)
10. Enabled the early believers to live an extemporary life characterized of love, care and concern.
11. Helped early believers to speak in various languages that were understandable to all people
12. It enabled some persecutors of the church to be converted to Christianity e.g. Paul
13. It enabled early believers to confess and repent their sins genuinely
14. Guided early believers in choosing leaders who would support in the spreading of the gospel (Acts 6:1-6)
15. Enabled the early believers to write down the gospels and letters
16. Guided early believers in answering difficult questions posed by the enemies of the church

**Causes of the limited work of the Holy Spirit among modern Christians**

1. There’s lack of genuine faith among modern Christians as many practice syncretism
2. The high level of materialism in the modern society where some people forge testimonies in order to get money from followers
3. A big number of Christians in the modern church are jealous and envious to one another
4. There’s lack of genuine love among Christians today i.e., many go to church for the sake
5. There’s lack of time spared for God and religious activities due to over working
6. There’s high rate of sin commitment in the modern church with limited repentance
7. Modern Christians do not take prayers seriously
8. There’s a high level of division among modern Christians basing on religious pluralism
9. Some modern Christians do not believe that the Holy Spirit can ascend on them neither believer its power.
10. The limited fasting as a form of self denial and spiritual uprightness
11. The misuse of spiritual gifts by some Christians today is limiting the work holy spirit as they boost over them
12. Conservatism in some churches especially the catholic and Anglican church has also limited the work of the holy spirit as they pray down its work among people
13. The increasing power struggle among different churches church-leaders
14. The belief in witchcraft among modern Christians also limits the work of the holy spirit
15. The effect of false preachers and cults also limits the work of the holy spirit

**Qualities of a true Christian**

***A true Christian;***

1. Confesses that Jesus is lord and is never ashamed of giving testimony
2. Has faith in the trinity of God revealed through accepting baptism
3. Demonstrates kindness through doing charitable work
4. Participate in prayer as a communication to God
5. Respects and loves others since we are all created in God’s image and likeness
6. Practices forgiveness and reconciliation as an important Christian value
7. Practices faithfully in holy communion with a pure heart
8. Endeavors to repent his sins as we commit them through thoughts, words and actions
9. Respects marriage vows by avoiding sexual deviations and divorce
10. Participating preaching the gospel about Jesus Christ
11. Must believe in his / her ability to perform miracles in Jesus’ name
12. Should participate in important Christian festivals
13. Should participate in fasting especially during lent period
14. Should accept baptism and be proud of his / her Christian name
15. Should always refer to the bible which is the word of God
16. Should not be ashamed of the Christian symbols especially the cross
17. Should have respect in Jesus, Mother Mary who intercedes for us to God and other important figures of the church
18. Should always go for worship on Sunday for other Christians and Saturday for SDA

**The significance of the Lord’s Supper**

*The Lord’s Supper;*

1. Means the new covenant that God made with mankind through Jesus Christ.
2. Signifies the food from heaven
3. Signifies a moment of interaction between Christians and Jesus Christ as He turns the bread into His body and wine into His blood.
4. Signifies Jesus’ memory among Christians as He commanded us to always do it in his memory
5. It signifies a difference between Christians and non Christians as non Christians are not allowed to take
6. Signifies unity of the Christians as it is always taken during fellowship worship
7. Served as a fulfillment of Jesus command to His followers. (1 Cor 11:24-25)
8. It means that believers should look at themselves as chosen people of God.
9. It symbolizes the heavenly banquet prepared to all followers of Jesus Christ
10. Signifies a difference between Christianity and Judaism as it is the central aspect in liturgy unlike in Judaism
11. It means constant repentance among Christians as only the righteous ones are allowed to take it
12. It signifies an expression of Christian love for one another as it is taken as a group
13. It signifies that Jesus is a live and always present in the lives of the believers

**The influence of parausia and the life of the Christians in the early church**

*Parausia means the second coming of Jesus Christ iminate parausia means immediate coming of Jesus Christ.*

1. **Positive influence**
2. Parausia motivated the early believers to spreads the gospels vigorously since they expected Jesus to come back soon
3. It filled the early believers with the anxiety to preach the word of God since they expected a reward very soon
4. It motivated early believers to sell all their property and share it among themselves thinking that their generation was the last one
5. It enabled them to endure persecution and suffering as tey hoped it to end very soon
6. Encouraged early believers to carry out charitable work to the needy since the expected a reward very soon
7. Encouraged early believers to practice fasting with the intention of remaining pure until the coming of Jesus Christ
8. Encouraged believers to give testimonies about what Jesus has done for them to encourage others to join them
9. It motivated believers to celebrate the lord’s supper expecting Jesus to come and join them
10. It promoted unity among early believers as they wanted Jesus to find them united
11. It motivated them to faithfully and worship God since they expected Jesus to meet them soon
12. It enabled believers to perform miracles as they had strong faith in Jesus Christ
13. It encouraged early believers to carryout crusades so as to preach to each and everyone to prepare them for parausia
14. It encouraged early believers to visit the sick and anoint them preparing them for Jesus’ coming
15. It encouraged constant prayers and fellowship among early believers so as to remain alert since they expected Jesus soon.
16. **Negative influence**
17. Some early believers stopped working hence poverty and suffering
18. It delayed the writing of the gospel as the early believers thought that they were the last generation
19. Some of them sold whatever they had which caused them suffering and regrets
20. The delayed parausia gave raise to false prophets who preached about parausia in different perspective
21. Parausia gave chance to the enemies of the church to justify that, that Jesus was a liar and hence diverted many
22. Some early believers gave up their marriage and social life and concentrated on prayers
23. Made many Christians to lose hope hence they back-slided and went back to their earlier social and immoral life
24. Paved way for confusion among believers that some started misinterpreting the signs thinking that parausia is soon coming
25. It made early believers to concentrate on praying instead of demonstrating their faith in action

**The New Testament teaching on parausia**

1. The New Testament teaches that parausia is soon so Christians should be prepared as it will come like a thief.
2. On that day heaven will disappear with noise and the earth and everything on it will vanish.
3. Some people whose lives are controlled by their own desires will appear to show that parausia is soon.
4. Jesus will come back to judge the living and the dead and each person will give an account of his life to be blessed or cursed.
5. Christians deserve to be prepared but continue working as no one knows the day.
6. False prophets will appear and perform great miracles in order to deceive God’s people.
7. The son of man will come like a lightening which flashes across the sky east to west.
8. There will be famine and earthquakes everywhere and people will starve to death.
9. There will be strange things happening to the sun, moon and stars.
10. All countries will be in despair afraid of the roaring of the sea and powers in the space will lose control that people will faint from fear.
11. The son of man will come in a cloud with great power and glory.
12. Countries will fight each other and there will be wars everywhere.
13. There will be great division and disobedience between parents and children.
14. There will be great glory for those who endured suffering.
15. Jesus will appear as a chief shepherd to reward the faithful shepherds for the work done
16. It will be terrible for pregnant women and babies because the earth will be violent.
17. Someone who will be on the roof top, will have no time to go down.
18. There will be great persecution for Christians for the sake of Jesus but God will reward those who will endure.
19. Trumpets will be sounded and those who will still be alive will transform instantly.
20. Repentance of one’s sins is required before the day of the lord as sinners will be punished while the righteous will be rewarded.
21. The dead will rise back to life and gain the immortal bodies that will never die.
22. On that day salvation will be revealed to all people.

**The earliest pro-claimed message or apostolic preaching or kerygyma.**

Kerygyma means the good news that was orally preached by the early believers.

**Content of the kerygyma.**

1. The kerygyma was based on Jesus’ birth, ministry, death and resurrection.
2. Jesus was born by Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus was born from the line of king David as God had promised in the O.T.
4. Jesus was the expected messiah, redeemer and savior.
5. It was centered on Jesus teaching and his saving nature.
6. Jesus teaching based on God’s kingdom and in most cases used parables.
7. Jesus was fully anointed by the Holy Spirit when baptized by John the Baptist.
8. During his baptism, the trinity of God was revealed i.e. the spirit ascended on him and God’s voice declared that Jesus was his only dear son.
9. Jesus associated with all kinds of people including the out casts e.g. lepers.
10. Jesus performed many miracles e.g healing miracles, casting out demons e.t.c.
11. Jesus faced opposition from Jewish leaders and teachers of the law.
12. Jesus faced persecution from teachers of the law and was arrested and handed to Pilate.
13. Jesus was made to suffer, tried and sentenced to death by Pilate.
14. He was crucified, died and buried in the grave but on the third day he rose up.
15. His death and resurrection was according to God’s plan of salvation.
16. Jesus appeared too many people after his resurrection including disciples.
17. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples to guide and help them.
18. Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach the gospel throughout the world.
19. Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of his father.
20. He will come back again to judge the living and the dead.
21. It is necessary to repent sins and accept baptism.
22. That all believers will resurrect on the last day.
23. It is necessary to believe in the trinity.
24. It is also necessary to believe in the everlasting life
25. It also stresses that reconciliation came to mankind through the death of Jesus.

**Advantages of the oral transmission (kerygyma)**

1. It was impressive since it involved giving testimonies about Jesus.
2. It saved early Christians from spending money on written materials.
3. It did not require stores since they stored message in their heads.
4. Listening to the eyewitnesses of Jesus helped the crowd to believe.
5. It helped the apostles to get full attention since it was face to face.
6. The eyewitnesses would strongly oppose those who were against the gospel since it was face to face.
7. The authors of the canon depended on the oral source.
8. As they preached, they also broke the bread which united believers.
9. The same message would be presented differently by different preachers as each was inspired by the Holy Spirit.
10. It sharpened people’s memories as they kept retelling the message.
11. It led to the establishment of many churches where ever the apostles went hence expansion of the church.
12. It gave a chance to the listeners to ask questions for clarity.
13. It favored both illiterates and elites since it was oral.
14. It was in line with Jesus teaching method. i.e he preached orally.
15. It did not need training as it is with written gospel.

**Disadvantages of oral-transmission of the gospel**

1. There was no reference incase criticism arose from what was being preached.
2. There was possibility of forgetting important message
3. Preaching from one place to another was tiresome hence some areas were un able to receive the gospel in time
4. There were some errors, omissions and additions to the original message depending on the preachers’ memory
5. There was lack of coordination among preachers depending on the source where they got the message
6. The poor memory of the listeners led to back sliding since they were left alone when the apostles went to other areas
7. Oral preaching was a problem to deaf people
8. It also depended on the mood and interest of the listeners i.e., when found in the bad mood they would insult the apostles
9. The method depended on eye witness and when they started dying, they died with original message
10. The preachers, easily faced opposition from the Judaisers and some preachers were detained
11. It took a slow pace in spreading the gospel since the message was not written down
12. It did not cater for the future generation as nothing was recorded down
13. It led to misuse of spiritual gifts as those inspired boosted over their prophecy and speak in tongues
14. It did not give a chance to the listeners to criticize the message as the eye witness would speak with authority

**Reasons for not writing the gospel during the oral period**

1. The apostles who witness the teaching and did of Jesus were still alive and so could be consulted
2. The apostles thought that their generation was the last since they expected Jesus soon
3. The people of that time also preferred oral transmission
4. The roman people of that time were still illiterate
5. There was a miss-conception that Christianity was only for the Jews and so could not write to the Gentiles
6. The writing materials on which to write the gospel were scarce and expensive
7. The apostles wanted to follow Jesus example of preaching orally
8. The apostles were still energetic to move from one place to another
9. The church was still small and around Jerusalem
10. The apostles were still excited to preach the gospel and perform miracles thus neglected the writing
11. The disciples’ memories were still strong to memorize all about Jesus
12. The writing down of any information was a culture of the scribes and yet they were against Christianity and so could not give permission for the apostles to write
13. It took a long time for Christianity to be accepted in the most parts of the world
14. It was difficult to collect information from different apostles and put it in an organized form since they were busy preaching
15. They was a problem of language barrier as they had not agreed on the language in which to communicate the gospel
16. The apostles had not yet been inspired by the holy spirit to write the gospel
17. Teachers of that time believed that, a good student is one who could memorize was has been orally taught without writing down
18. Jesus their master, did not instruct His disciples to write the gospel but only to preach it
19. The writing exercise was tiresome and required a lot of time
20. There was great persecution for Christians and therefore the apostles feared to publish anything about Jesus Christ

**Reasons why the gospels were later written down**

1. The eye witness of Jesus grew old and started dying and therefore there was need to preserve the gospel
2. There was a lot of persecution from emperor Nero and most Christians went into hiding
3. The disciples’ memories started fading due to age
4. There was delayed parausia and therefore there was need to write for other generations
5. The church started expanding numerically and geographically
6. The Greek language had been agreed upon as the language in which to communicate the gospel
7. Some problems started arising in distant churches and the apostles had to address them through writing
8. The writing of the gospel became necessary for liturgical and catechetical purposes
9. The period of literacy and modernity had come in and so people could read and write
10. The gospel was written down to defend it against false teachings and writings from the enemies of the church
11. Written message would spread faster than oral message
12. It was necessary to present Christianity as a universal religion for both Jews and Gentiles
13. The holy spirit ha now inspired the early believers to write down the gospel
14. The rich people joined Christianity and financed the writing materials
15. The emergence of many evangelist who needed materials to use while preaching the gospel
16. There was need to confirm that Jesus resurrected from the dead to the people who doubted it (***point of reference***)

**Advantages of the written gospel**

1. It important in checking the exaggerations and omissions which were in oral message.
2. It serves as a point of reference in case of disagreement.
3. It is for liturgical and catechetical purposes.
4. It is used for academic purposes in schools for students doing C.R.E.
5. It helped to preserve the gospel for different generations.
6. It is basis on which modern song and hymns are composed.
7. They guide the Christians on the acceptable moral standards.
8. They are used to win and convert many people into Christianity since some even buy and read it themselves.
9. It has promoted co-ordination and uniformity in the preaching of the word of God.
10. It is a basis for modern guidance and counseling to people facing problems.
11. It helps to maintain consistence in preaching of the gospel in various religions.
12. It helps to comfort and strengthen people facing persecution.
13. It is used as an inspired book that fights against evil spirits (Satan).

**The canon of the New Testament.**

Canonicity means the 27 books of the New Testament.

**Criteria / standard which the church used to form New Testament canon**

1. The book had to be written by an apostle of Jesus Christ since they had first hand information
2. The book must have been written by a close associate of the apostle
3. It must have been written during the time when apostles where still facing persecution
4. The book must present the content of kerygyma i.e., Jesus’ birth, ministry, death and resurrection
5. It was expected to be inspired by the holy spirit so as to cause a religious feeling with the reader
6. The book must stress Jesus’ messiah ship
7. The book should have been written stressing the trinity ie, God the father,son & the holy spirit
8. It had to bare a message from God ie, the book of Revelation
9. It had to emphasize faith in Jesus Christ
10. It had to show the continuity of the old testament in the New testament
11. It had to be in consistence with other books of the new testament to avoid confusion
12. It must have been accepted by the public
13. The book should have been addressed to a particular community and to a particular problem
14. It must emphasis the importance of the holy spirit
15. It must have been written by an author of a sounding moral character
16. It must contain the message that is relevant to all people in all circumstances
17. It must have had a clear authorship
18. It should be in agreement with the original teachings of the church and the apostolic doctrines eg baptism and the lord’s supper
19. It must have been regularly used during worship

**Paul’s first letter to Corinthians**

Paul was originally name Saul who was a great persecutor of the church but was finally turned a Christian when Jesus revealed Himself to him on His was to Damascus to persecute the church. The Lord sent him to preach to the Gentiles and his one of the greatest preachers and the author of many letters. (Acts 9:1-19, Acts 9:15-16)

**The city of Corinth**

1. It was a commercial centre and one of the busiest international port in the Roman province.
2. Its population was composed of 600 people where 400 were slaves
3. It was a famous education center
4. It was a center of leisure activities
5. It was full of pagan religious which offered people immediate answers
6. There was a lot of discrimination which was seen as a normal practice
7. Drunkardness was very common and normal
8. It was a sexually immoral city which practiced incest, adultery & prostitution
9. People were great philosophers who engaged in finding out the meaning of life and death
10. There were high crime rates such as murder, theft, fighting etc
11. There was high inequality based on sex ie women were inferior to men
12. Idolatry was the order of the day ie people worship pagan gods
13. It was an industrial and ship building center
14. Greek was a common language used for communication while Latin was the official language
15. It was a famous sports center were people played both indoor and outdoor games
16. People believed in the power of intellectualism (human reasoning ) to find answers to different problems
17. Religious syncretism was highly practiced ie a mixture of pagan worship and Christianity
18. Christianity was mainly for the Jews and the few Gentiles who had been converted into Christianity
19. It was an administrative center and a capital of the roman province
20. The city had magnificent buildings which were built by emperor Julius Caesar

**Aims of writing Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians**

1. To respond to the divisions that was becoming a serious in the Corinthian church ie they were divided according to personality Paul, Peter, Apollo & Jesus.
2. He wrote to deal with the problem of sexual immorality that was eating up the church
3. To handle the problem of Christian taking their fellow Christians into pagan courts
4. He wrote to answer the challenging questions about marriage i.e. marry non Christians, divorce their wives etc
5. He wrote to clarify on the issue of celibacy
6. To respond th the question raised about the offered to idols whether to eat it or not
7. To explain the rights & duties of an apostle since some Christians doubted him
8. He wrote to defend his apostleship being originally a persecutor of the church
9. He wrote to discourage Corinthians from worshiping idols by showing them how God punished the Israelites
10. He wrote to respond to the questions about the order of worship i.e., whether women should speak in public and veil their heads or not
11. He wrote to respond to the misuse of the Lord’s supper as the rich discriminated the poor
12. To advise them about the spiritual gifts since those who had them boosted over them
13. To answer the issue about resurrection as many had started doubting because of the influence of the Greek philosophers
14. To encourage them to continue contributing money for the needy Christians in the church
15. To encourage them to endure persecution and to remain righteous until the second coming of Jesus Christ

**Paul’s response to divisions in Corinth**

1. Paul told them that Christ is not divided into several parts so they should be united
2. He told them that none of those they claim to follow died for them but it was Christ
3. He said that whether Apollo, Peter nor him baptized them but they were baptized in the name of Jesus
4. He advised them that God is the only judge and therefore no one should judge one another he advised the apostle to agree on what to preach about the gospel of Jesus
5. He advised them not to be proud of their achievements instead they should thank God for what He has done for them
6. He told them that Peter, Apollo and himself are coworkers in the expansion of God’s kingdom
7. He reminded them on the cost of apostleship as persecution and suffering instead of completion
8. Paul told them that they were still spiritually immature as manifested in their jealous and quarrelling
9. He reminded them that by the time they were called they were people of little faith therefore self pride should not drive them
10. He promised to keep on visiting them to find out the source of their pride
11. He appealed to them to remain united for the sake of Christ and spreading the gospel
12. Paul was angry particularly to the group that claimed to follow him boosting that they were baptized by the founder of the Gentile church (Paul)
13. He rebuked them as men of the flesh because they lived as according to the standard of the world
14. He advised them to boost about what Jesus had done for them instead of boosting about human leaders
15. Paul noted that none of the disciples had followers accept Jesus Christ so they should follow Him not human leaders
16. Paul gave a warning to those dividing the church that they will destroyed
17. He also warned them against reliance on human wisdom that it was the cause of their division

**Relevance or lessons modern Christians learn from Paul’s teaching about divisions**

Modern Christians should;

1. Be united in one thought and purpose in order to spread the gospel
2. Love one another as love is the greatest commandment and gift one can give
3. Learn from Paul that preachers of the gospel are coworkers and not competitors
4. Learn from Paul to properly use their gifts to preach the gospel
5. Rely on the holy spirit to preach the gospel as it gives them wisdom from heaven
6. Follow Jesus Christ in whose they were baptized
7. Judge themselves before judging others because all preachers are equal
8. Follow Jesus Christ because He is the o9ne who died for their sins
9. Boost over what Jesus had done for them instead of what religious leaders have done for them.
10. Church leaders should preach the same gospel about Jesus Christ instead of competing against each other
11. Religious leaders should baptize new converts in Jesus’ name
12. Christians should keep their bodies holy as they are temples of God
13. They should trust in God’s wisdom instead of trusting human reasoning
14. They should be carefully in the way they build on the foundation laid by Jesus otherwise they will face God’s judgment
15. Christians should accept and respect all religious leaders without doubting them

**Paul’s teaching on incest (1 Cor 5:1-13)**

1. Paul pointed out that the practice of incest was so terrible that even the victims will be guilty of it.
2. He rebuked them for being proud of such a sin other than feeling sad
3. He advised them to expel the man involved in incest out of their fellowship
4. He advised them to pass judgment on the young man in Jesus’ who did such a thing.
5. He went ahead to advise them to hand over the man to Satan for his body to be destroyed so as his soul to be saved
6. He advised them to remove the old yeast of sin so that they would be pure
7. He also advised them to be alert because the old yeast can make the whole batch of dough to be destroyed
8. He advised them not to associate with a person who calls himself a believer but immoral
9. He advised them to look into all the members of their fellowship and remove all the immoral people from the group
10. He told them that, even if he was not physically with them he had already passed judgment on the young man spiritually
11. To Paul, immoral people were Christians who continued to live an immoral life and not pagan as the Corinthians thought
12. He went ahead to tell them that Jesus Christ was a Passover lamb that was sacrificed for them so they should remain pure and faithful to Him
13. To Paul, the kind of judgment to young man was meant to realize how serious the sin of incest was and to help him repent

**Relevance of the teaching to modern Christians**

1. Christians should live exemplary lives by not involving in immoral acts.
2. They should associate with morally upright people as the immoral may tempt them.
3. They should always judge members of their fellowship and guide them to a proper Christian living.
4. They should expel out immoral members from the fellowship to guard their image.
5. They should avoid being tempted by immoral people
6. They should always repent to prepare for God’s judgment.
7. Should reveal evil acts committed in the community to leaders so as to take measures
8. Should know that by keeping quiet of a sin, all of them become guilty of it.
9. Christians should respect sex instead of abusing it.
10. They should do things that glorify God instead of abusing his name.
11. They should judge people who commit terrible sins like incest in jesus name without fear or favour
12. They should condemn the people who involve themselves in immoral acts
13. Christian leaders should show concern to their subjects by guiding them

**Paul’s teaching on legal disputes (1cor 6:1-11)**

1. Paul condemned the practice because it was not giving a good image to the church
2. He told them that internal conflicts should remain within the community and settele the their own disputes as brothers
3. He advised them to have a sense of maturity and assist one another instead of exposing ones weakness in public.
4. He said that disputes are common iny society but they should not seek advice from pagans
5. He advised them that sincere justice is found in the church because Christians are guide by the holy spirit
6. He called for brotherly love among Christians characterized by forgiveness and reconciliation
7. He advised them that Christians are better judges who should assist them
8. He told them that the main cause of their disputes is failure to live according to brotherhood
9. He clearly pointed out that no immoral, deceitful, unjust & wickedness that will inherit God’s kingdom
10. He called for unity and warned them to live as brothers and sisters
11. Hew reminded them that they have been wash and put right with God by Christ
12. He puts shame on Corinthians who take their fellow to pagan courts because it shows lack of spiritual immaturity
13. He called upon wicked Christians repent their sins in order to inherit God’s kingdom
14. Paul observed that the weakest member of a Christians community is a better judge than the wisest pagan judge
15. Paul encouraged them to endure just and accept to suffer instead of causing others to suffer

**Relevance of Paul’s teaching about pagan courts to modern Christians**

1. Christians should rely on the power of the holy spirit to solve their misunderstandings
2. They should forgive one another as a suitable way of solving problems
3. They should not attack & judge each other in public as it affect the image of th church
4. Paul is against Christians who use public corts for their selfish interests
5. Christians should avoid being tempted to sin because they wree purified from it
6. Christian judges & lawyers should respect the Christian code of conduct because mishandling of any case is against God
7. Christians should handle their problems in a brotherly way guided by love
8. If the case is too big, Christians should take it to church leaders to get true justices
9. Christian married couples should solve their problems without washing their dirty linen in public
10. Christians should live holy lives free from quarrels and conflicts
11. Christian judges & lawyers should avoid judging cases basing on bribes
12. Modern Christians should involve in acts that glorify God instead of a shaming Him
13. Christians should repent their sins as a way of promoting peace & harmony

**Paul’s teaching on marriage ( 1Cor 7:1-40)**

1. Paul advised that marriage is a cll from God and those who marry are not sinning
2. He advised that it would good for a personal not to marry so as to be committed to God’s work
3. He also told them that, because of immorality today, every man should have his own wife and vice versa
4. He advised that both partners should fulfill their duties by satisfying each other’s needs in marriage
5. He told them that to married can abstain from sex under mutual agreement eg during prayers & fasting
6. He said that it is better to marry than falling into temptations
7. He encouraged Corinthians to practice monogamous marriage
8. He told them that marriage is meant to be permanent
9. He said that those who divorce should not remarry because it is adultery
10. He advised those who separated to reconcile and reunite or should stay single
11. He approved the marriage between Christians & non-believers and advised them to act well so as to convert the non believers
12. He encouraged divorce in a kind of marriage only if it was initiated by the pagan partner
13. In case of misunderstanding in marriage, he advised them to forgive and reconcile
14. He told them that celibacy is a gift from God
15. He encouraged the unmarried to remain single if they could control their sexual desires
16. He advised the widows to decide by themselves whether to remarry or to stay single though to him marriage will affect their happiness.

**Relevance of Paul’s teaching about marriage to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should choose whether to marry or to stay single
2. They should live in a state when they were called by God
3. Married partners should have permanent relationships
4. They should always satisfy each other’s sexual needs for marriage stability
5. They should have love, peace & harmony in their marriage
6. They should only separate for a while in case of conflict but not divorce
7. They should not remarry incase of divorce
8. They should practice monogamous marriage
9. They should have self control whether married or single
10. They should preach the gospel to non believers those who are marred to them
11. Married couples should spare time for prayer and fasting
12. Christians should encourage marriage between fellow believers for marriage stability
13. Christian widos should either remarry or stay single to avoid problems

**Paul’s teaching on food offered to idols (1 Cor 8:1-13)**

1. He said that there’s no harm on eating food offered to idols for those who are strong in faith
2. He advised to strong in faith to backup those who are in weak in faith so that they do not tempt them
3. He said that eating food offered to idols will neither improve on their relationship with God or destroy it
4. He advises the strong in faith to eat such food in absence of those weak in faith
5. He told those strong in faith that if they eat in the presence of the others, they will scandalize them hence committing a sin before God
6. He told them that what is good for one man, may not be good for the other
7. He advised them to keep away from idols even if they claim to have strong faith
8. He warns them not to take their Christian freedom for granted since anyone can be tempted
9. He told them that if they were invited by a non believer should accept their invitation and eat whatever given without asking questions but if they were informed that food was from idols they should not eat to protect the image of the church
10. He calls upon all Christians to live in such a way that will not harm Jesus and the Gentiles
11. He called upon Christians to observe the food that belongs to idols like nothing since too own nothing
12. He warns them that if a pagan sow a Christians eating such food, they may think that Christian too worship idols

**Relevance of Paul’s teaching about food offered to idols to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should believe in one God the creator of everything
2. They should live exemplary life that will encourage non believers to join Christianity
3. They should put their trust in God alone and avoid acts that may involve them idolatry
4. They should pray for the power of the holy spirit to guide them in decision making
5. They should love and respect one another in whatever they do
6. They should deny earthly things for the sake of Jesus
7. They should glorify God in whatever they eat and drink
8. They should avoid double-dealing in the Lord’s supper and pagan feast
9. They should create a strong difference between them and non believers in what they eat and drink
10. They should be aware of modern idols such as money, cars, foods & women
11. Christians especially those strong in faith should help to uplift the faith of weak believers
12. Weak believers should also seek assistance from those strong in faith
13. They should respect other people’s feelings by using common since to choose whether to eat or not
14. They should avoid all sorts of temptations when sharing feasts with pagans
15. They should consult their leaders when faced with conflicting views
16. They should eat all kinds of food because it was created by God and what goes in the body does not affect the soul but what comes out of the body does
17. They should attend any kind of party without fear and eat whatever is served

**Paul’s teaching on the rights and duties of an apostle (1 Cor 9:1-27)**

1. Paul started by defending his apostleship they he had the right to be an apostle because he saw the risen Lord Jesus Christ
2. He informed his audience that he had a right to be a free man from the Jewish law by the blood of Jesus
3. He informed them that he was aware of the apostolic rights eg to food & drinks
4. He said that the other apostles were depending on the people they preached for their living
5. He also told them that he had a right to marry like any other apostle but only did not want
6. He told them that even Jesus commandant those who preached the gospel to get a living from it
7. He said that he surrendered his rights in order not to burden the believers
8. He said that he was under orders to preach the gospel so it is enough privileged
9. He also informed them if he did the work free of choice then he would expect payments
10. He told them that he did not enjoy the rights of apostles because he wanted to win people to God
11. He also told them that when he was with the Jews, he lived like a Jew in order to win them to God and so he does to the Gentiles
12. He compares his life and discipline with that of an athlete who does everything to win
13. He went ahead to say that his discipline is meant to get the heavenly reward
14. He also talks about the his apostleship was not only the right that mattered but his duties
15. He shows how he did not want to be a burden to the church since could support himself
16. He also compared his discipline to a boxer who does not misuse his punches to avoid disqualification

**Relevance of Paul’s teaching about rights and duties of apostles to modern Christians**

1. Church leaders should be creative and hardworking to avoid over depending on the church
2. They should also try to remove all obstacles in the spreading of the gospel e.g. seeking material wealth
3. They should be extemporary to Christians and non believers
4. They should endure the challenges they meet while spreading the gospel
5. They should preach the gospel as their first priority so as to save all people
6. They should practice celibacy so as to be committed to God’s work
7. They should work for heavenly rewards for the work done
8. They should low themselves to the level of the people they serve
9. They should preach the gospel as a duty to accomplish
10. They should not act as a stumbling block to the spread of the gospel with their endless needs
11. They should sometimes work as volunteers to demonstrate their Christian life
12. They should continue performing their duties in spite the criticism
13. Christians should support preachers so as to carry on God’s work
14. Christians leaders should start income generating activities to support themselves as Paul who was a tent-maker

**Paul’s teaching on the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor 11:17-34)**

1. Paul stars by blaming the Corinthians on the issue of the Lord’s supper as it created more divisions in them
2. He pointed out that divisions among them were not totally useless as they helped them to know those who were right and wrong
3. He noted that whenever they gathered to eat in a disorganized way, they were not taking the lord’s supper but a mare meal
4. He wondered whether they had no homes where they could eat and drink first instead of disorganizing the church
5. He condemned them for practicing selfishness since they discriminated the poor
6. He advised them that whenever they are taking the lord’s supper, they should do it in memory of Jesus Christ
7. He reminded them that every time they eat the bread and drink the wine, they will be taking Jesus’ body and blood
8. He told them that if anyone dehorners the lord’s supper he will be sinning against God
9. He advised them to examine themselves before taking the lord’s supper to avoid sin
10. He warned them that if they do not recognize the meaning of the lord’s supper they will be bringing judgment on themselves
11. He told them that the misuse of the lord’s supper is partly responsible for their being weak, ill & dyeing
12. He advised them that whenever they gather for the lord’s supper, they should eat it in an orderly way
13. He advised those who are hungry to eat from their homes before they come for fellowship
14. He told them that the Lord’s supper was meant to renew the convenient between man and God therefore it is a holy meal
15. He advised them to respect Jesus as they celebrate His last supper
16. He told them that the lord’s supper demonstrates God’s love for making when He gave His beloved son to die and save mankind
17. He reminded them that the Lord’s Supper was meant to bring unity other than disunity.

**Relevance of Paul’s teaching about the Lord’s Supper to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should examine themselves before taking holy communion
2. They should show love for one another during the lord’s supper as it manifests God’s love
3. They should take the lord’s supper as a mean of deliverance from sin and Satan influence
4. They should look at it as the body and blood and blood of Jesus Christ
5. They should take it it in unity without discriminating themselves
6. They should recognize it as preparation for the parausia
7. It should confirm to them Jesus’ presence among them
8. They should participate in it as an identity that they are Christians
9. They should be humble when taking it to show spiritual maturity
10. They should always be organized in a brotherly manner when taking it
11. They should consider it as a source of spiritual satisfaction not body satisfaction
12. They should always take it in memory of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of Jesus, command
13. They should look at it as a seal to the new and everlasting covenant
14. It should be honoured and regularly taken for spiritual nourishment
15. It should promote unity and love as well as sharing among Christians
16. Modern Christians should avoid misusing the Lord’s Supper as it would make them weak, ill & die.

**Paul’s teaching on spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12, 13 & 14)**

1. Paul began by telling them that when they were still sinners they worshiped idols but due to the guidance of the holy spirit, they confess that Jesus is lord
2. He said that there are different kinds of spiritual gifts but all come the same holy spirit
3. He also informed the that there are different ways of serving God but same God is served so does the spiritual gift
4. He uses the example of the body with different parts but each needs the other for the body to work
5. He says that those with spiritual gifts should be concerned with one another when using them
6. He taught them that the greatest of the gifts is faith, hope and love though love powers the three
7. Paul informed them that they should strive for the gift of proclaiming God’s message because it is more important than speaking in tongues
8. He said that those who speak in tongues only help themselves but those who proclaim help the whole church
9. He advised them always to have an interpreter so that speaking in tongues may help the whole church
10. He advised them to pray for the gift of interpretation of what is spoken in tongues
11. He advised them not to speak in tongues at once to avoid noise
12. He also advised them that if no one can explain what is spoken in tongues, the one who speaks should keep quiet and speak to himself and God
13. If one member in the church receives a prophecy from God, those speaking in tongues should stop
14. He advised women to keep quiet during public worship and ask their husbands when at home

**Relevance of Paul’s teaching about spiritual gifts to modern Christians**

1. Christians should use their spiritual gifts for the good of the church not personal benefits
2. They should realize that all the gifts come from the holy spirit and are equally important
3. They should promote unity in the church instead of boosting over their spiritual gifts
4. They should know that each Christian is gifted differently
5. They should treat all spiritual gifts as equal
6. Christians are called upon to strive for the gift of love because with love everything is possible
7. They should be orderly when using their gifts especially speaking in tongues
8. They should use their gifts in worshipping and praising God instead of boosting
9. Those speaking in tongues should have an interpreter so as the message benefits the church
10. Christians should thank God for any kind of spiritual gift given to them
11. They should ask God for the gift of proclaiming the gospels as it befits the whole church
12. Those speaking in tongues should avoid too much noise that affects other activities in the church
13. Christians should always pray to the holy spirit for the spiritual guidance
14. Those who speak in tongues should try speak one after the other to avoid disorder

**Paul’s teaching about resurrection or life after death ( 1 Cor 15:1-58)**

1. Paul says that Christ died for our sins, buried and was raised to life after 3 days
2. He said that, their faith stood firm on Jesus’ resurrection but if they doubted it then their faith is dead
3. He went ahead to say that Jesus appeared to peter, then to 12 disciples and more than 500 people who are still alive
4. He also said that Jesus appear to him when he was still persecuting the church
5. He says that, since Jesus rose from the dead, his followers will also rise from the dead
6. Paul had pity for those who doubted Jesus’ resurrection
7. He said that, dead came about with Adam as resurrection comes by Jesus
8. He said that all people die because of their union with Adam and will resurrect because of their union with Christ
9. He pointed out that each one will be raised in the right order ie Christ first and then His followers will follow
10. Paul told them that the last enemy to defeated will be death when we resurrect
11. He wondered why some of them were baptized yet they still doubted Jesus’ resurrection
12. He warned them of the bad company who may fool them and ruin their life
13. He compared human life on earth with a seed that is sawn in the ground that needs to die and later grows
14. He tells them that there are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies ie, immortal and mortal
15. He said that when a body is buried is mortal but the resurrected body will be immortal
16. He too said that when the body is buried is ugly and weak but the resurrected body will beautiful and strong
17. He said that the buried body is physical but the resurrected one is spiritual
18. He also said that we shall not all die but when the last trumpet sound, all the dead and living bodies will be transformed

**Relevance of Paul’s teaching about resurrection to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should have strong faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ as it is the foundation of our faith
2. They should be assured of their own resurrection as long as they believe in Christ
3. The suffering Christians should endure with hope of victory when they resurrect
4. Modern Christians should preach freely with confidence about the resurrection of Jesus because it it’s a truth
5. They should live moral life as they prepare for the second coming of Jesus
6. They should take the Lord’s supper as a reminder of the covenant sealed by Jesus’ blood
7. They should be assured of their immortal bodies as long as they trust in Jesus
8. They should celebrate Easter to remember the death and resurrection
9. They should educate the non believers and the enemies of the church about that important mystery of faith
10. They should believe in resurrection as our master already resurrected
11. They should avoid bad company who ruin their faith
12. They should pray for wisdom from above to understand the Christian doctrines
13. They should thank God for the gift of resurrection and sharing heavenly duty
14. They should stand firm and steady waiting for eternal life as a reward for work done
15. They should not fear death of physical bodies as we shall have the ones which are beautiful, strong and immortal

**Evidence in the new testament to show that Jesus rose from the dead**

1. The angel of the lord testified to Mary Magdalene and others who went to the tomb on Sunday morning
2. He appeared to Mary Magdalene who recognized Him and worshiped Him
3. He appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating
4. He appeared to Mary Magdalene while at the empty tomb and called her by the name
5. He appeared to Thomas in the evening and showed him the scars in His hands and body because he was doubting
6. The four gospels show it clearly that Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to many people especially in Galilee
7. Jesus appeared to two of His followers on their way to ***Emmaus*** but took long to recognize Him until He broke the bread
8. Jesus appeared ti His brother James and later to Paul on His way to Damascus
9. He appeared to the 7 disciples who had gone fishing but no one dared to talk to him
10. The change of the lord’s day from Saturday to Sunday proves that Jesus resurrected
11. The running away of the guards from the tomb while terrified, proves Jesus’ resurrection
12. The courageous preaching of the disciples about His death and resurrection amongst the church enemies proves that their master had resurrected
13. The presence of the empty tomb where Jesus was buried, proves that He resurrected
14. The existence of the church up to date and its expansion proves that Jesus resurrected
15. The presence of the two angels seated at the entrance of the tomb proves that Jesus had resurrected
16. The coming of the holy spirit upon the disciples as a helper whom Jesus had promised proves that Jesus resurrected

**Paul’s letter to the Galatians**

**Reasons why Paul wrote to the Galatians**

1. He wanted to address a crisis that had come up in the Galatians church ie the Judaisers had watered down the gospel he had preached and created confusion
2. He wanted to defend the gospel he taught to them earlier as the true gospel
3. He was being doubted by the Galatians especially his apostolic authority
4. He wanted to explain the purpose of the law in the salvation plan of God
5. He wanted to teach the Galatians that it is faith in Jesus that puts right a person with God not the law
6. He wrote to them to redeem his image that had been totally tarnished and destroyed by the Judaisers who had proved him to be a lair
7. He wrote to them to show that all people are equal in Christ regardless of their background
8. He wrote to inform them that circumcision is not important for one to become a Christian
9. He wanted to reduce the burden that the Galatians were experiencing under the law
10. He wrote to warn them of the dangers of the Judaisers and how it was affecting the expansion of the church
11. He wrote to teach them that they should always guide and correct fellow Christians whenever they go wrong that’s why he rebuked Peter at Antioch
12. He wrote to encourage them to always live as special people controlled by the holy spirit
13. Paul wrote to teach the Galatians to carry one another’s burden especially during time of trouble for the sake of Jesus
14. He wanted to show them the dangers of stressing outward signs and intellectual arguments in the Christian faith
15. He wanted them to know about what makes a Christian a true Christian
16. He wanted to provide them a basis in which they will inherit God’s kingdom and that is faith
17. He wrote to them to provide a guideline on Christian conduct

**The personality of Paul after his conversion into Christianity**

1. His name changed from Saul to Paul after his baptism
2. He lived a celibate life in order to be committed to the spreading of the gospel Paul became an eye witness of Jesus Christ since he met Him on His way to Damascus to persecute the church
3. He went to Jerusalem to meet Jesus’ apostles who recognized him as an apostle and agreed with on the kind of gospel to teach
4. He became a famous man in Christianity as he preached the gospel in different parts of the world
5. He believed in the messiah ship of Jesus Christ and spread the gospel with great courage
6. He became a member of the Jerusalem council meeting that resolved the problem of the law and confirmed that the Gentiles are put right with God by faith
7. He acquired the Roman citizenship which aided him to preach the gospel freely
8. He become blind for 3 days until when Ananias sent by Jesus from Damascus arrived and held his hand in prayer (Galatians 9:9-18)
9. He became strict with Christian teaching that’s why he rebuked Peter when he withdrew from the Gentile meal
10. His apostleship was first doubted until when Barnabus convinced fellow Christians that he was an apostle
11. He believed in the second coming of Jesus Christ and went around preaching the gospel
12. He became concerned with others and out of love, he wrote many letters
13. He sacrificed some of his apostolic rights for the sake of gospel without burdening Christians
14. He baptized some other people such as Chrispus & and many others

**Ways how Paul defended his apostleship in Galatia ( Gal 1:1-2 & Gal 2:21)**

1. Paul started by saying that his apostleship did not come from human being but from Christ Himself
2. He also said that there’s no any other gospel apart from the gospel of faith he had preached which was the same gospel preached by any other apostle
3. He said that if anyone preached the gospel different from what he preached let him be condemned to hell
4. He noted that it was such a revelation that inspired him to spread gospel
5. He reminded his audience of how he was devoted to the Jewish culture but only persecuted the church but because of God’s grace he’s a preacher now
6. He said that in God’s grace He chose him by revealing Jesus Christ to him on his way to Damascus
7. He said that he was given a task to preach to the Gentiles as a Peter was given a task to preach to the Jews
8. He pointed out that he did not get the gospel from the apostles in Jerusalem but from the lord Himself since he did not go to Jerusalem until 3 years after his conversion
9. He says from Arabia he went to Damascus and preached the gospel which amused both Jews and Gentiles how a persecutor would turn into a preacher
10. Paul says that in order to keep the truth of the gospel for the Galatians & other gentiles him & Titus did not give in for the law of the Judaisers
11. He said that God does not judge by the outside appearance e.g. circumcision but what is important is faith
12. He said that he shook hands with James, Peter & John as a sign of approval that he was their partner in spreading the gospel
13. Paul said that an agreement was reached that Barnabus & Paul should preach to the gentiles & the rest preach to the Jews
14. He said that the only thing that the Jerusalem leaders asked him was to help the needy which very thing he had been doing
15. He said that he rebuked Peter at Antioch when he withdrew from the gentile meal because it was an act of discrimination and against the gospel
16. He said that both the Jews & gentiles are saved by faith in Christ not doing what the law requires
17. He also said that he would not accept persecution if he was teaching that law is the basis for salvation instead of faith
18. He also noted that the suffering and the risks he faced in Damascus, Syria & Judea he wouldn’t have bared them if he was not called by Jesus to preach

**Reasons why Paul rebuked Peter a Antioch (Gal 2:11-14)**

1. Because peter undermined the gospel Paul had preached to the Galatians
2. Because peter acted in a coward manner which intended o win man’s approval instead of God
3. Because withdrew from the gentile meal which was likely to cause division among Christians
4. Because peter was behaving as a hypocrite ie when he saw the Jews coming, he withdrew from the meal
5. Because Peter’s action influenced other Christians of the Jewish origin eg Barnabus
6. Because Pete’s action was contradicting with the discussion that was taken in the Jerusalem council meeting
7. He rebuked him in order to realize the validity and the truth of the gospel he had preached to the Galatians
8. Because his action of discriminating gentiles was against the greatest commandment of love
9. Because Peter was still being enslaved by the law and wanted also to enslave the gentiles
10. Because he undermined the purpose of Jesus’ death on the cross oe to liberate all mankind
11. Because Peter’s behavior was not in line with his faith which stressed equality
12. To show the universality of the gospel of Christ i.e. Peter’s action promoted Jewish pride
13. Peter as the head of the church had failed to show that he was a true apostle of Jesus
14. Because Peter’s action showed that he had failed exercise Christian freedom
15. Because Peter’s action could hinder the expansion of the church since gentiles would not join Christianity
16. Because his action showed that he had failed to practice Jesus’ example of associating with all categories of people
17. Because his action was abusing the lord’s supper which was meant for unity of Christians
18. Because his action was not exemplary in nature. It was contradicting with Jesus’ teaching

**Relevance of the action to modern Christians**

1. Modern leaders should rebuke and condemn leaders who take double standards.
2. Modern leaders should preach the same message to avoid confusion
3. They should mind means of solving their disagreements out of public
4. They should know that salvation is a free gift to all people regardless of culture
5. They should condemn any behavior that may destroy the image of the church
6. They should compromise on church matters regarding faith and action
7. They should keep quiet when in wrong and accept to be corrected
8. They should exercise a spirit of love and tolerance in the Christian community
9. They should accept responsibility of their actions especially non Christian actions
10. They should promote unity of the church instead of disunity
11. Modern leaders should show a good example to their followers.
12. They should preach the gospel only without attaching culture and other needs
13. They should be honest and genuine in their actions and the gospel they preach
14. They must use their Christian freedom well to avoid scandalizing those who are weak in faith
15. They follow the decision taken by the authorities eg the Jerusalem council

**Paul’s teaching on faith or what makes one a Christian (Gal 3)**

1. Paul said that all Jews and Gentiles are saved by faith in Jesus
2. He said that he strictly followed the law but maintained him as a persecutor until faith put him right with God
3. He wondered that if a person is put right with God by the law, then there is no reason why Jesus died
4. He referred to them as foolish because they had the spirit of God by believing the gospel not following the law
5. He wondered whether God gave them the spirit to work miracles in them because of following the law
6. He said that those who live by the law live under the curse since it is hard to obey everything as the law says
7. He said that time for faith has come and the era for law had been ended by Jesus Christ
8. Paul uses an example of Abraham that believed in God and because of his faith God accepted him as a right man yet he was not when he followed the law
9. Paul said that the scripture say that the Gentiles were tobe right with God through faith in Jesus
10. Paul said that a person put right with God through faith shall live
11. He says that the law came after the covenant of faith had been made between God and Abraham
12. He said that all those who have faith in Jesus Christ will be blessed as God blessed Abraham
13. He said that even the Jews believed that the law could not save them that is why they chose to follow Jesus
14. He said that since the world is under sin, salvation is only promised to those who believe in Christ
15. He said that before the time for faith came, we were locked up by the law
16. Paul said that with faith all of us are children of God in union with Christ
17. He said that if they belonged to Christ then they are descendants of Abraham by faith
18. He wondered why the Galatians wanted to back to Judaism which enslaved them yet Jesus liberated them
19. He uses the example Sarah to symbolize faith that her so n Isaac became Abraham’s heir by God’s promise and not Ismail born of the law

**The purpose of the law**

*The law was given to the Israelites to;*

1. Help them live a better life in their relationships and God
2. Prepare man for the coming of Jesus Christ so it was temporary
3. Be a pointer of people’s sins whether small or serous
4. Become spiritually mature and responsible
5. Guide the Jews since Jesus wanted live like Jews
6. Lead man to Christ and offer him salvation
7. Help them maintain their holiness as God’s people
8. Identify them as a chosen nation of God guided by his own law
9. As a way of fellowshipping with God since they kept the 10 commandments in the temple
10. Promote peace & harmony among the Christians till the coming of Jesus
11. Guide the Israelites in the their duties since it elaborated responsibilities and penalties for breaking it
12. Show them how they can be blessed and punished in case they were obedient or disobedient
13. Impart discipline into the arrogant Israelites as it warned them about the consequences of sin
14. It acted as a baby-seater responsible for taking care of the spiritually immature Israelites

**Paul’s teaching on baring one another’s burden (Gal 6:1-10)**

1. Paul says that if any of the Christians is caught in wrong doing those who are spiritual should set him free.
2. He went ahead to say that the above should be done in a gentle way
3. He says that, by carrying one another’s burden Christians are able to obey the law of love
4. He advised them to keep an eye on each other so that they can guide and correct one another in the line of faith
5. He challenged them to keep examining their conduct without comparing to others
6. He went ahead to say that the one with good conduct should not boost over it
7. He also said that those who are being taught the Christian message they should share what they have with their teachers
8. He advised them to continue doing good in order to reap the heavenly reward
9. He called upon church leaders to share the word of God with others and convert them to Christianity
10. He told them that each Christian will reap what exactly he has sawn
11. Baring another’s burden requires living exemplary life characterized by sharing and love
12. He discouraged them to think that they were superior than others because each person has his burden
13. He said that the pride that is desired by God is that which comes from baring one another’s burden through sharing
14. He discouraged them to compare their contribution with of another person
15. He appealed to them to practice tolerance to their fellow Christians’ weakness
16. He advised them to share with one another in both times of joy & sorrow

**Relevance of the teaching to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should do well for others even when they are not benefiting from them
2. They should share their wealth with the poor as a way of sharing the burden
3. The Christians strong in faith should always correct those who are weak in faith
4. They should carry their own burdens and be open to others in order to be helped
5. They sow what they wish reap
6. They should exercise gentleness why putting right those go wrong
7. They should be controlled by the holy spirit in order to reap its gifts
8. They should look after religious leaders by providing them needs
9. They should get rid of comparing their contributions with those of others
10. They should have a duty of carrying each other’s burden not as a choicer but obligation
11. They should love one another as commanded by Jesus
12. They should make efforts to set free Christians from sin through prayers & fasting
13. They should keep an eye on each other and guide themselves
14. They should keep examining their behavior without comparing with others
15. They should live exemplary lives characterized by love, forgiveness & sharing
16. They ought to understand that there’s no one superior than the other, all of us need help
17. They should exercise tolerance to fellow Christians who are in weak in faith

## THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

The letter of James is said to have been written by James the brother of Jesus Christ

**The aim of writing the epistle of James**

1. He wanted to encourage Christians I the diasporas to pray for themselves and the church with patience
2. He wanted to warn the rich Christians against wealth as it can leed them to sin
3. He wrote to discourage Christians from judging one another as God is the only judge
4. He wanted to encourage his audience to have faith with action
5. He wrote to give moral instructions to Christians in diasporas
6. To discourage Christians from being friend of the world
7. To encourage them to seek for wisdom from above as it is pure
8. To encourage Christians to use the tongues properly for God’s glory
9. To encourage Christians to listen more and to be slow to speak and to become angry
10. To defend Christianity against false teachings
11. To warn the rich Christians against oppressing and exploiting the poor (James 1:9-11)
12. To call upon Christians to demonstrate practical love by providing the needy with needs to encourage Christians who were facing persecution and suffering
13. To remind Christians about the second coming of Jesus Christ by repenting their sins
14. To encourage Christians to help fellow Christians who were back sliding in faith
15. To encourage poor Christians to have hope that the kingdom of God is theirs
16. To encourage Christians always say the truth and stand on it
17. To warn religious leaders & teachers that God will judge them with strictness since they know more
18. To warn the rich from causing trouble in the society as they grab the property of the poor

**James’ teaching on faith (James 1: 1-8, 2:14-26)**

1. He says that the person who has faith should not merely confess it but show actions
2. Those who face trial & temptations should consider themselves fortunate as God is testing their faith and if they endure they are sure of reward
3. He emphasized that faith without actions is dead
4. He says that faith and actions work hand in hand
5. He advises them to pray to God with faith in order to receive
6. He said that a prayer sealed with faith has the ability to heal a sick person
7. He says that faith is beyond knowing God as evil spirits believe that God is all mighty
8. He gives an example of Abraham as a man who was put right with God with faith
9. He advises the poor to be happy because the poor of this world will be rich in God’s kingdom
10. He teaches that it is necessary to have faith even during suffering
11. He says that faith is usually tested by God through trials and hardships
12. According to James, for ones prayer to be answered by God should be conducted by faith
13. He says that faith is an important aspect of a Christian life characterized by prayers
14. He says that a person with faith should sue his tongue well to glorify God
15. He says that a person with faith puts into action by praying to others and avoiding immoral actions

**Comparison James & Paul’s teaching on faith and actions**

1. ***Similarities***

Both James & Paul;

1. Emphasize that genuine faith is accompanied by good actions
2. Use the example of Abraham as a man put right with God through faith and actions
3. Encourage their audience to carry one another’s burden
4. Emphasize that faith is total commitment of oneself to God through actions
5. Say that the holy spirit has fruits like faith, love, peace 7 joy etc
6. Discourage their audience from living according to worldly standards
7. Encourage Christians to exercise true love for one another through providing needs
8. Argue that total transformation requires a person to demonstrate changed life and actions
9. Discourage discriminating among Christians
10. What James calls “faith with actions” to Paul is a life guided by the holy spirit so the terminologies are different but similar
11. ***Differences***
12. James’ audience composed of people who were mature in faith while Paul was dealing with Christians young in faith
13. Paul argues that Abraham was approved by God because of faith alone while James says that Abraham was approved God because of faith act actions
14. Paul was a new convert in Christian faith while James had been with Jesus for a long time
15. Paul’s teaching on faith was influenced by challenging teachings of the Judaisers which was not the case with James’ teaching
16. James is against intellectual believe in God since the evil spirits also believes that God is almighty while Paul deals with new converts who knew nothing about
17. Paul argued that if a person had faith automatically had good deeds while James Faith without actions dead
18. James uses personalities like Abraham and Rahab in his teaching about faith while Pauses Abraham and Sarah.
19. To James, a Christians must show love, justice & honesty for his faith to be proved while Paul says that one must become a Christian first and the then be asked to show actions
20. Paul argues that Abraham was justified by God because of his faith alone while James says that Abraham justified because of his faith actions

**James’ teaching on prejudice and discrimination (James 2:1-13)**

1. He advised his people not to treat people differently depending on outward appearance
2. He said that God chose the poor people of this world to be rich in faith and to possess his kingdom
3. He reminded that the rich they favored created trouble and suffering in society
4. He told them to obey the law of God which encourages love for one another
5. He said that if one treats others depending on outward appearance, then he is guilty of sin
6. He advised them that it was wrong to discriminate others basing on wealth as riches are temporary
7. He said that discrimination contradicts with Jesus teaching as he associated with all
8. James said that God chose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to inherit his kingdom so he advised them to endure discrimination
9. He advised them to love others equally since it is the greatest commandment
10. He also reminded them that breaking one commandment is equivalent to breaking all
11. He advised the rich to speak and act well, knowing that God will use the same measures they use to judge others.
12. He informed them that all people are equal before God
13. He told them that one’s wealth cannot bring him closer to God especially when it is not used to serve others

**Relevance of the teaching to modern Christians**

1. The poor Christians should maintain their faith in God despite the challenges they face
2. Modern Christians should respect one another regardless of their wealth
3. They should make fair Judgments basing on evidence
4. The rich should use their wealth to serve others and treat them equally
5. Christians should mind about what they speak and do as they will face judgment
6. They should work for peace, harmony and justice in the society
7. They accept poor people in their homes and public places
8. They trust God rather than their material wealth as it is temporary
9. The rich should use their wealth to bring happiness to the poor
10. They should have mercy when judging fellow Christians because the same measures will be used by God to judge them
11. The poor should have great hope to inherit God’s kingdom
12. The rich who oppress and exploit the poor need to repent
13. Modern Christians need to treat one another fairly as well as loving them

**James’ teaching about the use of the tongue (James3:1-12)**

1. James advises teachers to be serious when using their tongues as they will be judged with strictness
2. He advises Christians to be quick to listen but slow to speak.
3. He advises them to avoid making mistakes through using the tongue
4. He compared the tongue to the rudder that protects the ship from the strong wind and direct it to where it is going
5. He also compares the tongue to a tiny flame which sets fire on the big forest
6. He said that human beings should tame their tongues avoid causing problems
7. He said that it is hard to tame the tongue and as such, it remains evil
8. He said that the tongue should be used to glorify God not to speak evil
9. He said that it should be used to bless others not to curse them
10. He said that that to control the tongue one needs God’s guidance through prayers
11. He gave an example of a fig tree that was cursed not to bear fruits by tongue
12. He says that the tongue can poison Christian relationship
13. He warns the rich who speak evil and lies about the poor
14. He also warns those who use the tongue to pray for bad intentions
15. He advises them to think before speaking to avoid misusing the tongue
16. He warns them to avoid using it to criticize and judge others
17. He advises them to use it to say the truth ie yes or no and stand on it

**Relevance of the teaching to modern Christians**

Modern Christians should:

1. Control their tongues in order to promote peace and unity
2. Use their tongues to negotiate other than quarreling
3. Use their tongues only to praise and worship their God
4. Use it to glorify God and encourage each other in faith
5. Use their tongues well aware that they will be judged according to what they said
6. Use them to build relationships between individuals other than causing trouble between them
7. Pray for the holy spirit to guide them on how to use the tongue
8. Control their tongue though it is small but can cause trouble
9. Use the tongue to bless others instead of cursing them
10. Use it to confess sins, repent, forgive and reconcile
11. Use it to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ
12. Use it in good conversations instead of rumor mongering
13. Be polite and humble in whatever they speak rather than boasting
14. Use the tongue well as it shows one’s behavior and character

**James’ teaching on poverty and riches (wealth) James1:9-11, 2:5-7, 5:1-6**

1. He advises the poor Christians to be glad when God lifts them up and give them wealth
2. He advises the rich to be glad when God brings them down as wealth can hinder them from inheriting God’s kingdom
3. He also encouraged the rich not to trust in their wealth as it is temporally
4. He advised them to be careful the way they acquire their wealth
5. He pointed that God chose the poor of this world to inherit his kingdom
6. He informed them that it is the rich who oppress the poor
7. He advised them not to treat each other basing on wealth
8. He said that God’s love is for everyone regardless of wealth
9. He said that too much wealth leads to pride and other evil practices
10. He advised the rich to listen to the poor and to pay workers in time
11. He said that wealth is useless at the time of judgment especially when used poorly
12. He said that wealth well used is good as it leads to development
13. He teaches against the habit of discriminating the poor in church.
14. He reminds his audience that by making themselves friends of the world they are turning themselves into enemies of God
15. He teaches Christians always to maintain their faith in God even if situations seem impossible
16. He condemns the rich people for abusing the name of God due to pride brought by their wealth
17. He reminded the rich to weep over the miseries that were coming upon them because of their evil ways of attaining wealth
18. He advised poor Christians to be patient in their poverty God will provide their needs

**Relevance of the teaching to modern Christians**

*Modern Christians should;*

1. Use their wealth given to them by God to assist those in need
2. Not discriminate among people based on material wealth as it is sinful
3. Share their wealth with one another in a spiritual heart
4. Put their trust in spiritual matters rather than material wealth since it is temporary
5. Accumulate wealth through morally and spiritual acceptable means
6. Humble themselves before God rather than being proud and arrogant because of wealth
7. Appreciate the will of God in their lives but work hard for their physical and spriritual success
8. Use their wealth to contribute to the expansion of the church through facilitating the preaching of the gospel
9. Realize that they are not rich because of their osn effort only but because of God’s will
10. Treat people equally regardless of the economic difference
11. Work hard to bridge the gap between the rich and poor
12. Promote peace and justice in the society instead of dragging the poor into courts of law
13. Pay their workers in time and listen to their complaints
14. Involve God in their business plans instead of boosting about their efforts

**James’ teaching about patience and prayer**

1. He advised them to be patient with every situation till the coming of the lord
2. To follow the example of a farmer who waits patiently for his land to produce crops
3. He encouraged them to take examples of prophets who endured suffering patiently
4. He reminds them of Job’s patience and how he gained from God at the end
5. He advises them not to use an oath or swear by the name of heaven and earth when making promises
6. Informs them that patience for trials and temptations is a test of faith
7. He assures them that those who patiently endure trials and temptations will receive God’s promises
8. He advises them that the lord is full of mercy and compassion for those who wait patiently for his promises
9. He advises those in trouble to pray to God He will intervene
10. He teaches that if anyone is sick should send for the religious leaders who will pray for him and anoint him
11. He gave them an example of prophet Elijah who prayed honestly that there should be no rain and it never rained for 3 & a half years
12. He advises those who lack wisdom to pray to God he will give them wisdom
13. He advised them to pray with total commitment and faith when asking for their needs
14. He advises the rich to pray to God and involve him in their business plans
15. He advises his audience to pray to God with a right motive
16. He encourage those who were not praying at all to avoid it since it is not a Christian practice
17. He discourages discrimination among Christians during official prayers
18. He advised them to use the power of prayer to eliminate the difficult situations in their lives

**Relevance of the teaching to modern Christians**

*Modern Christians should;*

1. Be patient with all situations till the coming of the lord
2. Follow the example of farmer who patiently wait for his land to produce crops
3. He their hopes high for achieving wealth from God
4. Take the example of prophets who endured suffering patiently
5. Not use oath or swear by the name of heaven and earth when making promises to avoid sin
6. Know that trials and temptation test a Christian’s faith
7. Realize that those who patiently endure trials and temptations will receive God’s promises
8. Take an example of Job whom God blessed with success at the end because of being patient in hard situations
9. Expect a reward and joy in heaven if they endure suffering patiently
10. Always pray to God when in trouble He will intervene
11. Praise the lord when they are happy to thank Him for the blessing
12. Should send for church leaders to pray for them when they are sick
13. Should pray for wisdom from above God will grant it
14. Have total commitment and faith in the power of the prayer
15. Pray with good intentions when praying for others
16. Always pray for anything they want God will grant what their heart desires
17. Should pray for all people both friends and enemies
18. Avoid discriminating fellow Christians in public prayers basing on wealth
19. Repent their sins by confessing them in order their prayers to be accepted by God
20. Should exercise patience as they pray since God’s ways are not man’s ways of doing things

## THE FIRST LETTER FROM PETER

The letter was written to Israelites who were scattered throughout the world that’s why the epistle is referred to as the catholic

**Authorship of the letter**

1. The author describes himself as Peter the apostle of Jesus Christ
2. The Christian tradition proves that the letter was written by Peter of the original 12 disciples
3. The author’s original name was Simon Peter whom Jesus gave the name of Kepha meaning the rock
4. The author is believed to be Peter who worked as a fisherman before Jesus called him
5. His represented as Peter the head of the church
6. He is regarded as Peter who had an outstanding position among the 12 disciples ie whom Jesus loved
7. He is regarded as Peter who denied Jesus 3 times before His crusification
8. He is peter a brother of Andrew and the first disciple to declare Jesus as the messiah
9. He was Peter the son of John who wanted to discourage Jesus from His mission of salvation. (John 21:15)
10. He was Peter the disciple who tried to resist the arrest of Jesus Christ by cutting off the ear of one of the soldiers
11. He was Peter the first disciple to enter the empty tomb after Jesus’ resurrection
12. He was peter the disciple who was arrested and put in prison but was released from jail by the power of the holy spirit (Acts 12:6-19)
13. He was Peter one of the members of Jerusalem council meeting which decided that it was faith in Christ that made one a Christian
14. He was peter who was rebuked by St. Paul at Antioch for withdrawing from the gentile meal
15. He was peter the disciple who performed a miracle of healing a lame man at the beautiful gate of the Jerusalem temple
16. He was peter the disciple who rebuked Jesus for having told them that he was a suffering servant
17. He was peter the disciple who gave a powerful speech on the Pentecostal day which converted 3000 people
18. He was peter one of the 3 disciples who were with Jesus during the transfiguration
19. He was peter the disciple who assured Jesus to be with him up to the point of death
20. He was peter the disciple who organized an election to choose an apostle to replace the Judas Iscariot

**Reasons why Peter wrote the epistle**

He wrote to;

1. Encourage Christians who were facing persecutions and suffering
2. Teach the audience about the nature of God ie His holy, a king and merciful
3. Remand his readers the existence of temptations which may lead them to sin
4. Share with the early church his personal understanding and experience of new life in Christ
5. Reminded his audience about the imminent parausia
6. Encourage Christian wives to submit to their husbands to promote marriage stability
7. To converts pagans into Christianity
8. Enlighten the new converts about the importance of baptism
9. Invite Christians to live a transformed life both morally and spiritually
10. Teach about the importance of humbles by giving an example of Jesus
11. Explain the meaning of the living stone rejected by builders as worthless but chosen by God as valuable
12. Encourage Christians to continue living extemporary life so as to attract non believers
13. Encourage Christian slaves to submit to both kind and harsh masters as it was temporary
14. Reassure Christians of their freedom in Jesus Christ
15. Educate the new believers that they were a new Israel built on faith but the law
16. Encourage his reads to always pray to God by addressing him as father
17. Encourage the church leaders to lead the flock of God as desired by God
18. Encourage a good family relationship in order to promote a society stability
19. Give a full meaning of the holly nation chosen by God
20. Show his audience that Christianity is a universal religion for Jews and gentiles

**Peter’s teaching on living hope (1 Peter 1:3-12)**

1. He advises Christians to give thanks to God the father for raising Jesus Christ from the dead as a fulfillment of Christian living hope
2. He says that the resurrection of Jesus is an assurance of the Christians’ resurrection
3. He advises his audience to have hope for the rich blessings that God keeps for his people in heaven where they cannot fade
4. He advises them to endure suffering as it is by it that they will be able to attain the kingdom of God
5. He said that the purpose of trials and temptation is to prove the Christian faith so should be glad to go through it
6. According to peter the joy the believers will attain will be much more than the suffering they are experiencing
7. He describes hope as not being for what is temporary but permanent joy
8. He says that the heavenly blessings are for Christians who have faith in Jesus Christ
9. He assures them that the heavenly living hope is under divine protection where enemies cannot attack it
10. He says that those who will endure persecution up to the end they will share eternal glory in union with Christ
11. He says that the old testament prophets had predicted about the living hope which God will give to Christians
12. He says the old testament prophets announced the good news of salvation by the power of the holy spirit sent from God so we need to keep hope
13. He says that the living hope even attracted the angels in heaven to struggle to understand it so he calls for spiritual rebirth among the Christians

**Relevance of the teaching s to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should be thankful to God for raising Jesus and giving us hope
2. They should have hope in their own resurrection and un ending life
3. They should have hope in the rich blessings God keeps for them in heaven
4. They should endure suffering with hope of inheriting God’s kingdom
5. They turn to their God with hope for a permanent solution to their problems
6. They should face trials and temptations with joy as it is a test of faith through which our hope is, to reach the father
7. They should believe in the OT scriptures from which Christian hope for the savior was centered
8. They should hopefully wait for the second coming of Christ
9. They seek for God’s blessings through prayers and maintaining their hope
10. They should copy the example of Jesus who forgave those who crucified him because he had the hope to resurrect
11. They should preach the gospel of hope to other people as the prophets did
12. They should trust God and endure persecution hopefully
13. They should have hope to inherit the heavenly kingdom free from suffering
14. They should have hope in the honor and glory they will experience in eternal life

**Peter’s teaching on holiness or holy living (1peter1:13-25)**

1. He advises them to keep their mind ready for spiritual action and set their hopes on blessings that will be given by God
2. He advised them to be holy in all that they do since God who called them is holy
3. He advised them to call God their father whenever they are praying since His holy
4. He reminded them that God judges all people by the same standards according to what each one has done
5. He reminded his audience about the price that was paid by Jesus to set them free so they need to maintain holiness
6. He said that by the living word of God they have been born again as children of the holy parent
7. He advised them to live a holy life so as to receive the promises of Good
8. He said that the call to holy living requires a Christian to completely do away with sinful life
9. He advises them to exercise holiness even in their conversations and he complemented James for teaching about proper use of the tongue
10. He said that they shared the priesthood Of God so they should keep themselves holly
11. He reminded them that they belong to 2 worlds and so they should strive for the heavenly home by living a holy life
12. He informed them that they were a new Israel so they should replace the old one which failed to keep God’s holiness
13. He advised them to keep praying to God the father who will enable them maintain holiness
14. He advised them to keep striving for pure and innocent lives like the new born baby
15. He discouraged them from revenging since it destroys their holiness
16. He warned them about the devil roaming around to destroy their holiness
17. He called upon slaves to obey their masters even when they were harsh so as to live a holy life
18. He advised them to get rid of evils like lying, hypocrisy & evil language because it affects their holiness
19. He advised them to repent their sins all the time in order to live a holly life
20. He called upon the shepherds and the flock to fulfill their duties and live holy lives
21. He advised them to respect human leaders as part of holy living
22. He advised them to believe in Jesus Christ the foundation of holiness

**Relevance of the teaching to modern Christians**

Modern Christians should;

1. Keep their mind ready for spiritual action and God’s blessing
2. Be obedient to God and avoid all body desires that may lead them to sin
3. Be holy in all that they do and speak
4. Live moral lives and do good in order to inherit God’s kingdom as holy people
5. Completely abandon their former acts in order to live holy lives
6. Have self control in all things that may affect their holiness
7. Love one another honestly as holy people
8. Respect Jesus the cornerstone of their holiness
9. Believe in parausia and prepare for it by living a holy life
10. Repent their sins as a way of purifying their lives and attain holiness
11. Not misuse their freedom to do evil acts that would damage their holiness
12. Join the community of the baptized to prove their faith and holiness
13. Long for the final destination in heaven where they will live as holy people
14. They should take as their responsibility to endure trials and temptations so as to maintain holiness
15. They should fulfill their duties as shepherds and the flock so as to lead moral lives
16. Preach the gospel of Christ through good actions that prove holy living
17. Exercise self control in all things that may damage their holiness
18. Maintain holiness even in times of suffering and persecution

**Peter’s teaching on relationship between husband and wife or marriage (1Peter 3:1-7)**

1. He advises Christian wives to submit to their husbands in what they speak and do
2. He advises wives to avoid outward beauty and used inward beauty characterized by good actions
3. He also advises them to copy the example of Sarah who submitted to Abraham to the extent of giving out her maid to him
4. He went ahead to say that through the obedience of Sarah they will be true daughters of her
5. He advised women to put their hope in God as Sarah did in order to become the mother of many descendants
6. He also advised husbands to treat their wives with care since they are a weak sex
7. He encouraged husbands and wives to have respect for one another
8. He also advised them to satisfy each others’ sexual desires especially during prayers and fasting
9. He advised them to live holy lives in order to receive God’s blessings
10. He advised them to live a permanent union without divorce as it is a sin
11. He advised them to practice monogamous marriage as an ideal type from the beginning of earth
12. He encouraged equality between husband and wife since both were created in God’s image.
13. He encouraged those in marriage with non Christians to practice faith with actions so as to attract them into Christianity

**Peter’s teaching about holy Nation (1 Pater 2:1-10)**

1. He advises them to get rid of all evil acts in order to live as a holy nation of God
2. He advised them to be like new born babies who are pure both physically and spiritually
3. He assured them that according to the scriptures they had already found themselves how good the lord is to His holy nation
4. He referred to Christians as a holy nation and the spiritual temple of God
5. He assured them that God chose them and made them holy with a purpose to glorify Him
6. He invited them to believe in Jesus Christ the holy way to the father
7. He went ahead to say that it was God’s will that those who reject Jesus will stumble and fall because He’s a holy one
8. He assured them that they are a chosen race and a holy nation of God so they should maintain holiness
9. He reminded them that one time they were not God’s chosen people because they were unholy
10. He invited them to serve as holy priests in Jesus’ priesthood
11. He encouraged them to trust in their father since He’s holy

**Peter’s teaching on suffering and persecution**

1. He said that there are many blessings in enduring persecutions as sometimes it is God’s will
2. He advised them to be glad when facing suffering because they will inherit God’s kingdom
3. He advised them to follow the example of Jesus and his followers who endured suffering
4. He reminded them that suffering and persecution is part and partial of the Christian life
5. He advises them to accept suffering since God will reward them
6. He advised them to suffer for doing good instead of suffering for doing evil he encouraged them to be humble in time of suffering as jesus did and became victorious
7. He advised them to place their hope in God as He will make them victorious
8. He reminded them not revenge to those who make them suffer as Jesus did
9. He informed them that suffering is for a short time and so they should not be worried
10. He told them that they were not the only one suffering but also other Christians all over the world
11. He advised the that as they are suffering, they should love one another
12. He told them that through suffering and persecutions, Christians were set free from the bondage of sin
13. He also told them that by accepting suffering they will be demonstrating their loyalty to Jesus Christ and sharing His suffering
14. He advised them to continue doing good even when they are suffering
15. He told them that they should defend each other against sinning and should not curse those who make them suffer

**Peter’s teaching about the flock of God (1Peter 5:1-11)**

1. Peter appeals to the shepherd of the flock of God to take care of it willingly
2. He warns them of doing God’s work for payment without the desire to serve
3. He advises leaders to be a good example to the flock
4. He advises them to serve well so that they will be rewarded by the chief shepherd when He comes back
5. He advises the flock to respect the shepherd as God requires
6. He advises both of them to be humble so as to get God’s blessing
7. He advises them to leave all their worries to God because He cares about His flock
8. He encourages them to be alert because the devil is roaming around the world
9. He says that after a little suffering Christ will affect them and give them blessings
10. Peter invites the shepherd to serve the flock without pride and arrogance
11. He said that the shepherd who misuses his duties will suffer harsh consequences on the day of the lord
12. He advises the shepherds to follow the example o Christ who is the chief Sheppard
13. He advises them to give a good example in their service so as to attract others in the service
14. He advises the shepherd to be kind and generous though serving is not easy

**Peter’s teaching on baptism or spiritual rebirth**

1. According to Peter baptism is not a mere washing of the body but a spiritual act with a broad meaning
2. He presents baptism as a ritual that initiates a Christian into Christianity
3. He advises them to be thankful to God for the new life received through baptism
4. According to peter, baptism makes the beginning of the Christian hope for everlasting life
5. To him, baptism introduces new challenges to the Christians
6. He says through baptism, Christians become members of god’s family
7. He points out that an individual who receives baptism is ready to share the suffering of Jesus
8. To him it is the route to salvation
9. It does not wash away bodily dirt but the sin of Adam & Eve
10. It is a call for holy living
11. It makes one regard himself as born agin of water and the holy spirit
12. Accepting it means accepting Jesus as a savoir
13. He calls upon the baptized to completely sdo away with idol worship
14. According to peter, baptism makes Christians have a permanent home in heaven

**Peter’s teaching about the doctrine of God**

1. He presents God as a holy one and advises Christians to be holy
2. He presents God as a living God and a creator of all things
3. He presents Him as a merciful one who cares about all His creatures
4. He presents God as a judge who judges all people by the same standards
5. He presents Him as a king and therefore calls Christians the chosen race
6. Presents God as a father of Jesus Christ and those in union with him
7. He presents Him as patient and glorious
8. He present God as a blessing God who keeps his promises
9. God is presented as one who rewards those who do good
10. He is presented as the alpha & omega ie has no beginning and end
11. He’s presented as one who chose Israel as his own people
12. He’s presented as a source of different gifts that are gieven to people to serve each other
13. God is presented as one who is immortal

**Peter’s teaching on the personality of Jesus Christ (The doctrine of Christ)**

Peter presents Jesus as;

1. The lord whom Christians should refer to
2. The living stone rejected as worthless but chosen by God as valuable
3. The chief shepherd who will reward those who do his will
4. The one who rose from death by His father’s power
5. A sinless and perfect sacrifice that set us free from sin
6. The head of the church and chief shepherd
7. A living one and immortal God
8. A son of God through whom salvation was achieved
9. The one chosen by God and existed before creation
10. A suffering servant throughout His life
11. The lamb that was scarified to save mankind
12. The one who died on the cross and rose from the dead
13. The one who died for our sins once and for all

**Peter’s teaching on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit**

1. He said that it was by the power of the holy spirit that Christians were made holly
2. It was by the power of the holy spirit that goodness of salvation was pronounced
3. That it was the holy spirit that God’s will wash proclaimed by the prophets
4. It was by the power of the holy spirit that Jesus was born as a human being
5. It is the holy spirit that came as a helper to the apostles
6. Peter call upon Christians to maintain their bodies since they are spiritual temples
7. He said that the spirit of God rests on Christians who are holy and have faith in Christ

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK**

It is believed to be the first gospel of the New Testament. The author does not indicate his name anywhere but is believed to have been written by John Mark a great associate of Paul and Peter.

**Authorship of Mark’s gospel**

1. The author of the gospel is believed to be John Mark the only person known by that name in the New Testament
2. It was written by John Mark the son of Mary known as the “Hostess”
3. John Mark the great associate of Peter and Paul
4. John Mark the secretary and interpreter of Peter from Hebrew language to Greek language
5. Mark the one believed to have ran half naked when they tried to arrest him for having informed Jesus about the arrival of those who wanted to arrest him
6. Mark a native of Jerusalem and a cousin to Barnabus
7. Mark who caused a conflict between Paul and Barnabus at Pamphylia
8. Mark the one believed to be with Peter when following a young boy carrying a jar to the owner of the house where the Passover meal was prepared
9. John Mark the one who was put prison together with Peter
10. Biblical scholars argue that John Mark handed in the preaching of Peter after the death of Peter and Paul
11. Papias also confirms that Mark wrote down peter’s account accurately
12. John Mark in whose house Jesus had his last supper
13. John Mark who was martyred in Jerusalem

**Aims for writing Mark’s gospel**

* + - 1. To organize and preserve various deeds of Jesus for future generations
      2. To encourage and comfort Christians who were being persecuted
      3. To be used for purposes of evangelism
      4. To safe guard the gospel against false preachers- the Greeks
      5. To prove that Jesus was the awaited messiah and son of God
      6. To demonstrate both the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ
      7. To alert the believers about the imminent parausia
      8. To advise Christians about social conduct eg marriage and divorce
      9. To make it clear that Christianity was universal ie for both Jews and Gentiles
      10. To show that Christian growth is gradual. Ie the apostles also sometimes failed to understand Jesus
      11. To explain the Roman political leaders that Christianity was not against them
      12. To explain why Jesus tried to keep his Messiah ship a secret
      13. He wanted to inform his audience that Jesus is the way to the father
      14. To show that Jesus was more powerful than the devil
      15. To show God’s love for mankind that he let his only son die for us
      16. To teach the believers the importance and origin of the lord’s supper
      17. To explain the importance of baptism to Christians
      18. To explain the importance of faith in Jesus Christ
      19. To emphasize the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist
      20. For catechetical and liturgical purposes

**The audience of Mark’s gospel (to show that he wrote to Gentiles)**

1. The gospel has few quotations from the old testament meaning the readers knew little about the OT scriptures
2. Mark defines and explains Hebrew expressions e.g. ***Eloi, Eloi lema sabachthani*** which means my God, my God why have you abandoned me?
3. He emphasizes the Gentile freedom i.e. that they were free from the Jewish law
4. He does not present the ancestral background of Jesus as it didn’t matter to readers
5. The first copy of Mark’s gospel was in Greek a Gentile language
6. The phrase “birds of the air” in the parable of the mastered seed refer to the Gentiles
7. Mark shows Jesus referring to the temple as his father’s house meaning the readers didn’t know God
8. Mark shows most of Jesus teaching done in Galilee a Gentile land
9. He shows that after resurrection Jesus made his first appearances in the Gentile land
10. Mark praises the faith of the Gentiles eg the syro- Phoenician woman
11. He stresses that the gospel must be spread to all nations meaning Gentiles too
12. Mark quoted most miracles Jesus performed in the Gentile land
13. He presents Jesus working on Sabbath meaning his readers minded less about it
14. Mark shows that Jesus did not respect Jewish cultures and laws eg fasting
15. He shows that it was a Gentile Simon of Cyrene who helped Jesus carry his cross
16. He shows that Jesus centered his public ministry in the Gentile land
17. He shows that Peter’s confession that Jesus is a messiah took place in the Gentile land

**Reasons to justify that mark wrote to the Jews**

1. He shows that during the transfiguration of Jesus, Moses and prophet Elijah appeared who were Jews
2. At the time when Jesus was talking to the Phoenician woman from Gentile land , Jesus referred to her as a dog meaning the gospel was meant for Jews
3. Mark presents Jesus attending the Passover event- a Jewish practice
4. Mark shows that all the twelve apostles of Jesus were Jews
5. In Mark’s teaching about divorce, Jesus referred them to the law of Moses meaning the readers knew it
6. The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in this gospel, took place in the Jewish land
7. After healing the leper in mark’s gospel, Jesus instructed him to give a sacrifice according to Moses
8. Mark shows that Jesus loved the rich young man for his total observance of the mosaic law
9. The anointing of Jesus by a woman at Bethany was ritual practice for the Jews
10. The miracle of feeding of the 5000 men in Mark’s gospel took place in the Jewish land
11. The act of burying Jesus body before Sabbath was a practice of the Jews
12. Mark shows that those who wrote on the cross presented that Jesus was the king of the Jews

**The influence of foreigners in spreading the gospel in Uganda today**

**Positive influence**

1. Some contribute in the building of churches
2. They provide donations e.g. loud speakers, computers, musical instruments e.t.c
3. They give charity to the needy members of the church and community
4. They preach the gospel through mass media e.g. televisions
5. They involve in peace talks that promote peace in Uganda
6. Some perform miracles which deepen the faith of Ugandans
7. Some live a practical Christian life which attract Ugandans into Christianity
8. Some offer scholarships to Ugandan students to study home and abroad
9. Some organize crusades to preach the word of God
10. Some stage gospel music shows where they collect money to facilitate the gospel
11. Some print and donate Christian literature like bibles
12. Some fund mass media where the gospel is spread from

**Negative influence of foreigners**

1. Some have used Christianity to promote immorality in Uganda like homosexuality
2. Some have commercialized the gospel hence affecting the faith of Ugandans
3. Some have ignored the important part of the gospel like the lord’s supper and baptism
4. Some are causing conflicts among Ugandans due to their religious pluralism
5. Some involve in drug abuse, drug trafficking which tarnish the image of the church
6. Some are involved in forging miracles as form of attracting Christians and making money
7. Some discourage African music, dance and drama hence discouraging Africans from embracing Christianity
8. Some are suspected to be spies from other countries hence creating enemity between the church and government
9. Some are false preachers who mislead Christians
10. Some have influenced Ugandan youth into their behavior
11. Some have used the church to practice human trafficking

**Characteristics of Mark’s gospel**

1. The gospel is the shortest of all gospels i.e. has 16chapters
2. The message in the gospel is brief and straight to the point
3. Jesus ministry is largely concentrated in the Gentile land
4. It ends abruptly unlike other gospels
5. It concentrates more on miracles Jesus performed
6. It rarely refers to the old testament scriptures
7. It arranges similar themes together e.g. all parables together
8. It has two kinds of ending (mark 16:9-1o, mark 16:9-19)
9. Mark presents Jesus as a teacher
10. It is vivid and real eg the parable of the tenants and the vine yard
11. It hides the messiah ship of Jesus
12. The language used is not purely Greek i.e. there are translations
13. It hardly shows the oral teaching of Jesus but shows his actions and events
14. It is characterized by conflicts between Jesus and the teachers of the law
15. The gospel presents Jesus as a suffering messiah
16. The gospel emphasizes the divinity and humanity of Jesus
17. The gospel emphasizes that the kingdom of God is a present reality
18. The main form of teaching about God’s kingdom is through parables

**The prologue of Mark’s gospel (mark 1:1-13)**

This forms the introduction of Mark’s gospel and brings out the main themes of mark’s gospel. The prologue brings out the following:

1. Mark begins by stating that what he was writing was the good news about Jesus Christ the son of God
2. The prologue tries to link God the father and Jesus his son to prove Jesus identity and authority
3. It presents Jesus as the awaited messiah
4. It tries to establish a relationship between the OT and NT scriptures
5. It points out the role of John the Baptist in the coming of the messiah (to prepare his way)
6. It calls up on people to repent their sins and be baptized to get salvation
7. It presents God as a merciful and forgiving father
8. It presents Jesus as greater than John the Baptist
9. It indicates the trinity as God the father, son and holy spirit
10. It shows that salvation of sinful man was God’s plan
11. It shows Jesus as one who had come to accomplish the establishment of God’s kingdom on earth
12. It gives good reasons for people to rejoice as they were set free from sin by Jesus
13. It brings out clearly the divinity humanity of Jesus

**The portrait or image of Jesus in Mark’s gospel**

1. Jesus is presented as the promised messiah
2. He is presented as a miracle performer
3. Mark presents Jesus as a son of God
4. He is presented as one more powerful than the devil
5. He is presented as a bread of life and a good shepherd
6. He is presented as a suffering servant
7. He is presented as man committed to prayer
8. He is a human being who was born and died
9. He is a divine being since he is a son of God
10. He is a loving and caring person who cared for those suffering
11. He is a giver of life i.e. he raised Lazarus
12. He is a good teacher who explained parables
13. He is the lord of the Sabbath
14. He is presented as the forgiver of sins e.g. a paralyzed man
15. He is a son of man
16. He is the judge
17. He is a servant of mankind who was to suffer and die

**The humanity of Jesus in Mark’s gospel**

Like any other human being;

1. Jesus was born
2. Jesus moved from one place to another preaching the gospel and doing other activities
3. Jesus could get annoyed e.g. when the disciples stopped the children from coming to him
4. He had parents and brothers
5. He worked to earn a living i.e. he helped his father Joseph in carpentry
6. He was baptized by John the Baptist
7. He was tempted by the Satan in the desert
8. He felt hungry and wanted to eat some figs from a barren fig tree
9. He felt sorry for those who were suffering
10. He tried to hide his identity for fear of being killed before fulfilling his mission
11. He wanted to be alone and rest
12. He suffered at the hands of sinful people and had enemies
13. He feared suffering and death
14. He had friends like Lazarus, Martha & Mary
15. He enjoyed company of other people eg he visited Levy and enjoyed the meal
16. He died and was buried
17. He followed Jewish culture e.g. fasting
18. He always prayed to his father in heaven
19. He was arrested and labeled a criminal
20. He resented and abandoned
21. He would be surprised e.g. when his home people rejected him
22. He told stories through parables
23. He got tired and slept
24. He referred to himself as a son of man
25. He could appreciate God things done for him e.g. a woman who anointed him with expensive oil

**The divinity of Jesus in Mark’s gospel**

1. Jesus had s special birth i.e. born of virgin Mary by the power of the holy spirit
2. He divinity was reveal during his baptism in river Jordan
3. He’s referred to as the son of the owner of the vineyard
4. He called himself as a son of God
5. He cursed a fig tree dried up
6. He managed to overpower the devil during his temptation
7. The demons referred to him as a messiah
8. He spoke with authority and wisdom
9. His divinity was revealed during his transfiguration when his garments changed and Moses and Elijah appeared
10. His divinity was revealed during his triumphant entry in Jerusalem when people spread down their clothes and sung him praise
11. His divinity was revealed when he forgave sins of the paralyze man
12. It was revealed through the many miracles he performed
13. It was revealed when he predicted his death
14. It was revealed when he declared himself the lord of the Sabbath
15. It was revealed when he accepted before the Jewish council that he was the king of the Jews
16. It was revealed in the way he cleansed the Jerusalem temple and referred to it as his father’s house
17. It was revealed when he predicted his betrayal by Judas Iscariot
18. It was also revealed when he predicted Peter’s denial
19. It was revealed during his death on the cross when darkness covered the world
20. It was revealed during his resurrection from the dead on the third day
21. It was revealed when he appeared to his disciples after his resurrection

**The implication / meaning / significance of Jesus’ baptism (Mark 1:9-11)**

1. The opening of the heaven symbolized the presence of God and that Jesus was divine
2. The spirit descending on him in form of the dove symbolized the holy spirit who is gentle
3. It also symbolized the peace that had come into the world
4. The voice and the dove symbolized the trinity of God
5. The voice that confirmed that Jesus was his beloved son symbolized God the father
6. It also revealed that Jesus had come to take up His mission
7. Jesus’ baptism signifies the beginning of His ministry on earth
8. Jesus being immersed into water signifies his death and resurrection
9. The existence of spirit and the voice signifies that all the three were in support of man’s salvation
10. His baptism signified his divinity as God the son
11. It signified the importance of baptism as a necessary condition for entering God’s kingdom
12. His acceptance to be baptized by John the Baptist raveled his humanity
13. Jesus’ baptism signified his aim of hiding his messiah ship
14. His baptism signified that he did not come contradict with John the Baptists ministry
15. I5t signified Jesus as the awaited messiah since the scriptures said the he will anointed by the holy spirit
16. Jesus’ baptism identified him with the sinful people he came to serve

**Reasons why Jesus was baptized**

1. To prove his humanity since John’s baptism was meant for human beings
2. He wanted to identify himself with the people he came save i.e. the sinners
3. He wanted to show that he was a divine being as God revealed this when he said “this is my beloved son whom I’m pleased with”
4. He wanted to set an example of obedience
5. He wanted to demonstrate the he was the son of God
6. He wanted to prove the trinity of God i.e. the voice belonged to His father, he was the son and the dove represented the holy spirit
7. He wanted to emphasize that his ministry involve repentance and forgiveness of sins
8. He wanted to approve the work of John the Baptist
9. He wanted to demonstrate the importance of baptism as a route to salvation
10. To show that he was the awaited messiah as said in the scriptures
11. He wanted to be prepared and anointed since he was going to face Satan in the wilderness
12. He wanted to show that he was not a competitor with John the Baptist
13. He wanted to hide his messiah ship until he accomplished his father’s mission
14. He wanted to prove water as a sign for baptism
15. He wanted to dramatize his future death and resurrection
16. He wanted to attract many people to his father’s kingdom since they heard God himself accepting Jesus

**The significance of Jesus’ temptation in Marks’s gospel (Mark 1:12-13)**

1. Signifies the powerful nature of Jesus since He came out victoriously
2. The temptation prepared Jesus for his mission since it proved to be difficult
3. It signifies that Jesus was courageous to face everything in life to save mankind
4. It signifies that being tempted is not a sin but it becomes a sin when you give in the temptation
5. It signified Jesus’ awareness that during his ministry, God the father and the holy spirit will be with him
6. It signified Jesus’ aim to hide his messiah ship by accepting to be tempted like human beings
7. It signified that faith is always tested
8. It signified that Jesus had not come for political reasons and material gains but to overpower Satan
9. It signified the nature of God’s kingdom ie Jesus stayed in the desert peacefully with wild animals
10. It signified the humanity of Jesus that is why the devil came to him with things related to human needs
11. It signified that everyone can be tempted
12. It signified Jesus’ divinity that’s why the holy spirit led him into the desert where he spent 40 days and nights without food which is not possible for a human being
13. It signified the emergence of God as victorious from the Satanic battle
14. It signified God’s aim to test Jesus whether He was ready to take up the mission
15. It signified the importance of decision making whether to achieve success in the wrong way or to be royal to God
16. It signified the importance of the holy spirit that we receive at baptism ie it guides us

**Relevance of Jesus’ temptation to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should be alert against Satan
2. They should assist one another in times of suffering and temptation as the holy spirit did
3. They should always seek for guidance from the holy spirit through prayers
4. They should always be royal to God despite Satan’s beautiful temptations
5. They should know that resisting temptations is possible
6. They should maintain their faith in God even when they are facing trials and temptations
7. They should accept temptations as part and partial of the Christian life
8. They should pray to God to deliver them from trials and temptations through fasting
9. They should avoid tempting situations, people and places
10. They should avoid being sources of temptation to others
11. They should accept Jesus as the messiah and follow his footsteps in order to overcome Satan
12. They should have hope for the reward from God for resisting temptations
13. They should endure trials and temptations with happiness as they wil directly sharing Jesus’ experience

**The beginning of Jesus’ public ministry (Mark 1:14-15)**

This summarizes the work of God in Jesus Christ through the goodness he preached and his deeds. when John the Baptist had been imprisoned by Herod Antipas , Jesus went to Galilee and preached the good news and his first words were **“*the right time has come and God’s kingdom is near turn away from your sins and believe the good news”***

**The meaning of the above statement**

1. It meant that Jesus had come to establish God’s kingdom on earth
2. The kingdom he had come to build is universal to all those who believe in him
3. It meant that the kingdom of God is a free goft to all as long as one repent his sins
4. It meant that he could not wait anymore to preach the good news since John the Baptist had been arrested
5. It implied that the kingdom of God operates in peoples’ hearts
6. It implied that Jesus’ coming was a fulfillment of the old testaments’ prophecies
7. It implied that entering God’s kingdom requires self sacrifice and surrender to earthly pleasures
8. It implied that faith was very important in entering God’s kingdom
9. It signified love as very important that is why Jesus summarized the 10 commandments into one which is love
10. Signified that the kingdom of God a patient reality through Jesus
11. It signified that entering God’s kingdom requires sharing material wealth with the poor as Jesus advised the rich young man
12. It meant that entering God’s kingdom requires one to behave like a child. Jesus said this when the disciples stopped the children from coming to him
13. It signified the real picture of the kingdom of God during the last supper
14. It signified that the kingdom of God is full of mercy and forgiveness and this is seen through the miracles the Jesus performed
15. It signified that one to enter God’s kingdom needs to be baptized
16. It also meant that God’s kingdom requires self denial let it be family members, earthly desires etc.
17. It signified the size of God’s kingdom when Jesus compared it to the mastered seed
18. Signified that the kingdom of God is everlasting
19. It presents the kingdom of God as having a full divine power to fight Satan and this is seen in miracles of casting out demons

**Ways how the gospel of presents the kingdom as a present reality**

1. According to Mark, the kingdom of God is at hand because Jesus has already come to establish it
2. Through Jesus’ teaching about the kingdom of God in the synagogue using authority and how people could be amazed
3. Through the various miracles that Jesus performed
4. Jesus’ commissioning of his disciples to preach the gospel and to baptize people in the name of the father son and the holy spirit
5. Peter’s confession that Jesus was the messiah shows that God’s kingdom is a present reality
6. The divine way that Jesus chose the disciples ie living their work and following the person they did not know
7. The transfiguration of Jesus which was experienced by Peter, James and John shows that God’s kingdom is already at hand
8. Jesus’ special birth by virgin Mary and the power of the holy spirit proves that the kingdom of God is present
9. The presence of the trinity at Jesus’ baptism proves God’s kingdom on earth
10. The power Jesus used to curse the fig tree and dry up proves that God’s kingdom is a present reality
11. The miracles of exhaustism shows that the kingdom of God is a present reality
12. The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem proves that God’s kingdom is on earth
13. Jesus’ forgiving of sins proved him as a God hence God’s kingdom is at hand
14. Jesus’ miracles of healing demonstrates that God’s kingdom is a present reality through Jesus
15. The miracles Jesus performed over nature e.g. calming the storm, proves that God’s kingdom is a reality
16. Jesus’ acceptance of the title of the messiah before the Jewish council proved that God’s kingdom is a reality
17. Jesus’ denial of the disciples to use swords and to fight his arrest proves the kingdom of God on earth
18. The darkness that covered the earth during Jesus’ death proves that God’s kingdom is a reality.
19. Jesus’ association with the outcast proves that God’s kingdom is on earth
20. Jesus’ calling up of people to repent their sins so as to enter God’s kingdom proves it on earth
21. The confession of the Roman governor Pirate that Jesus was the son of God and writing on the cross proves that God’s kingdom is a present reality
22. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead proved that God’s kingdom is earth since he over powered Satan’s kingdom
23. Jesus’ welcoming of children and blessing them proved that one needs to be innocent to enter God’s kingdom which was already on earth
24. The parables of the mastered seed and the sower demonstrated that the kingdom of God is a reality
25. Jesus’ cleansing of the Jerusalem temple and declaring it as his father’s house proves that God’s kingdom is already on earth

**The kingdom of God as a future reality**

1. Jesus himself said that the kingdom of God is near meaning it is a future reality
2. He hide is messiah ship to avoid being killed by his enemies before fulfilling God’s mission thus making God’s kingdom a future reality
3. At the lord’s supper, Jesus told his disciples that he will drink the wine again in his father’s kingdom meaning is a future reality
4. He told his people that there are some who will not die until they have seen the kingdom of God come with power meaning it is a future reality
5. He informed them if someone is ashamed of him in this world he will also be ashamed of him in his father’s kingdom meaning a future reality
6. Jesus advised the rich young man to sell his worth and follow him and added that it will be hard for a rich to enter God’s kingdom meaning it is in the future
7. The feeding miracles and the turning of water into wine pointed to the heavenly banquet meaning the kingdom is in future
8. During Jesus’ transfigurations, the three disciples wished to stay at the mountain but later the presence of God disappeared meaning God’s kingdom is in future
9. When James and John requested to sit on the right and left side of Jesus in heaven, he answered them that God will give such places to those he has prepared them for meaning a future reality
10. Jesus told the people that when the dead rise to life, the will be like angels in God’[s kingdom to mean it is in the future
11. Jesus told his disciples that even the son of God and the angels in heaven don’t know when the kingdom of God will come its only God meaning it is in the future
12. He told the high priest that they will see the son of man seated on the right side of the almighty meaning the kingdom is in future
13. Jesus’ ascension to heaven and his return to judge the world shows that the kingdom is in future
14. He told his apostles that those who will endure persecution will enter the kingdom of God meaning it is in the future

**Reasons why Jesus called fishermen and not teachers of the law (Mark 1:16-20)**

1. The fishermen were easily to convince than the highly educated Pharisees
2. They were already used to team work
3. They were hardworking people since spreading the gospel involved moving from place to place
4. They were of Jesus’ class since he was not educated
5. The Pharisees were expecting a political and a rich powerful messiah and so would not accept easily
6. Fishermen were known of patience and endurance
7. They were humble and willing to learn unlike the Pharisees who were proud and arrogant
8. They were the first he saw along lake Galilee immediately after his baptism
9. They were already used the conditions of water bodies where Jesus was to concentrate his public ministry
10. They were used to staying away from their families
11. The Pharisees were strong in Judaism yet Jesus stressed faith not the law
12. Jesus wanted to demonstrate that he came for all categories of people
13. Fishermen were used to challenging moments of success and failure in their activities i.e. they would catch or not catch fish
14. Jesus wanted to show that God does not call people according their external appearance and background

**Relevance of the call of the first four disciples to modern Christians**

Modern Christians should;

1. Respond to God’s call without giving excuse
2. Realize that God chooses anyone regardless of the background
3. Be fishermen of people by preaching the gospel
4. Be humble in order to serve better
5. Be patient in delivering service
6. Acknowledge the fact that they are called by God to serve
7. Ready to give up their material wealth and families for God’s sake
8. Work as a team in spreading the good news
9. Serve as good examples in order to attract non believers
10. Ready to welcome God’s call and will
11. Be hardworking both on physical and spiritual matters
12. Be patient with God’s work as some can accept Christianity and others reject it

**The commissioning of the 12 disciples (Mark 6:7-13)**

1. Jesus sent them in pairs so that they could provide company to each other
2. He gave them authority over the evil spirits so that they cast out demons from people
3. He ordered them not to take bread and money except a stick meaning followers had to provide them
4. Jesus advised them to wear sandals since they were to walk long distances
5. The stick they had to go with would symbolize that they are good shepherds
6. He commanded them not to take an extra shirt meaning they were to leave a poor life
7. He advised them to stay in one house in case they were welcomed so as to reduce risks from enemies of the church
8. He told them that in case they were not welcomed in one home, they would leave and shake off dust from their feet meaning judgment
9. They were to preach to people calling upon them to repent
10. They healed the sick by anointing them with olive oil and praying for them as Jesus had commissioned them
11. Jesus discouraged them from wasting time preaching to people who were not interested in the gospel

**Significance of commissioning the 12 apostles**

*It signified that;*

1. The kingdom of God was already at hand
2. The training of disciples for their future task of spreading the gospel
3. The apostles were to depend on God alone as their sole provider
4. Attaining success requires self denial and sacrifice
5. Disciples were to preach, heal and cast out demons from people in Jesus’ name
6. Rejection and suffering was ahead of them
7. The ministry of Jesus Christ was universal that’s why he sent them beyond the Jewish land
8. Jesus is the source of power and blessings
9. Those people who will reject the gospel will face judgment
10. Jesus is a human being i.e. he needed people to give him company
11. Jesus is a divine creature since they accepted his orders without questioning
12. The kingdom of God is a free choice i.e. one can accept the goodness or not
13. Entering the kingdom of God requires one to turn away from his sins
14. Jesus came to establish a spiritual kingdom based on humbleness
15. Team work is very important in preaching the gospel

**The meaning of being a disciple of Jesus according to Mark**

1. It requires one to sacrifice his activities as the fishers left their nets and boats
2. Requires one to sacrifice human relationships and family e.g. the sons of Zebedee
3. It means one to make immediate decision
4. It means being Jesus’ companion thus doing what he does
5. It requires one to work as a team that’s why they went in pairs
6. It means having power over evil spirits and diseases
7. It means serving God and depending on him for providence
8. It requires one to live a humble life characterized by peace and spiritual matters
9. Being a disciple of Jesus means being a leader but not a ruler that’s why they went only with a stick
10. It needs one to avoid unnecessary moments that may result into temptations and suffering
11. It requires one not to waste time on people who are not interested in the good news of salvation it requires one to be open to the people about the judgment that will follow them when they reject the gospel
12. It means fulltime servant of Jesus and going anywhere Jesus sends you.
13. It means expecting a big reward for sacrificing yourself for the sake of the gospel
14. It means facing persecution and enduring it
15. It means sacrificing ones wealth and sharing it with others as Jesus challenged the rich young man
16. It needs one not to be proud. Jesus stressed this by saying whoever “wants to be fast must place himself last of all.”
17. It needs one to live a moral living and carrying your cross to follow Jesus

**The use of parables in Jesus’ ministry**

Parables are earthly stories with a hidden divine meaning

1. To attract the attention of his audience since they were interesting
2. Because Jesus’ message was not easy to understand so he compared it with ordinary examples
3. To hide his messiah ship since he was aware on the enemies of the church
4. It was the commonest way of teaching by that time
5. To differentiate himself from the Pharisees and teachers of the law who taught using complicated philosophical language
6. To avoid confrontation from the authorities of that time
7. To expose weakness of Judaism which was the traditional religion of the Jews
8. To show a connection between heaven and earth
9. To fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy about how a messiah would preach
10. To show that he had direct authority from God e.g. in the parable of the wicked tenants
11. They were shot, clear and easy to understand if explained
12. He wanted only genuine seekers of God to understand
13. To show God’s kingdom and how it grows
14. To train disciples on how to preach the gospel
15. To train his audience about critical thinking
16. To test the understanding of his disciples about messiah ship
17. To demonstrate that God’s kingdom is universal for both Jews and Gentiles

**The significance of the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-20)**

1. The sower signified Jesus or any other preacher of the gospel
2. The seeds mean the good news which is received differently by different people
3. The different soils signify the different ways in which people respond to the gospel
4. The sunshine that dried up the plants mean the challenges Christian meet that turn make them abandon Christianity
5. The birds of the air signify the satanic forces or temptations that divert Christians
6. The seeds that fellow along the path and birds ate them up mean Christians who listen to the word of God, accept it but because of challenges, they give up
7. The seeds that fell on the rocky ground with little soil and plants dried up mean Christians who listen to the word of God with joy but do not take it serious and give it up in the shortest time
8. The seeds that fell in the thorny bushes, grew up and was chocked by the weeds and could not produce any corn, signify Christians who listen to the gospel, follow it for a short time and because of earthly pleasures they backslide
9. The seeds that fell in good soil and the plants grew and produced corn signify the people who listen to the gospel, accept it and put it into practice and expand God’s kingdom
10. The advice which Jesus gave to people to listen if they had ears meant the importance of using spiritual ears to listen to the gospel
11. The parable signifies Jesus intention of warning his followers about the temptations that may make them backslide
12. It signifies that the number of seeds produced depends on soil meaning the expansion of God’s kingdom depends on the number of those who listen to the gospel and put it into practice
13. It signified Jesus intention of hiding his messiah ship by calling himself a sower
14. It signified Jesus intention to stimulate the critical thinking of his listeners
15. It shows the continuity of the OT in the New Testament since the prophets also used parables
16. It signifies Jesus intention to attract his listeners

**Relevance of the parable of the sower to modern Christians**

***Modern Christians should;***

1. Be patient when preaching the gospel as different people react at different time
2. Preach the gospel and exercise it in order to bare fruits as seeds that fell in the good soil
3. Expect the challenges as long as they live according to the gospel
4. Always try to live according to the gospel in all circumstances
5. Put their hope and trust in God the source of success
6. Grad themselves against being tempted by earthly pleasures
7. Always listen to the word of God, take it seriously and put into practice so as to bare fruits
8. Always associate with people who can help them grow on faith
9. Always go to Jesus with all their challenges
10. Always be thankful to God for choosing them
11. Share the gospel with all kinds of people despite their reaction
12. Be alert all the time aware that the devil is roaming around
13. Always check themselves to find out what type of Christians they are
14. Pray for those who reject the gospel
15. Always have hope even when they face opposition

**The siginificance of the parable of the lamb under the bowl (Mark 4:21-25)**

1. The lamb signifies the good news of salvation brought by Jesus
2. The calling of believers not put their lamps under bowl means that Jesus wanted them to preach the gospel to all people
3. The parable signifies that nothing is possible before God since He knows even what is hidden
4. It signifies the need to listen to the word of God with spiritual ears so asa to put them into practice
5. It signifies the need for fair judgment for one another
6. It signifies that people should work hard in order to be rewarded by God
7. It signifies the need to be honest especially those who follow Jesus
8. It signifies the importance of demonstrating faith into actions
9. It signifies Jesus’ intention of attacking the Pharisees and the teachers of the law for failing to show light to people
10. It signifies the importance of paying attention the gospel and living according to it

**Relevance of the parable to modern Christians**

Modern Christians should;

1. Preach the gospel of Christ in order to bring salvation
2. Put their faith into action in order to win non Christians
3. Repent and seek God’s forgiveness
4. Always keep the Christian faith burning like a lamp
5. Be the light of the world by living a Christian life
6. Exercise fair judgment as they will be judged the same way
7. Testify for Jesus’ goodness in their lives
8. Listen to the gospel with all their hearts
9. Speak the truth to demonstrate their light
10. Preach the gospel to all corners just as the light shines
11. Have genuine faith in Jesus Christ the light of the world
12. Use their gifts well given to them by God to serve others
13. Use their spiritual ears to listen to the Gospel

**Significance of the parable of the growing seed (Mark 4:26-29)**

1. The seeds scattered by the man in the field refers to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. The man who scatters the seeds is Jesus and any other preacher
3. The parable signifies Jesus’ intention of keeping his messiah ship a secrete
4. The man who went to sleep, signifies Jesus who went back to heaven but left the disciples spreading the gospel
5. The man going to sleep, signifies total trust and commitment he had in God
6. The parable means that the kingdom of God grows according to God’s will
7. It also signifies the need to have patience when spreading the gospel
8. It signifies that God takes care of the believers from the time they welcome Jesus in their lives
9. The concept of harvesting in the parable signifies the judgment day when Jesus will return to the church
10. It signifies that in spite all challenges Christians face, God’s kingdom will be established
11. It signifies Jesus’ attention to attract his listeners
12. It signifies Jesus’ attention to test the critical thinking of his listeners
13. It signifies that God is the source of physical and spiritual needs of the believer
14. It signifies status does not matter in spreading the gospel
15. It signifies the continuity of the old testament in the new testament

**Significance of the parable of the mustard seed (Mark 4:30-34)**

1. The mustard seed signify that God’s kingdom started as small by Jesus but it is now spreading all over the world
2. The parable signify that the kingdom of God is a resting place for all people
3. It signifies that faith in Jesus grows with time until bares fruits
4. The man who planted the mustard seed is Jesus Christ
5. The branches of the mustard seed signify the many churches of Jesus Christ
6. The parable singles the peace, joy and happiness that we find in God’s kingdom
7. It demonstrates the universality of God’s kingdom as the parable says that birds of different kinds
8. It signifies that the seed of God’s word sown must bare fruits
9. It signifies that God’s kingdom grows in a hidden way and by the time it noticed is already established
10. The birds resting in the branches of the tree, signifies the gentiles that embraced God’s kingdom after it had grown
11. It signifies Jesus’ intention to encourage the disciples who had backslide
12. It signifies that the kingdom of God grows gradually as the mustard seed took time to grow into the biggest tree
13. It signifies the need for unity among Christians as different birds rested in the same shade
14. The growth and spreading o the branches signifies the future expansion of the church to all corners of the world

**Significance of the parable of the tenants in the vineyard (Mark 12: 1-12)**

1. The vineyard signifies the nation of Israel where the good news was planted by Jesus’ Christ
2. The owner of the vineyard signified god the father
3. The wicked tenant were the Jews the servants the owner of vineyard sent to collect his share were prophets of the old testament
4. The owner of the vineyard’s share were those Christians who repented and endured persecution
5. The son of the owner of the vineyard that was sent last and killed by the tenants signified Jesus Christ
6. The coming of the vineyard owner himself signifies the day of judgment
7. The giving away of the vineyard from the wicked tenant to other people signifies the transfer of the salvation benefit from the Jews to the gentiles
8. The destruction of the wicked tenants signifies the destruction of the Jerusalem temple
9. The stoning of the servant sent by the owner of the vineyard signify the persecution the prophets underwent
10. The sending of several servants to the tenants signify God’s constant love to his people
11. It signifies Jesus’ intention of hiding his messiah ship as the son of the vineyard owner
12. It demonstrates the kingdom of God as being universal. It belonged the Jews and later to the gentiles
13. It signifies that God warns before punishing that’s why he sent many prophets
14. The parable shows the stubbornness of the Jews towards repentance
15. It signifies the increased hostility towards from th Jewish leaders
16. It signifies that judgment day will be a day of harvest of the new yeast from th old one
17. It signifies Jesus’ intention of attacking the Jews indirectly
18. It signifies God as a patient and fair judge who punishes only those who do wrong
19. It signifies Jesus’ prediction that he was going to be killed by the Jews as the son of vineyard owner
20. It signifies that Jewish authorities were so immoral and unfaithful to God to the extent of killing his only son on addition to the prophets

**Relevance of the parable to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should welcome and accept god’s messengers
2. Modern Christians should be obedient and trust Jesus as a son of God
3. Modern Christians should forgive those who wrong them just as Jesus did
4. Modern Christians should always take their grievances to God the fair judge
5. Modern Christians should appreciate and be contented with what God has given them
6. Modern Christians should be faithful and hornets without converting what belongs to others to themselves
7. Modern Christians should spread the gospel to all categories of people since salvation is for all
8. They should carefully and faithfully guard whatever is put into their care on behalf of their masters
9. They should follow the old testament scriptures in order to understand the new testament
10. They should always be patient with one another just as the owner of the vineyard was patient with the tenants
11. They should avoid conflicts with one another as Jesus used parables to avoid conflicts
12. They should be thankful to God for sending us his only son and accepting us as his children
13. They should sometimes keep their Christian faith a secret especially in situations that may cause opposition
14. They should respect peoples’ lives
15. They should promote genuine love for one another as God did

**Miracles in Jesus’ ministry**

A miracle is an act of divine power which shows the rule of God, his love and the salvation he offers to mankind

**Reasons why Jesus performed miracles**

1. Jesus performed miracle to demonstrate God’s kingdom had already come on earth
2. He wanted to show that he is a divine being that’s why he always prayed to God before performing any miracle
3. He wanted to show that he is the giver and sustainer of life
4. To show that he is the bread of life
5. To demonstrate that he had power to forgive sins of mankind
6. To prove that he is a universal savior that’s why he performed them for both Jes and gentiles
7. He wanted to show that he is a human being by sympathizing with the suffering
8. He wanted to demonstrate his intention of hiding his messiah ship that’s why he could stop anyone to say out that he was the healer
9. To show the importance of faith in him
10. He wanted to demonstrate that salvation is a daily activity that’s why he chased out demons from a man in the synagogue at Capernaum on Sabbath
11. He wanted to attract people into his ministry as miracle proved him as powerful
12. He wanted to demo0nstrate that he’s stronger than Satan
13. He wanted to show that he had power over nature by walking on water and calming the storm
14. He wanted to difference between him and the religious leaders who could not perform any miracle
15. He wanted to demonstrate that salvation is both physical and spiritual that’s why he provided both needs
16. He wanted to the importance of prayer that’s why he first prayed to his father before performing any miracle
17. He wanted to prove that there’s nothing impossible before God
18. He wanted to prove that he’s the awaited messiah
19. **Healing miracles**
20. *Jesus heals a man with a dreaded skin disease (a leper) (Mark1:40-45).* A man suffering from a dreaded skin disease came to Jesus, knelt down and begged him for help so that he could be well. Jesus was filled with pity and stretched out his hand and ordered him to be clean, the disease left him immediately and Jesus advised the man not to tell anyone about what had happened but only to go straight to the priest to confirm that he was healed and later he had to offer a sacrifice that Moses ordered to prove that he was cured.
21. *The miracle healing a paralyzed man (Mark 2:*1-12). When Jesus went back to Capernaum, the news about him had spread to many people and they had gathered around that there was no room left even at the door. As he was preaching, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on the mat but they could not take him to Jesus because of the big crowd so the made a hole through the roof and lowered the man to Jesus. When Jesus so how faithful they were, he told the paralyzed man “my son your sins are forgiven” this annoyed the teachers of the law and accused Jesus for abusing God. He ordered the paralyzed man to get up, pick his mat and go home. The man did as Jesus said and everyone was amazed.
22. *Jesus heals a deaf-mute (Mark 7:31-37).* As Jesus left Tyro and went to Sidon to Lake Galilee, some people brought him a man who was deaf and could not speak and they begged Jesus to place his hands on him. Jesus took the man away from the crowd, put his fingers in the man’s ears, spat and touched the man’s tongue then looked up to heaven and prayed to God and told the man to open up at once the man was able to hear and began to talk without trouble. Those around where completely amazed but Jesus ordered them not to speak of it to anyone but the more he stopped them the more they told everyone.
23. *The healing of blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)*. As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples a crowd followed him, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus was seated by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus, he shouted for mercy saying “Jesus son of David, have pity on me” many people who heard him scolded him and told him to keep quiet but he shouted more loudly. Jesus stopped and told those he was with to call him. He jumped up and came to Jesus who asked him what he wanted and replied that he wanted to see again. Jesus told him that your faith has made you well. At once he was able to see and followed Jesus.
24. *The healing of the woman who touched Jesus’ cloak (mark 5:25-34).* As Jesus went back to Lake Galilee, a great crowd followed him and there was a woman who had suffered from severe blood flow for 12 years. She had been treated by many doctors but instead got worse. When she heard about Jesus, said to herself “if I just touch his clothes, I will get well” so she struggled through the crowd and touched Jesus’ cloak. Immediately her bleeding stopped. At once Jesus knew that power had gone out of him so he turned around and asked “who has touched my clothes?” His disciples could not tell but instead blamed Jesus telling him that people were many pushing them towards him so how could he ask such a question. The woman came trembling with fear, knelt down at Jesus’ feet and told him the whole truth. Jesus said to her “my daughter your faith has made you well, go in peace you are healed of your trouble.

**Significance of the healing miracle**

1. The miracle signify the importance of faith in Jesus Christ in ordered to attain ones personal desires
2. It signifies one effort to attain salvation from God eg the effort put in by the four men to make a hole through the roof to lower down the paralyzed man.
3. It signifies the need for determination and insisting on what you need
4. It signifies that one should know and say out exactly he / she needs from Jesus eg Bartimaeus
5. It signifies the need to follow Jesus’ teaching e.g. after Bartimaeus had been healed he wanted to follow Jesus but Jesus told him to go and spread the news to his home village
6. It signifies the divinity of Jesus ie He only says a word and things happen
7. It signifies the power of healing revealed in Jesus Christ
8. It signifies that Jesus is really the awaited messiah since the prophets said that he will do wonders
9. It signifies Jesus as a teacher of mankind i.e. those he healed normally referred to him as teacher
10. It signifies Jesus as the source of joy and happiness to those suffering
11. It signifies the importance of hearing the good news i.e. Bartimaeus knew that Jesus was the one passing
12. It signifies that the kingdom of God is already on earth
13. It signifies that with God everything is possible
14. It signifies human selfishness of the disciples e.g. they were stopping Bartimaeus from seeing Jesus
15. It signifies that the coming of Jesus Christ brought to an end of human misery and suffering
16. It signifies that God’s answer is direct and immediate
17. It signifies Jesus as the only son of God and the servant of mankind
18. It signifies the humanity of Jesus as he can feel pity for those who are suffering
19. It signifies that Jesus does not only give physical needs but also spiritual needs eg to the paralyzed man
20. It signifies lack of understanding of Jesus by his followers e.g. they accused him when he understood that someone had touched him.
21. It demonstrates Jesus’ victory over Satanic forces since it is Satan who causes suffering to mankind

**Note:** *If a question is specific on the significance of a particular miracle give an example basing on the miracle asked*

**Relevance of healing miracle to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should spread the good news about Jesus Christ in order to bring many to him
2. Modern Christians should have faith in Jesus
3. Modern Christians should put in their effort in order to attain what their heart desires
4. Modern Christians should believe in Jesus as the messiah who can perform miracle s
5. Modern Christians should believe in Jesus as a supreme doctor
6. Modern Christians should tell the truth about your suffering
7. Modern Christians should exercise humility or respect before Jesus
8. Modern Christians should always accompany their faith with actions eg the woman with severe blood flow
9. Modern Christians should always come out by themselves from the crowd to ask Jeus what they want
10. Modern Christians should always trust in Jesus as there’s nothing impossible before God
11. Modern Christians should show love to those who are suffering and bring love to Jesus for healing
12. Modern Christians should appreciate the faith of those come to Jesus for healing eg Bartimaeus and the disciples
13. Modern Christians should go to him with all kinds of sickness and trouble
14. Modern Christians should associate with all categories of people as Jesus did with the leper
15. Modern Christians should serve others with due respect since we are all created in God’s image
16. Modern Christians should accept and believe in the old testament scriptures since they are the continuation of the new testament
17. Modern Christians should confess the truth so as to receive the answer from Jesus
18. **Miracles of exorcism (casting out demons)**
19. *Jesus heals a demonic man at Capernaum (Mark 1:21-28)*. This was the first miracle Jesus performed after his baptism according to mark. On the Sabbath, Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach suddenly a man with an evil spirit came into the synagogue and screamed “What do you want from us, Jesus of Nazareth? Are you here to destroy us? I know you’re God’s holy messenger” Jesus ordered the evil spirits to come out of the man, it shock the man so hard and screamed loudly as it went out of him. All the people were amazed at Jesus’ authority
20. *The healing of demonic man at Geresa (Mark 5:1-20)*. As Jesus got out of the boat with his disciples at the lake side he was met by a man who came out of the burial site, the man had evil spirits and always seated among the tombs, he was so strong that he would break chains on his hands and legs. He therefore kept on screaming and cutting himself with stones. When he sow Jesus from a distance, he ran towards him and knelt before him and said “Jesus son of the most high, what do you want from me? For God’s sake I beg you don’t and kill me.” When Jesus asked him who he was, he responded that he was Mob and they were many. He to begged Jesus to send them in the large herd of pigs that were feeding around the hill side. Jesus left them to go into the pigs and they left the man. All the pigs ran into the lake and drowned. Those who were there and those looking after the pigs spread the news to everyone as the man with the mob demons was seated there well dressed with the sober mind. When people heard about it they asked Jesus to leave their territory because they were afraid
21. *The healing of the daughter of the Syro-phoenician man (Mark 7:24-30)*. As Jesus went into the city of Tyre he went into the house and did not want anyone to know that he was there but because of his popularity, people came and surrounded the house. A woman whose daughter had an evil spirit in her came to him and fell on his feet and asked him to drive demons out of her daughter. The woman was a gentile born in Phoenicia in Syria. And Jesus answered her “Let us first feed the children, it is not right to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs” the woman answered Jesus with respect and said “even the dogs eat the leftovers of the children that fell under the table” Because of her answer the demons went out of her daughter and when she reached home, her daughter was lying on bed free of demons. And when she asked people at what time the girl was okay, it was the exact time when Jesus ordered her to go back home that her daughter was fine

1. *The healing of the epileptic boy (Mark 9*:14-29)*.* As the teachers of the law were arguing with the disciples in the crowd, Jesus arrived and the crowd was excited. When Jesus inquired what they were arguing about, a man from the crowd reported to him that he brought them his son be healed but the disciples failed to drive the evil spirit out of him. He went ahead and described his son’s sickness to Jesus and begged him to heal the boy. Jesus accused his disciples for having little faith and not praying enough and told them to bring the boy. When the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the boy into the pit and rolled on the ground foaming at the mouth. The boy’s father said that they tried to kill him several times. Jesus asked the man that do you have faith that the boy will be okay. The man informed Jesus that he had faith but not enough and asked Jesus to help him have more faith. Jesus ordered the evil spirit to come out of the boy but the evil spirit could not say a word instead they threw the boy into the pit again and lied almost dead on the ground. Jesus lifted the boy by the hand and led him to his father. After that the disciples asked Jesus why could not chase away the evil spirit from the boy and he told them that evil spirits that do not speak out need serous prayers so as to chase them away but they had not prayed.

**Significance of miracle of casting out demons**

1. It signifies Jesus as a universal savior i.e. some demonic people were gentiles and other Jews
2. It signifies that the kingdom of God was already at hand
3. It signifies that Jesus is the give of life that’s why he did not destroy the demons but sent them into pigs
4. It signifies the divinity of Jesus i.e. he commands evils spirits and listen
5. It signifies that Jesus is more powerful than Satan the source of evil spirits
6. It signifies that Jesus brings to an end human suffering and misery
7. It signifies Jesus’ humanity i.e. he felt pity for people possessed by demons
8. It demonstrated that Jesus is the son of God as said by the evil spirits
9. It signifies that being committed to Jesus does not mean physical moving with him eg the demonic man at Geresa wanted to go with him after being healed
10. It signifies that Jesus is the owner of everything on earth that’s why he did not bother to ask who was the owner of pigs
11. It signifies that Jesus value human life more than animals that’s why he sent demons from the man to pigs
12. It signifies that with God everything is possible that’s why the dumb evil spirits also accepted to go away from the boy.
13. It signifies that Satan exists and he’s powerful basing on how the demonic people were struggling
14. It signifies the lack of understanding of Jesus by his disciples and other people that’s why they begged him to leave their territory
15. It signifies that there’s a battle between divine power and Satanic power that’s why when the demons were defeated, they could leave the people they possessed
16. It signifies the little faith and limited praying of the disciples of Jesus that why they could not chase demons from the epileptic boy

**Relevance of demonic miracles to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should have faith in Jesus Christ e.g. the father of the epileptic boy
2. Modern Christians should always pray for more faith from Jesus Christ
3. Modern Christians should be committed to prayer so as to be able to chase away demons
4. Modern Christians should trust in God since everything is possible before him
5. Modern Christians should believe that Jesus is more powerful than Satan
6. Modern Christians should believe that Jesus is the expected messiah due to the wonders he does
7. Modern Christians should serve those who come to seek for help from them
8. Modern Christians should always take the sick to religious leaders instead of witch doctors
9. Modern Christians should try and explain their challenges to Jesus through prayer
10. Modern Christians should consult their leaders in private as the disciples did when they failed to chased demons out of the boy
11. Modern Christians should always give answers to questions raised by their followers as Jesus did to his disciples
12. Modern Christians should come out and present their needs to Jesus as the father of the boy did
13. **Miracles of showing power over nature**
14. *Jesus calms a storm (Mark 4:35-41)*. In the evening as Jesus and his disciples were sailing to their other side of Lake Galilee, he was tired and went back of the boat and fell asleep. A strong wind blew up and the wave began to spill over into the boat. And the boat was filled with water. The disciples were terrified and woke up Jesus saying “teacher, don’t you care that were about to die?” Jesus stood up and commanded the wind to be quiet and the waves to still. There was great calm on the lake but Jesus wondered why his disciples had no faith at all yet for them they were wondering whom he was to command the wind and the waves and obey him
15. *Jesus walks on water (Mark 6:45-52)*. After feeding 5000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish, the Jews wanted to arrest Jesus. He ordered his disciples to go into the boat and leave but he stayed behind crying to his father. Later, in the night the boat was in the middle of the lake while Jesus was alone on the land, he saw his disciples being taken away by the storm. He came walking on water towards them and they thought he was a ghost. Jesus told them to take courage that it was him. He got into the boat and the wind died down.

**Significance of miracles of showing power over nature**

1. It signifies Jesus’ divine authority over nature ie even the storm fear him
2. It signifies Jesus’ power and victory over Satan since storms were related to Satan during that time
3. It signifies the humanity of Jesus i.e. he gets tired and, sleeps etc
4. It signifies the extension of the old testament into the new testament eg God showed his power over the red sea as well as Jesus over lake Galilee
5. It signifies that the heavenly kingdom will be full of peace and calmness
6. It signifies the disciples lack of understanding of Jesus Christ when they wondered who he was that the storm respects
7. It signifies the disciples’ slow growth in faith i.e. they were afraid of the storm and the waves
8. It signifies that Jesus is a true son of God who came to save mankind
9. It signifies that Jesus came to remove all obstacles to human happiness
10. It signifies the complete trust Jesus has in his father that’s why he slept when the storm was strong
11. It signifies Jesus as a servant of mankind that’s why he cut short his sleep to save the disciples
12. It signifies the hard task the disciples were to take over from Jesus
13. It signifies Jesus’ intention of hiding his messiah ship that’s why he tested the faith of the disciples
14. It signifies Jesus as a teacher as referred to by the disciples
15. It signifies that with God everything is possible as Jesus could walk on water
16. It signifies the importance of prayer i.e. Jesus was able to walk on water after praying to his father.

**Relevance of the miracles of power over to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should invite Jesus to calm the storms in the lives e.g. debts, poverty, diseases etc
2. Modern Christians should always call Jesus’ name in case of any satanic challenge
3. Modern Christians should have faith in Jesus Christ as he cannot allow mankind to perish
4. Modern Christians should put trust in God as everything is possible before him
5. Modern Christians should serve one another as Jesus cut short his sleep to serve the disciples
6. Modern Christians should pray for help from the holy spirit to understand the scriptures
7. Modern Christians should train those who are to take over leadership
8. Modern Christians should believe in the old testament scriptures as they were fulfilled by Jesus’ coming
9. Modern Christians should safeguard themselves against evil as they are everywhere
10. Modern Christians should have hope in Jesus to solve all their problems
11. Modern Christians should recognize Jesus power over nature and trust in Him
12. Modern Christians should attribute all good things to God rather than Satan unlike the disciples who referred to the ghost
13. Modern Christians should always pray to God before doing any activity
14. **Feeding miracles**
15. *Jesus fed 5000 people (Mark 6:30-44)*. After teaching the people for the whole day, Jesus told his disciples to go and find what people can eat. When Jesus found that there was nothing to eat, he felt pity for the people but there was nothing apart from 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Jesus ordered his disciples in groups of 100 and sit down on the grass. He took the 5 loaves and the 2 fish, looked up to heaven and gave thanks to God, he block it and gave it to the disciples to distribute it to the people. Everyone eat and had enough. The disciples collected 12 baskets full of leftovers. The number of men who were fed was 5000 without counting women and children.
16. *Jesus feeds 4000 people (Mark 8*:1-10). After healing a deaf mute, a big crowd gathered around Jesus and stayed with him for 3 days that nothing was left to eat. Because they were in the desert, they would only eat the 7 loaves of bread a few small fish which was there. JESUS gave thanks to God and broke the 7 loaves and few small fish and gave to the disciples to serve people

**Significance of feeding miracle to modern Christians**

1. It signifies Jesus as the bread of life that’s why he never sent away people to look for food
2. It signifies the divinity of Jesus as he could use few things to serve the multitude of people
3. It signifies the humanity of Jesus as felt pity for the hungry people
4. It signifies Jesus as a universal savior since the miracle took place in the gentile land
5. It signifies Jesus’ love for people
6. It signifies the importance of prayer , he prayed for the fish and bread and multiplied
7. It signifies the relationship between the old testament and the new testament scriptures eg God fed the Israelites with manna and quails in the desert
8. It signifies the glory of God and that nothing is impossible before him
9. It signifies the disciples lack of understanding of Jesus i.e. they could not believe that he can feed all those people with few bread and fish
10. It signifies Jesus’ intention of testing the disciples’ faith that’s why he ordered them to serve the food
11. It signifies Jesus’ intention of attracting people to his ministry i.e. those who witnessed gave glory to God
12. It signifies the lord’s supper and the heavenly banquet that followers will enjoy
13. It signifies as a promised messiah because of the wonders he gave
14. It signifies Jesus as a good shepherd. E.g. he could not let his ship die of hunger
15. It signifies the inequality that existed among the Jewish society as they counted only men
16. It signifies team work between Jesus, disciples and followers
17. It signifies that Jesus’ to perform miracles came from God the father that’s why he always looked up and prayed before any miracle

**Similarities between the two feeding miracles**

1. In both bread and fish was multiplied to feed the people
2. In both bread and fish came from the crowd that was listening to Jesus
3. In both miracles Jesus prayed to God the father to multiply the food
4. In both the humanity of Jesus seen trough sympathy to the people
5. In both people were ordered to sit down on the ground
6. In both Jesus’ disciples showed lack of understanding of Jesus’ divine power
7. In both miracles JESUS first people the gospel before feeding them
8. In both miracles people ate enough and collected leftovers
9. In both e big crowd of people was fed
10. In both Jesus first requested for the number of bread and fish before praying for it
11. In both the disciples played a role of serving and organizing the people
12. In both Jesus’ divine power was revealed as the little turned into the much

**Differences between the two feeding miracles**

1. In the first miracle, the disciples suggested to send away people to look for food while in the second Jesus himself first tried to send them away.
2. In the feeding of 5000 people, there was proper arrangement of groups of 100 people while in the miracle, people just sat on the ground
3. In the first miracle, the disciples’ lack of understanding Jesus was linked on the little money which could not buy enough food while in the second miracle it was related to inability to get enough food in the desert
4. In the first miracle the main concern was that it was getting let but in the second miracle people had stayed with Jesus for many days
5. The feeding of 5000 people took place in the Jewish land while that of 4000 took place in the gentile land
6. The feeding of 5000 people 12 baskets were leftovers, while in that of 4000 people 7 baskets were leftovers
7. In the first miracle, Jesus ordered the disciples to make people sit down in rows while in the second one Jesus himself ordered people to sit-down
8. In the first miracle, only men were counted while it is not mentioned in the second feeding miracle
9. Many people were fed in the first miracle compared to those fed in the second
10. In the first miracle, people came with nothing to eat but in the second one, they came with food but got finished because of the many days they stayed with Jesus.
11. In the first miracle, there were 5 loaves and 2 fish while in the second one, there 7 loaves and a few small fish
12. In the first miracle, Jesus had just come from a mission while in the second one Jesus had spent days with his listeners
13. The first miracle 2 fish were served while in the second one the number of fish is not mentioned
14. **The miracle of raising the dead ( The raising of Jairus daughter) (Mark 5:21-43)**

As Jesus crossed over Lake Galilee, a large crowd gathered around him. Jairus an official arrived and when he saw Jesus he knelt down on his feet said “*my little daughter is very ill, please come and place your hands on her so that she gets well”* As Jesus was going to Jairus’ home a big crowd surrounded him and they took a lot of his time. Some messengers came from Jairus’ house and told him that the daughter had died. He told Jairus not be worried only to believe. When they reached Jairus’ house, they found people crying and confused. Jesus informed them that the child was not dead but only sleeping. They laughed a lot at him. Jesus sent all people out of the house and only remained with the child’s, father mother and the disciples. He took her by the hand and said “*Little girl, I tell you to get up”* She got up at once and started walking around. People were amazed but Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone.

**Significance of the miracle to modern Christians**

1. It signifies Jesus as the giver of life
2. It demonstrated future resurrection of Jesus and his followers
3. It signifies the importance of faith in Jesus
4. It signifies that everything is possible before God
5. It signifies the divinity of Jesus i.e. he just ordered the girl to get up and regained life
6. It signifies the humanity of Jesus. He felt pity for Jairus and his family
7. It signifies Jesus intention of hiding His messiah ship
8. It signifies the lack of understanding of Jesus by his followers
9. It signifies God’s love for mankind revealed through Jesus Christ
10. It signifies Jesus as a servant of mankind i.e. he is never busy to help those in need
11. It signifies that Jesus is the promised messiah
12. It signifies the importance of respect i.e. an official knelt before Jesus to save his daughter
13. It signifies that Jesus was greater than the magicians of that time and indeed a son of God who had the power to rise the dead
14. It signifies that all Jewish officials were not against Jesus like Jairus

**Relevance of the miracle to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should have hope in life after death
2. Modern Christians should believe in Jesus as a true son of God due to the wonders he does
3. Modern Christians should have total faith in Jesus in order to attain what their heart desires
4. Modern Christians should exercise respect for leaders as Jairus did with Jesus
5. Modern Christians should totally depend on God as there’s nothing impossible before him
6. Modern Christians should believe in Jesus’ divine power as only ordered the girl back to life
7. Modern Christians should be patient in life in order to attain what they want
8. Modern Christians should understand Jesus as the messiah from God not as Jairus’ family that laughed Jesus’ words
9. Modern Christians should testify for Jesus especially after doing good things in our life
10. Modern Christians should serve one another without pretending that they are busy
11. Modern Christians should treat all people equally as Jesus did
12. Modern Christians should always train potential leaders to take over from them that’s why Jesus took with him the disciples to witness
13. Modern Christians should assist those in need both physical and spiritual needs
14. Modern Christians should keep secretes of their faith deeds to avoid cheap popularity
15. Modern Christians should take those suffering to Jesus because he’s greater than witch doctors

**The transfiguration of Jesus (Mark 9:2-13)**

After Jesus speaking about his suffering and death, he took 3 of his disciples ie Peter, James and John up to the mountain where they could alone. As they were there, Jesus’ clothes became shinning and whiter than snow, then the 3 disciples saw Elijah and Moses talking to Jesus. Peter out of confusion said “*teacher how good it is that we are here, let us make three tents one for you, another for Elijah and another for Moses.”*  Thereafter a cloud appeared and covered them and the voice said “this *is my own dear son, listen to him”* When the disciples looked around they did not see anyone else apart from Jesus. Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone until the son of man will rise from the dead

**Meaning or significance of the event**

1. It signified that Jesus is a true son of God as the voice confirmed
2. It signified Jesus’ intention of hiding his messiah ship when he told them not to tell anyone
3. It signified Jesus’ messiah ship as Elijah and Moses were talking to him one of the people who prophesized about him
4. It signified God’s omnipotence i.e. a voice came from the crowd
5. It signified Jesus’ holiness i.e. his clothes turned whiter and brighter
6. It signified the reality of eternal life and resurrection
7. It signified that Jesus is the controller of nature as a crowd came down and flashes of lightening appeared
8. It signified the continuity of the old testament as Moses and Elijah the figures on the old testament were seen with Jesus
9. It signified that Jesus was both divine and human i.e. he transformed and later went back to his original form
10. It signified that there’s resurrection of the bodies as Moses who had died was seen talking to Jesus.
11. It signified the disciples lack of understanding of Jesus i.e. Peter’s statement of building tents proved that he was thinking that Jesus’ kingdom had began from the mountain yet his rule was not on earth
12. It signified that Jesus was greater than Moses and Elijah that why he never disappeared like them
13. It signified that Jesus was a spiritual messiah not a political one and that his death and resurrection was according to God’s plan
14. It signified that Jesus’ public ministry was reaching its climax and was proved by God, Elijah and , Moses

**Relevance of the transfiguration Jesus to modern Christians**

1. Modern Christians should always keep secretes and only reveal it when necessary
2. Modern Christians should faith in Jesus as the only son of God
3. Modern Christians should have hope in resurrection of the bodies since Moses also resurrected
4. Modern Christians should strive for spiritual needs rather than physical needs
5. Modern Christians should be grateful to God for the gift of Jesus Christ
6. Modern Christians should be prepared to suffer and accept suffering since sometimes is God’s will
7. Modern Christians should accept the power of God revealed in Jesus Christ i.e. even Jesus was changed by God’s power during the event
8. Modern Christians should total trust in Jesus as he’s Greater than Moses & Elijah
9. Modern Christians should be witnesses of Jesus Christ as the three disciples
10. Modern Christians should train potential leaders to take over from them as Jesus did with the three disciples
11. Modern Christians should believe in old testaments scriptures as a continuity of the new testament
12. Modern Christians should work as a team as Moses, Elijah & Jesus did
13. Modern Christians should live holy lives as Jesus is also holy

**Evidence to show the disciples lack of understanding of Jesus**

1. They failed to understand parables and many times Jesus explained them their meanings
2. They interrupted Jesus’ sleep forgetting that that boat could not sink when Jesus is in it
3. During the feeding of 5000 people, they suggested to Jesus to send away the people forgetting that he could multiply the little which was there
4. When he came walking on water, they were terrified and mistook him to be a ghost
5. After the woman with constant blood flow had touched Jesus’ clothes the disciples referred to his question of who had touched him irrelevant
6. During the transfiguration, they mistook Jesus to have come to establish an earthly kingdom
7. The disciples failed to drive out demons from the epileptic boy and wondered how only prayer can drive dumb evil spirits
8. When Jesus taught how it is hard for the rich man to enter the kingdom of God, the disciples were amazed
9. When the parents brought their children to blessed Jesus, the disciples were trying to stop them
10. When he rejected John & James’ request of sitting beside him in the kingdom of God, they became annoyed
11. When Jesus curst a fig tree and dried up, Peter became amazed
12. When the disciples interrupted Jesus’ private prayer to go and perform miracles for Pharisees, it proved that they did not know that he came for all people
13. When Jesus was praying in the garden of the Gethsemane man, they could not wash and pray with him
14. Peter denied Jesus three times yet he had promised to stay with him even at death
15. When a woman anointed Jesus at Bethany with expensive oil, they criticized her for wasting the oil
16. When Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus, he did so because he knew that no one can arrest him because of his divine power
17. The Peter cut off the soldier’s ear, it proved that he had forgotten God’s plan of salvation through Jesus
18. After Jesus’ resurrection, many of his disciples took long to believe. E.g. Thomas
19. When Jesus told them that the one who was to betray him was next to him, they failed to understand whom he was talking about

**Ways how people today show lack of understanding of Jesus Christ**

1. Some of them backslide in faith due to concentration on seeking material wealth
2. There’ a lot of division in church based on personalities and religious pluralism
3. Some people have lost hope in parausia hence abandoning church
4. Some Christians misused the lord’s supper by receiving it without examining themselves
5. Some Christians misuse spiritual gifts especially healing and speaking in tongues by boosting over them
6. Some Christians practice discrimination basing on wealth and outward appearance ie they give front seats in church to the rich
7. Some Christians pray to God for bad intentions eg to punish and kill their enemies
8. Some Christians use their tongues to curse others yet they use the some tongues to bless others
9. Some Christians trust in their human wisdom rather than wisdom from God especially when interpreting scriptures
10. Some Christians continue to commit sexual immorality forgetting that their bodies are temples of God
11. Some Christians fail to endure suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel
12. Some Christians boost over their material wealth instead of using it to serve God
13. Some Christians have continued dealing in witchcraft hence practicing syncretism

**Reasons why disciples failed to understand Jesus**

1. Because many times he hid his messiah ship by stopping them from telling anybody about his divine deeds
2. Because he always changed his titles ie son of man, son of God, good shepherd etc
3. Because Satan had blind-folded their spiritual eyes
4. Because of fear of being arrested by the enemies of the church eg Peter in the court-yard
5. Because he performed miracles over nature eg calming the storm
6. Because they lacked genuine faith
7. Because of his poor family background
8. Because they were illiterate and less intelligent
9. Because they were money hungry e.g. Judas Iscariot
10. Because of his constant conflict with religious leaders over hypocrisy and belief in the law
11. Because the old testament showed that wealth was a blessing from God yet for Him he said can hinder one from entering the kingdom of God
12. Because he always taught using parables which were hard to interpreted
13. Because they expected a political messiah
14. Because he used to associate with the outcasts e.g. lepers, women, tax-collectors etc
15. Because they were too possessive to Jesus and they thought he was only a messiah for the Jews

**Ways how Jesus failed to fulfill the messianic expectation of the Jews**

1. He was born from a poor family yet they expected a messiah from a rich background
2. He associated with the outcasts of the society
3. He was born by human parents yet they expected a messiah to come direct from God
4. Because Jesus tried to hide his messiah ship until the right time
5. Because he present himself as a spiritual messiah yet they expected a political one
6. He presented himself as a suffering servant yet they expected a powerful military messiah
7. Because he did not respect the Sabbath which the Jews believed to be a day of rest since creation
8. He accepted to be arrested and tried by Pirate a gentile
9. Because he uplifted the status of women in the Jewish society who were looked at as inferior people
10. He addressed himself by different titles e.g. vine dresser, light of the world, etc
11. He was against the Jewish cultural practices e.g. fasting and washing hands up to the elbows
12. He suffered in the garden of Gethsemane and accepted to be insulted by sinners
13. He died on the cross the worst and shameful punishment given to core criminals
14. He rejected the request of James and John to sit beside him in heaven which they mistook to be selfishness

**Reasons why Jesus hid his messiah**

1. He wanted to avoid direct confrontation from the Jewish political leaders
2. He wanted to differentiate himself between religious leaders and magicians who did things for recognition
3. He wanted all people to come to him freely
4. Because he did not want cheap popularity
5. He wanted to demonstrate a spiritual messiah
6. He wanted to people to know that he had come for both Jews and gentiles
7. He wanted to attract only faithful followers
8. He feared to be blamed for treason ie equating himself to God
9. He wanted to avoid a large crowd around him
10. Because the time had not come since everything was according to God’s plan
11. He wanted people to find out themselves
12. Because he was from a poor family
13. He wanted to prove his disciples’ lack of understanding
14. Because there was a great persecution of Christian faith by Emperor Nero
15. He wanted to his disciples to learn that a good leader is not one who seeks public praise and recognition

**Factors that led to the death of John Baptist (Mark 6:14-29)**

1. King Herod Antipas had married his brother’s wife which John the Baptist condemned as a sin
2. Herodias created a grudge against John the Baptist because of condemning her marriage and always wished him to be killed
3. John the Baptist’s death was a result of God’s plan since he had to prepare the way for Jesus
4. The death of John the Baptist was a result of Herodias lack of a forgiving heart
5. Herod’s birthday party was a factor that led to John the Baptist i.e. Salome danced well and the king told her to ask for anything and when she went to Herodias to ask for she can ask for the she told her to ask for John the Baptists’ head
6. The girl’s failure to make a choice on what to ask from the king that she consulted Herodias
7. His death was a result of moral decay in the Israel nation i.e. all the officials who were invited were drunk that they could not guide the king on the girl’s request
8. The arrogant nature of king hero die he did not want to break his promise to Salome
9. The refusal of Jesus to set john the Baptist free from jail before he went for his first public ministry yet he had divine powers to do so
10. Herod’s pride that he did not want disappoint his guest by refusing to grant the girl’s request
11. John the Baptist’s loyalty to God made him die i.e. He always taught about the truth
12. The over excitement of Herod towards the girl’s dance coupled with overdrinking
13. The refusal Herod to set John the Baptist free from prison
14. Herod’s failure to stand firm and tell the girl that her request was sinful as it was murder

**Comparison between the ministry of John the Baptist and that of Jesus**

**Similarities**

1. Both John the Baptist and Jesus were holy messengers of God
2. Both were born according to God’s plan of salvation for mankind
3. Both emphasized repentance and baptism in their ministries in order to inherit God’s kingdom
4. Both had disciples who helped them to carry out their activities
5. Both died as martyrs i.e. John the Baptist was beheaded by king Herod while Jesus was sentenced to death by Pirate
6. Both their bodies were requested for by their disciples to be buried
7. Both their ministries were intended to fulfill the old testament scriptures
8. Both condemned the sin of adultery
9. Both emphasized the idea of forgiveness by sins
10. Both spent some time in desert
11. Both emphasized good morals in their teaching
12. Both emphasized God’s judgment

**Differences**

1. Jesus have a duo character of both humanity and divinity while John the Baptist was just a human being
2. John the Baptist was mistaken to be the messiah during his ministry yet Jesus was immediately recognized as the awaited messiah
3. John the Baptists ministry intended to prepare people for the coming of the messiah while Jesus’ mission was to fulfill John’s mission
4. John’s mode of Baptist was physical immersion in water of river Jordon while Jesus’ mode of Baptist was spiritual in nature
5. Jesus’ message was centered on God’s kingdom while that of John was based on the coming of the messiah
6. Jesus would forgive sins while John the Baptist would call upon people to repent
7. Jesus was far greater than john the Baptist as John confessed that the one who will come after me is much greater than I am that I am not even worthy to untie his sandals
8. John the Baptist died by being beheaded while Jesus died by crucification
9. Jesus was physically baptized by John the Baptist while John the Baptist just shared in the spiritual baptism of Jesus when the dove descended on him
10. John the Baptist was buried by his real disciples while Jesus was buried by Joseph of Arimathea who was his follower
11. John’s baptism was to prepare people for the coming of Jesus while that of Jesus aimed at preparing people to enter the kingdom of God
12. John chose his own disciples while some of Jesus’ disciples originally belonged to John the Baptist
13. John’ ministry was carried out among the Jews while that of Jesus took place among the Jews and Gentiles
14. John the Baptist is shown to have baptized many people while Jesus it is not shown anywhere that Jesus baptized any person

**The meaning or significance of the story between the rich young man and Jesus (Mark 10:17-31)**

1. The story shows God’s love for mankind shown through his son Jesus Christ i.e. Jesus looked at the young man with love
2. It signifies the humbleness of Jesus Christ that is why he refused to be called good teacher because it is only God who is good
3. It signifies that enter God’s kingdom one needs to sacrifice physical wealth
4. It signifies the importance of knowing and keeping God’s commandments as the young man did
5. It signifies the disciples lack of understanding of Jesus ie they also believed like Jews that wealth is a blessing from God and that those with it will be special in front of God
6. It signifies the need to share ones wealth with the less privileged people
7. The story shows that spiritual wealth is greater than material wealth since the riches of the world are temporary
8. It signifies that Jesus has the answer to all our questions as he answered the reach young man
9. It signifies that calling Jesus a good teacher and recognizing him as a messiah is not enough for one to attain salvation but it is doing the will of God
10. It also shows that following the 10 commandments is not enough to inherit God’s kingdom but sharing with the needy
11. The story shows that wealth can be a hindrance to inherit in God’s kingdom especially depending on the way one acquired it and used it
12. It signifies the universality of God’s kingdom since the rich and the poor can enter it
13. It signifies the need for one to accept Jesus and his words in order to enter God’s kingdom
14. It signifies that whoever sacrifices his earthly wealth and other important things for the sake of God and fellow people will inherit God’s kingdom
15. It signifies it also signifies the importance of putting faith into action ie the young man knew the 10 commandments but was not willing to share all his wealth with the poor

**The significance of thr triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-11)**

1. It signifies the divinity of Jesus ie when he instructed them to bring the cult they found everything as he had told them
2. It signifies the fulfillment of the old testament scriptures ig Psalms says may God bless the one who comes in the name of God
3. It signifies that Jesus was a descendant of David and the awaited messiah
4. It signifies the humbleness of Jesus as he used a cult (young donkey) instead of a camel
5. It signifies the spiritual blindness of people of that time i.e. they still believed that he was a political king
6. It demonstrated that the kingdom of god had already come on earth showed through the way people praised Jesus
7. It signifies Jesus’ intention of hiding his messiah ship by riding a simple animal
8. It signifies Jesus as a true spiritual messiah i.e. after reaching Jerusalem he went directly to the temple
9. It signifies the end of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee the Gentile land
10. The jubilation, shouting and singing during the triumphant entry signified the joy and happiness that will be experienced by the faithful in God’s kingdom
11. It signifies the holiness of Jesus as he rode s donkey which had never been ridden
12. It signifies that people had understood him as a king by spreading out their clothes and shaking branches of trees
13. It signifies that the time of Jesus to declare his messiah ship had come that’s why he allowed people to sing hosanna for him
14. It signifies the salvation of mankind was God’s plan that’s why he prepared Jesus a cult to use when going to Jerusalem
15. It also signified the love Jesus’ followers had for him by spreading their clothes on dirty ground

**Reasons why Jesus cleansed the Jerusalem temple (Mark 11:15-19)**

1. He wanted to fulfill the old testament scriptures i.e. Malachi 3 says “I will send a messenger to prepare the way for me then the lord you’re looking for will suddenly come to his temple”
2. The original purpose of the temple had been abused since it had been turned into a market place
3. There was a lot of noise and shouting in the temple which was not conducive for worshipping God
4. Jesus wanted to show his divine authority as the owner of the temple
5. There was exploitation of worshippers who intended to buy animals and birds for sacrifice ie they were over charged
6. The church had turned into a forex beaure since the gentles had to convert their currency into the Jewish currency
7. Because there was no order since the same temple was used for worship and at the same time a market
8. There was a lot of quarrels and disputes in the temple which made it lose its holiness
9. JESUS wanted to show that he was the promised messiah as he could not tolerate the abuse of his father’s house
10. The temple had been turned into a center of discrimination where gentile worshippers were discriminated from the Jews i.e. the sat differently
11. Because majority of the worshippers in the temple were hypocrites i.e. they came to make money not to pray
12. Because the priests were greedy for money and meet that they allowed any animal as a sacrifice whether it was clean or un clean
13. Because Jesus wanted to show that the sacrifice of birds and animals was no longer necessary since himself was the perfect and final sacrifice
14. The temple had been commercialized that the poor had to pay some money in order to use the temple for prayers

**Significance of Jesus’ cleansing of the temple**

1. He wanted to the fulfillment of the OT scriptures ie Isaiah says “do think that my temple is a hiding place for robbers? I’m seeing what you are doing”
2. It signified Jesus’ determination to purify the temple back to the standards of house of the lord
3. It signified the universality of Jesus’ messiah ship i.e. he showed concern for suffering Christians both Jews and gentiles
4. It signified the humanity of Jesus i.e. he got annoyed and overturned the tables
5. It signified animals and birds will no longer be necessary as a sacrifice for forgiving ones sins
6. It signified that holiness was part and partial of God’s kingdom
7. It signified the divinity of Jesus i.e. he proved his authority over the temple and nobody tried to touch him
8. It signified that Jesus’ intention of hiding his messiah ship had come an end because he referred the temple as his father’s house
9. It signified that the Jewish practice of hypocrisy had been revealed by Jesus ie they had turned the church into a den of robbers through over charging the buyers
10. It signified the opportunity Jesus had to teach people the right way to use the temple
11. It signified the climax of the hostility towards the Jesus by the teachers of the law ie they based on his words and actions to plan his death
12. It signified the need for spiritual cleansing of our bodies as a body is a temple of God
13. It signified the failure of religious leaders to fulfill their duties of guiding people.

**Reasons why Jesus was opposed by Jewish leaders**

1. Because he equated himself to God through forgiving sins
2. Because he conflicted with the Pharisees and made their teachings appear misleading people
3. He associated with ritually unclean people
4. He appeared to them as a law breaker especially about the Sabbath
5. He exposed the hypocrisy of religious leaders and this made them lose followers
6. He performed many miracles which attracted many people from the Pharisees
7. He stopped his disciples from fasting which was a ritual practice among the Jews
8. He proved more intelligent than them when he was able to handle technical questions eg about whom to pay the tax.
9. Because his disciples had foregone the ancestral way of washing hands up to the elbow
10. Because of his home background and education background
11. Because of his teaching in parables eg when he talked about tearing down the temple and build it in 3 days
12. Because of calling himself a son of God
13. Because of his refusal to perform a miracle for the Pharisees when they needed it to prove that his power comes from God
14. He emerged victorious everyday because of the wonderful miracles he performed
15. Because of his use of the parable of the wicked tenant which directly attracted them
16. Because of his teaching about the resurrection of the body which they never believed in
17. Because he performed many miracles in the gentile land
18. Because of the roamers among people that Jesus was the awaited messiah and king

**The eschatological discourse or the prophecy of the end of the world (Mark 13:1-37)**

This discourse began when one of the disciples commented that the stones that made the Jerusalem temple were so beautiful and expensive and so Jesus responded by saying “ you see those great buildings not a single stone here will be left in its place, each one of them will be thrown down.” As a result, the disciples asked Jesus to tell them when these things will happen and the indications that they were about to happen. Jesus told them about how the scatological discourse will be in the following ways;

1. Jesus advised them to always be alert and not be deceived by anyone
2. He discouraged them from being troubled when they hear the noise of the battle or the news about the battles far away because such things must happen as signs for the end of the world
3. He informed them that countries will fight each other and kingdoms will attack one another
4. He also said that there will be earthquakes everywhere and famine will kill people
5. Persecution of those who believe in Christ will be at its climax
6. He went ahead to say that, before the end of the world the gospel must be preached to all people
7. He also said that there will be family disorders, children will go against their own parents and parents as well
8. He said that the shaking of the world will be terrible for pregnant women and their babies
9. He also said that the day of the Lord will come suddenly like a thief
10. He also added that someone on the roof of his house will not get time to come down nor someone in the field will be able to get back home to get his cloak
11. He also said that the lord has reduced the number of those days but if it was not, nobody will have survived
12. He also added that many false preachers will come up to mislead God’s people
13. He also said that the sun will become dark, the moon will no longer shine and the stars will fall from heaven to earth
14. After all that, the son of man will appear in a crowd with great power and glory
15. He assured them that heaven and earth will pass away but his words will never pass so they should expect the lord’s day
16. He confirmed them that no one knows that day and hour neither him nor the angels in heaven but only God the father
17. The dead and the living will both be judged and human body will be transformed to immortal bodies

**The passion narrative of Jesus Christ (Mark 14 – 25)**

Chapter 14 and 15 of Mark presents the practical suffering of Jesus fulfilling what he told several times to his disciples and the passion narrative is what is commonly known as the holly week, ie it involves the arrest, suffering death burial as shown below

1. It involves the plot to arrest Jesus by the Jewish leaders before the Passover meal since arresting him on that day would cause riot among people
2. It involves the anointing of jesus by a woman at Bethany in preparing him death and burial
3. It presents the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot as Jesus had predicted on the last supper
4. It involves Jesus eating of the last supper with his disciples when he said that the one he shares a dish with was going to betray him
5. It involves the everlasting covenant Jesus made with his disciples on the last supper
6. It involves the prediction of Peter’s denial of Jesus three times before the cock crows
7. It involves Jesus arrest in the garden of Gethsemane after serious prayers
8. It involves Jesus desertion by his disciples including Peter who had promised never to leave him
9. It involves Jesus trial before the council where he declared his messiah ship
10. It involves Peter’s denial of Jesus as he had predicted
11. It involves the trial of Jesus by pirate and sentencing him to death though he was sure that Jesus was innocent
12. It involves Jesus being mocked by soldiers and his crucification with two core criminals
13. It involved Jesus death which was miraculous as darkness covered the whole world during day time which made many believe that he was a son of God
14. It involves the burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea a great associate of Jesus and a member of the council

**The significance of the anointing of Jesus at Bethany (mark 14:3-9)**

1. it signified Jesus as the king of the Jews since the kings of that time would be anointed
2. it signified Jesus as the awaited messiah since the word means” the anointed one of the lord”
3. it signified that the kingdom of God was open to all people including women
4. it signified the anointing of Jesus dead body in advance a ritual done to all dead bodies in Israel
5. it signified the respect the woman had for Jesus
6. it signified the humbleness of Jesus as he greatly appreciated the act of the woman
7. it signified that following Jesus involves risk taking as women were not allowed to appear before men in the Jewish culture
8. it signified the lack of understanding of Jesus by the people in s Simon’s house as they criticized a woman for wasting the expensive oil
9. It signified the greed for people in the house for saying that the oil would have been sold
10. It signified the importance of total surrender as the woman did by surrendering her expensive oil to anoint Jesus
11. It signified that Jesus rewards those who love him and sacrifice for him
12. It signified Jesus protection for those who love him ie he stopped people from criticizing the woman
13. It signified the uplift of women the Jewish culture as Jesus approved her action
14. It signified the act of faith demonstrated with actions

**Comparison of the anointing of Jesus in Mark and John’s gospel**

**Similarities**

1. In both gospels the anointing took place at Bethany
2. In both Jesus was anointed with expensive oil
3. In both gospels Jesus was anointed by a woman
4. In both gospels Jesus was anointed while having a meal they had prepared for him
5. In both gospels the anointment was meant to prepare Jesus for his death and burial
6. In both gospel the woman who anointed Jesus was rebuked by the people around for wasting the expensive
7. In both gospels the anointing of Jesus took place in man’s house
8. In both gospels Jesus criticized those who criticized the woman for anointing Jesus
9. In both gospels Jesus appreciated the woman’s action
10. In both the act of anointing Jesus was witnessed by many people
11. In both gospels, hypocrisy was revealed by those who criticized the woman pretending to love the poor yet they didn’t
12. In both gospels the oil used to anoint Jesus was valued 300 silver coins

**Differences**

1. In mark Jesus was anointed at Simon’s house while in John’s he was anointed at Lazarus’ house
2. In Mark the woman who anointed Jesus is not mentioned by the name but in John’s Gospel she’s identified as Mary
3. In Mark Jesus was anointed with oil on the head but in John oil was poured on Jesus’ feet an wiped by Mary’s hair
4. Whereas in mark’s Gospel people who rebuked the woman are not identified by the names, in John’s gospel the person rebuked the woman was Judas Iscariot
5. In mark the woman came outside the house, while in John’s gospel Mary was already in Lazarus’ house
6. In Mark, the anointing of Jesus took place after the triumphant entry while in John’s gospel it took place before Jesus’ triumphant entry in Jerusalem
7. In mark the woman broke the jar and poured all the oil in Jesus’ head while in John’s gospel a half a liter of oil was poured on Jesus’ feet
8. In mark Jesus appreciated the action of a woman and made a promise to her while in John’s gospel Jesus appreciated but did not make any promise
9. In mark there’s nothing mentioned about the smell but in John’s gospel the sweet smell of the expensive oil filled the whole house
10. In mark only Simon is mentioned but in John’s gospel many personality are mentioned e.g. Mary, Martha, Lazarus etc

**Reasons why Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus**

1. Judas felt jealous of Jesus because he was never included among those Jesus chose on important occasions e.g. the transfiguration
2. Judas must have been greedy for money
3. He seemed to have over trusted the divinity of Jesus and never thought that he can be arrested by mere human beings
4. Judas could have wanted to gain cheap popularity from the Jewish political leaders
5. Jesus’ betrayal by Judas could have been as a result of God’s divine plan
6. Because Judas was over powered by Satan who was against Jesus’ ministry and God’s salvation plan
7. He betrayed Jesus because he wanted to appear in books of records
8. Because he was frustrated by Jesus’ continuous lack of political figure since many expected him to be a political messiah
9. Because he was envious and jealousy because of Jesus’ ever growing popularity
10. Because among the disciples he was the weakest in faith since he failed to show genuine love to Jesus
11. Because he felt un easy among other disciples because of Jesus’ prediction of his betrayal
12. He must have been tricked and influenced by religious leaders to betray Jesus
13. Because Judas came from the zealots, the sect and advocated for arms’ struggle against the Romans yet Jesus was not showing any action in the direction of politics
14. Because some disciples were backsliding in faith and losing their original commitment to Jesus

**Comparison between the teaching about the Lord’s Supper in mark and John**

**Similarities**

* + - 1. In both gospels the lord’s supper started in the evening and ended at night
      2. It was during the lords’ supper that Jesus predicted his betrayal by Judas Iscariot
      3. Jesus is present as the initiator of the lord’s supper and the central figure in it
      4. It was on the lord’s supper that Jesus predicted peter’s denial
      5. The lord’s supper marked the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples before his death and resurrection
      6. Judas Iscariot the betrayer left Jesus and other disciples on the table and went to implement his mission
      7. Jesus referred to himself as a son of man as a way of bringing himself closer to his disciples
      8. The disciples failed to know the actual person who was going to betray Jesus even after Jesus showing them the sign.
      9. During the lord’s supper, Jesus predicted his death and promised never to eat un revained bread and wine until in his father’s kingdom
      10. The lord’s supper involved eating bread and drinking wine which indicated Jesus’ body and blood
      11. The disciples were shocked and worried about Jesus’ death that he had openly declared
      12. The disciples showed lack of understanding of Jesus e.g. Peter who promised die for Jesus

Differences

1. In mark’s gospel the lord’s supper took place on the exact day of the Passover meal while in John the lord’s supper took place a day before the Passover meal
2. In mark Jesus tells his disciples that he will never again take wine until in his father’s kingdom while in John’s gospel he tells them that he will not be with them much longer
3. In mark the disciples asked Jesus where to prepare the lord’s supper from while in John’s gospel the disciples are only presented having the lord’s supper
4. In mark all had the lord’s supper until the end yet in John’s gospel Judas left before the end of lord’s supper
5. In mark, the lord’s supper was prepared in the upper room but john’s gospel does not present the place where the lord’s supper was presented
6. In mark the disciples sang a hymn with Jesus after the supper but in John’s gospel there’s no singing of any hymn
7. In mark’s gospel Jesus initiated the sacrament of the holy communion but in John, Jesus washed his disciples’ feet
8. In mark gospel, Jesus predicted Peter’s denial after the lord’s supper but in John Jesus predicted Peter’s denial when they were still eating the supper
9. In mark all the 12 disciples of Jesus were treated equally yet in John’s gospel there was a beloved disciple of Jesus
10. In mark Jesus warns his disciples about his death after the supper while in John’s gospel Jesus talked about his death while still eating the lord’s supper
11. In mark Jesus identifies the betrayer as one who deeps his bread in the same dish with Jesus while in John’s gospel Jesus a piece of bread to Judas
12. In mark the lord’s supper replaces the original sacrifices while in John’s gospel it demonstrates a good leader who serves other by washing the disciples’ feet
13. In mark Jesus gives a brief teaching does not says farewell to his disciples but in John’s gospel Jesus gives a detailed teaching and says farewell to his disciples

**Evidence to show that Jesus was sentenced to death innocently**

1. Many witnesses who testified against Jesus gave contradicting information
2. Jesus was arrested during night and was hurried taken to court
3. Pirate found no case against Jesus that’s why he washed the innocent blood from his hands
4. Pirate knew that the chief priest had brought Jesus to him out of jealous but he wanted recognition among the Jews
5. The Jewish council sat hurriedly at night something which was un usual
6. Pirate wanted to release Jesus on the Passover festival but chief priest insisted on crucifying him
7. Jesus was arrested by the high priest’s slaves who were not the official people to arrest criminals
8. The way the high priest questioned Jesus by provoking him proved that he was innocent
9. The priest’s action tearing Jesus’ garments in court proved that he was just jealous of Jesus
10. The priest’s failure to give Jesus a chance to explain himself proved that he was innocent
11. His arrest after bribing Judas Iscariot proved his innocence
12. Jesus’ sympathizers were harshly treated by the Jewish council proving that he was innocent
13. By the time Jesus was handed over to pirate he was unpopular and so the Jews knows that he had to sentence him to death to earn popularity
14. Pirate’s continuous action of telling the crowd the Jesus was innocent proves that he was innocent
15. A label that was put on his cross to show that he was the king of the Jews proves that he was innocent
16. The confession of the Roman official who saw Jesus dyeing as a true messiah proves that he was not a criminal
17. The resurrection of Jesus from the death also shows that he was innocent but died according to God’s plan

**Evidence to show that women were good disciples**

1. After Jesus healing Simon Peter’s mother, she started serving food and drinks to Jesus and his disciples
2. The woman with a constant blood flow proved her faith in Jesus which led to her healing hence attracting many to Jesus
3. The poor widow who offered the little she had whole heartedly won the hearts of many
4. A woman who anointed Jesus with expensive oil really proved his love and faith
5. Several women followed Jesus up to Golgotha crying before him
6. Women were the first people to discover that Jesus had risen from the dead
7. After Jesus resurrection, he first appeared to women e.g. Mary Magdalene
8. It was women that the angel instructed to go and inform the disciples that Jesus had resurrected
9. Jesus Christ was born by a woman-the virgin Mary
10. It was Mary, Jesus mother who got concerned when Jesus got lost
11. The syro- Phoenician woman’s faith even after being called a dog by Jesus show that women were good disciples
12. It was women who carried perfumes and oils to go and anoint the body of Jesus though he had risen from the dead
13. It was an adulterous woman who proved to Jesus that most people misuse sex
14. It was a woman who gave water to Jesus when he was thirsty
15. It was a woman- Martha who informed Jesus about the death of his friend Lazarus

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

It is the forth gospel in the new testament which does not depend on the other gospels.

**Authorship of John’s gospel**

1. It is believed to have been written by John the eye witness of Jesus Christ and the most beloved one
2. According to the church, it was written by John the apostle and one of the most respected members of the church
3. He is believed to have been a Jew of the Palestine origin due to the geographical features he used from that area
4. He is John the one Peter requested to ask Jesus who was going to betray him
5. He is John the son of Zebedee the fisher man
6. He is John who was together with James when requesting to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus in heaven
7. He is John the brother of James the fisherman and a former disciple of John the Baptist
8. He is the one who reminded peter that the man who told them to throw the nets in water and caught many fish was the risen lord
9. He is the one who ran faster than Peter to the tomb when they heard that Jesus had risen
10. He is the disciple who witnessed blood and water come out of Jesus’ side when the soldier pierced him on the cross
11. He is the one who leaned against Jesus when taking the last supper
12. He is the one whom Jesus told that he was Mary’s son and Mary his mother while on the cross
13. He was John one of the seven disciples Jesus found struggling with fishing and made them catch many fish
14. He is John who was one of the three disciples during the transfiguration of Jesus
15. He is John one of the disciples who went with Jesus to pray in the garden of Gathesimane

**Aims of writing John’s gospel**

1. John wrote to encourage his audience to believe in Jesus as the awaited messiah
2. He wrote to defend Christianity against the enemies of the church
3. He wrote to show the universality of the gospel ie for both Jews and Gentiles
4. He wanted to prove that Jesus was a son of God and resurrected from the dead
5. To give a written record about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ
6. To complement and supplement on the synoptic gospels
7. To strengthen the faith of the suffering Christians
8. To write a book that would be used during evangelism
9. To prove to the Jewish political leaders that Christianity was not against politics
10. To prove that God the creator is the same God who came with the salvation plan
11. To teach people about the resurrection of the body
12. To stress out the humanity of Jesus
13. To show that Jesus had divine powers eg. When he raised Lazarus from the dead
14. To correct the misconception that John the Baptist was greater than Jesus
15. To make moral reforms among the believers of Jesus Christ
16. To prove that Christian growth is gradual( a slow process)
17. Because he had been inspired by the holy spirit
18. To show that Jesus existed during the creation of the world
19. To explain the importance of the holy spirit
20. It was written for catechetical and liturgical purposes
21. It was written to shoe the doctrine of the Trinity
22. To show that the new testament is a continuation of the old testament

**Characteristics of John’s gospel**

1. It has the prologue in which the main themes are summarized
2. It openly declares the messiah ship of Jesus from the beginning to the end
3. It presents seven miracles which John refer to as signs
4. The arrangement and timing of events is different from other synoptic gospels
5. It presents Jesus as commonly referring to God as his father
6. It uses the word “the Jews” to mean opponents of Jesus
7. It has two parts: that of signs and that of the passion narrative
8. It presents Jesus ministry in the Jewish land
9. It has the geography of Palestine
10. It uses the term “eternal life” to mean God’s kingdom
11. It has a main theme” God’s son became flesh…..” which is not common in other gospels
12. It is characterized by contravasaries s and conflicts between Jesus and the Jewish leaders
13. It uses a lot of ordinary symbols to reveal spiritual truth
14. It presents Jesus teaching in form of discourses (prophecies or earthly statements with a divine meaning) e.g. between Jesus and Necodemus
15. It is characterized by contrasts and e.g. love and hatred, sin and righteousness
16. Many words used in it have double meaning e.g. “lifting the son of man” to mean resurrection of Jesus Christ
17. It is more philosophical with detailed message
18. It presents more witnesses of Jesus as the messiah. E.g. John the Baptist, Nathan etc
19. It is characterized by 7 discourses i.e. “I am the real vine, my father is the gardener”
20. It presents the humanity of Jesus vividly e.g. Jesus wept.
21. It presents Jesus ministry as universal

**Comparison between mark’s gospel and John’s gospel**

**Similarities**

1. Both present similar topics about Jesus Christ e.g. the triumphant entry
2. Both have similar presentation of Jesus ‘ events ie John the Baptist’s mission, Jesus baptism etc
3. Both aim at presenting the good news about Christ
4. Both show that John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus
5. Both show the humanity of Jesus e.g. born of human parents
6. Both show the divinity of Jesus e.g he rose from the dead
7. Both present Jesus as the central figure in their gospels
8. Both show the disciple’s lack of understanding of Jesus
9. Both reflect the message of the kerygyma
10. Both present Jesus as spending three days in the grave
11. Both show the hostility between Jesus and the Jewish leaders
12. Both show the love of God revealed through Jesus Christ
13. Both show Jesus as a prophet and miracle performer
14. Both show that Jesus’s coming was a fulfillment of the OT scriptures
15. Both show Jesus as a son of God and a promised messiah
16. Both present Jesus as lord, teacher and king
17. Both show Jesus calling his disciples at different time

**Differences**

1. Mark was written earlier than John’s gospel
2. Mark tries to hide Jesus’ messiah ship but John’s gospel discloses it
3. Mark does not show the duration of Jesus ministry but John says it took three years
4. Mark’s gospel calls the super natural deeds of Jesus as miracles yet John calls them signs
5. Mark presents the woman who anointed Jesus as breaking the jar but in John’s gospel Mary used only a half a liter of oil to anoint Jesus
6. Mark shows that Jesus was helped to carry the cross but John’s gospel shows Jesus carrying it alone
7. Mark does not talk about people like Necodemus who is talked about in John’s gospel
8. Mark does not show that Jesus was pierced by a soldier on the cross to prove that he was dead but John’s gospel shows it
9. Mark’s gospel presents Jesus performing many miracles of exorcism which are not shown in John
10. The cleansing of the Jerusalem temple comes after the triumphant entry in mark while in John’s gospel he did it before the triumphant entry
11. Mark presents Jesus teaching using parables while in John’s gospel he uses discourses
12. John’s gospel has places and events which are not in mark eg the wedding at Cana
13. Mark shows Jesus saying that ‘ my God, my God why have you abandoned me” and died but john shows Jesus saying that” it is finished” and died
14. Mark shows Jesus hardly going to Jerusalem but John shows Jesus visiting Jerusalem many times
15. Mark show Jesus’ disciples as entirely his but John shows that some belonged to John the Baptist
16. Mark’s gospel is short and belief while that of John is detailed
17. Jesus’ work in mark is based in Galilee while in John it is based in Judea
18. The language used in mark is simple and direct but in John is indirect and hard
19. Mark shows the last supper and the Passover taking place on the same day but in John they took place on different days

**Note:**

*Portrait of Jesus in John’s gospel as well as his humanity and divinity, refer to mark’s gospel*

**The prologue of John’s gospel**

The prologue of John’s gospel involves the following;

1. It shows that in the beginning the word already existed meaning that Jesus was God and existed before creation
2. It also shows that Jesus is the creative word of God and all creatures were made through him
3. John shows that the word is the source of life
4. The term like life, truth, darkness and glory are used to show the nature of Jesus
5. The word became a human being and lived among people
6. It also shows the divinity of Jesus
7. It shows Jesus as a reflection of truth and glory of God
8. It shows Jesus as a wisdom of God
9. The prologue shows John the Baptist and other prophets sent by God to prepare a way for Jesus
10. It shows the failure of people to understand Jesus
11. It shows that some welcomed Jesus and believed him as the messiah
12. It shows the deeper relationship that existed between God the father and Jesus
13. It shows that all believers became children of God through Jesus Christ
14. It shows Jesus as a true son of God and a source of internal life
15. It shows that Jesus is more powerful than Satan
16. It shows that death and resurrection of Jesus and his ascension into heaven is a reality
17. It shows that salvation came into the world through Jesus Christ according to God’s plan
18. It shows the victory of Jesus Christ on the cross
19. It shows how the old testament scriptures were fulfilled
20. It shows the importance of baptism
21. It shows that God’s blessings had been sent into the world to those who believe in Christ

**Signs in John’s gospel**

Signs are defined as acts of divine power which manifests the rule of God, His love and the salvation he offers to mankind. Signs are same as miracles in the synoptic gospels

**General significance of signs in John**

1. They signify the fulfillment of the old testament scriptures as prophesized by the prophets
2. They signify the glory of God to mankind i.e. the turning of water into wine signified the heavenly banquet
3. They signify that the heavenly kingdom had already came on earth through Jesus Christ
4. They signify Jesus as a giver and sustainer of life
5. They signify Jesus as a bread of life ie he was concerned about people’s welfare
6. They signify the humanity of Jesus i.e. He sympathized with the suffering
7. They signify the divinity of Jesus i.e. through raising Lazarus to life
8. They signify the importance of faith in Jesus
9. They signify Jesus as a messiah through the wonders he made
10. They signify Jesus’ intention to attract people into his ministry
11. They signify the future joy people will have in the kingdom of God
12. They signify Jesus’ power over Satan
13. They signify the difference between Jesus and religious leaders as they could not perform miracles
14. They signify that salvation is both physical and spiritual
15. They signify that salvation is a free gift to mankind as he did not charge any money for any miracles he performed
16. They signify that Jesus’ ministry was universal
17. They signify the disciples’ lack of understanding of Jesus
18. They signify Jesus as a savant of mankind i.e. he minded much about serving people
19. They signify Jesus as the lord of the Sabbath
20. They signify the importance of prayer
21. They signify that everything is possible before God
22. They signify that observing the law does not give salvation

**Signs in John’s gospel**

1. ***Jesus turns water into wine (John 2:1-12):*** This is the first sign of Jesus in John’s gospel. It happened at Cana of Galilee at a wedding feast where Jesus and his mother Mary were invited. At the function, the wine they had got finished and the organizers of the wedding became stuck. Jesus’ mother said to Jesus “*they have no wine.”* Jesus replied “you *must not tell me what to do; my time has not yet come.”* Jesus’ mother then told the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them. After sometime, Jesus told the servants to fill 6 Jars with water and told them to serve it to the people. The wine tested best. And the guests wondered how they can serve the best wine at the end of the feast. The servants and the disciples were all amazed

**Significance of the miracle**

1. The wedding feast signifies the heavenly banquet that it will be full of joy and happiness
2. The best wine Jesus made signifies the good news of Christ that replaced the Jewish law
3. The new wine which sweeter than the first one symbolize that the heavenly kingdom is far better than the earthly kingdom
4. The miracle signifies the intimate relationship between Jesus and his mother that’s why he did as she requested
5. It signifies that Jesus is the solution to people’s problems
6. It signifies the importance of obedience to God i.e. if the servant refused to fill the jars with water, there wouldn’t have been wine
7. It signifies the divinity of Jesus as water turned into wine miraculously
8. It signifies God’s glory which deepened the faith of the disciples
9. It signifies that Jesus supports marriage
10. It signifies Jesus as a servant of mankind
11. It signifies the importance of inviting Jesus in our lives and activities
12. It signifies the humanity of Jesus as he attends social functions like any other human being
13. It signifies women as good disciples of Jesus
14. It signifies the fulfillment of the old testament scriptures about the messiah
15. It signifies importance of faith in Jesus Christ i.e. Mary showed faith that’s why she requested from Jesus
16. It signifies Jesus as the awaited messiah the one who will remove people’s misery
17. ***The healing of the Roman official’s son (John 4:43-54)*:** This miracle also happened in Galilee when Jesus went to Capernaum where the Roman official had a son that was about to die. Jesus tested the official’s faith by telling him that he cannot believe unless after seeing a miracle but the official insisted on his demand. Then told him, “go your son will live.” The man believed and returned home. While on his way his servants met him with good news about the boy. And when he asked them about the time when he got well, it was the time when Jesus told him that the boy will live.
18. ***Healing of the crippled man at the pool of Bathzartha (John 5:***1-18): On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to Jerusalem for a religious festival on the way near the ship-gate (Bathzartha pool) there was a big crowd of people that included the blind, the lame etc. there was a man who had been ill for 38 years and when Jesus saw he asked him whether he wanted to be well. Then he said “*sir I have no one to put me into the pool. And when I try to get in someone gets in before me.”* Then Jesus told him, “*get up pick your mat and walk.”* Immediately the man got well. As he was walking back home, he met Jewish leaders who condemned the act of Jesus healing on Sabbath. Later when the man met Jesus in the temple, Jesus told him to stop sinning otherwise something worst may happen to him
19. ***The feeding of the great crowd (John 6:1-15)*:** After healing several sick people, large crowd followed Jesus, and Jesus tested Philip by asking him where they can buy enough food to feed the people. Philip answered that it was impossible because they had little money. Andrew one of Jesus’ disciples told Jesus that a boy had 5 loaves and 2 fish which were not enough. Jesus told the disciples to make people sit on the grass and after praying for the fish and bread he distributed it to the people. They ate and had their fill that disciples collected 12 baskets of leftovers. They were about 5000 men which amazed many people
20. ***Jesus walks on water (John 6:16-21)***: In the evening after feeding 5000 men, Jesus’ disciples got into the boat and sailed to Capernaum. After some distance, they met a strong wind that blew and stirred up the water. After some minutes, the disciples saw Jesus walking on water coming towards their boat. They were terrified but Jesus told them “*Don’t be afraid, it I.”*  they willing took him into the boat and the strong wind came to an end.
21. ***Jesus heals a man born blind (John 9:1-12)***: As Jesus and his disciples were moving around, Jesus saw man who was born blind, his disciples asked “teacher, *whose sin caused to be born blind? Was it his own or his parent’s sin?”* Jesus told them that it was by God’s will so that his power may be sin at work in him. Jesus went ahead and said “*while I’m in the world I am the light of the world.”* He then spat on the ground and made some mad which rubbed in the man’s eyes and told him to go and wash in the pool. After washing the man gained his sight and people who used to know him, all got amazed when he told them that it was Jesus who made him see again.
22. ***The sign of raising Lazarus to life (John 11:1-57)*** : Lazarus lived in Bethany with 2 sisters Martha and Mary, Mary was one who anointed Jesus with expensive oil on his feet. Lazarus was ill and died but Jesus had been informed by Mary about the sickness of his friend Lazarus. When Jesus wanted to go to Judea to show God’s glory, his disciples tried to discourage him because it was the place they wanted to stone him. Whey arrived; they found Lazarus had died four days ago. Jesus told Martha to inform him about the situation of his death and later Jesus said “*Your brother will be raised to life.”* But Martha did not understand. After Martha confessing that Jesus was the Messiah and son of God, Jesus went to the tomb and ordered the people to remove the stone from the entrance. Jesus prayed to his father in heaven and later called out in a loud voice *“Lazarus come out.”*  He came out his arms, feet and face wrapped in grave clothes and Jesus told them to un tie him and let him go. Many people, who saw the miracle, believed Jesus and spread the news to everywhere. The Jewish authority planned to kill Jesus but he did not openly travel again in Judea.

**Circumstances that led to the raising of Lazarus to life by Jesus**

1. Lazarus Jesus’ friend had fallen sick and died when Jesus was not in Judea.
2. Mary’s effort to send a message to Jesus informing him about the illness of Lazarus
3. Jesus wanted to reveal God’s glory and his power over death.
4. Jesus’ concern for his family friends forced him raise their brother back to life
5. The desire of Jesus to deepen his disciples’ faith
6. The faith of Martha and Mary in Jesus that they still believed that he can raise their brother even after 4 days of death.
7. The humanity of Jesus that he even wiped after feeling sympathy for the two sisters
8. The arguments among people that Jesus could only sight but could not raise the dead
9. The desire of Jesus to prove to people that there’s life after death
10. The desire of Jesus to show his divine authority i.e. Martha insisted that the boy was already smelling but Jesus opened his spiritual ears from the grave and heard him call Lazarus out
11. The desire for Jesus to prove to people the importance of prayer i.e., he first prayed before calling Lazarus out
12. Jesus wanted to prove how much he loved that family
13. Jesus wanted to sow that he is the true and awaited messiah as confessed by Martha
14. Jesus’ intention to prove to people that resurrection is a fact and that God has power to raise the dead

**Discourses in the gospel of John**

Whereas the synoptic gospels present Jesus teaching using Parables, in John’s gospel he taught using discourses. A discourse is a lengthy conversation between Jesus and other people with a divine meaning

**Reasons why Jesus used discourses in John’s gospel**

1. To take a step in people’s salvation e.g. a discourse between Jesus and the Samaritan woman
2. Because they were effective in winning him followers as they would listen and ask questions
3. Because won him disciples very easily as the listener easily understood e.g. the Samaritan woman who went and told everyone about a man who told her everything about her
4. Helped listeners to have a better knowledge about God’s kingdom
5. Because they helped Jesus to show the contrast between earthly and heavenly matters e.g. a discourse between Jesus and Necodemus
6. Because they would reveal his messiah ship by the time it ends
7. To reveal his humanity i.e. Jesus was tired and thirsty by asking for water from the woman
8. They helped Jesus to introduce important sacraments to his followers e.g. baptism when he was with Necodemus
9. Jesus wanted to challenge his opponents e.g. his discourse with Necodemus a Jewish leader
10. They helped Jesus to talk to people they least expected him to talk to e.g. his conversation with Samaritan woman
11. Because they captivated a personal relation between Jesus and other Individuals
12. Because they revealed the lack of understanding of his disciples and the audience e.g., the disciples were surprised to find Jesus discussing with the woman
13. Because they contained a lot of meaning symbols e.g. the discourse with Nicodemus water meant baptism while with that of the Samaritan woman it meant life
14. Because they helped to reveal God’s love for mankind i.e. the water which the woman was to give to Jesus was going to give her internal life in return

**The discourse between Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)**

**Significance of the conversation**

1. It signified Jesus as the messiah who is willing to spend time for the salvation of someone
2. It signifies the humanity of Jesus like any human being Jesus had friends like Nicodemus
3. It signifies that all Pharisees were not opposing Jesus
4. It signifies a reflection from the old testament scriptures eg Jesus gave the example of Moses lifting the bronze snake in the desert to point to his crucification so as to save mankind
5. It signifies Jesus as the promised messiah since Nicodemus confessed that Jesus was a teacher sent by God
6. It signifies the importance of faith eg Nicodemus expressed faith in Jesus
7. The term darkness as used by Jesus signifies evil and ignorance of the former dark life of Nicodemus before coming to Jesus
8. Being born again signifies the need for repentance for one to enter God’s kingdom
9. It signifies God’s love for sinful mankind i.e. Jesus wanted to save Nicodemus and make him a new creature
10. It signifies luck of spiritual eyes and ears i.e. Nicodemus thought that being born again means going back into one mother’s womb
11. It signifies that understanding God’s ways is gradual i.e. Nicodemus a highly educated man could not understand the discourse
12. It signifies that becoming a Christian is by God’s grace that’s why Nicodemus longed to meet Jesus before he died
13. It signifies that baptism is very important for one to enter God’s kingdom i.e. being born of water and the holy spirit
14. It signifies that the coming of Jesus into the world was to offer salvation to those who believe in him and the judgment day
15. It signifies Jesus as a source of everlasting life that’s why he told Necodemus that whoever believes in him will live forever

**The discourse between Jesus and Samaritan woman (John 4:1-42)**

**Significance of the conversation**

1. It signifies Jesus as the initiator of salvation i.e. he was the first to approach the woman
2. It signifies the universality of Jesus’ ministry since the Samaritan woman was a gentile
3. It signifies Jesus as the promised messiah as many Samaritans confessed
4. It signifies Jesus’ divinity since he prophesized everything about the Samaritan woman
5. It signifies the reflection of the old testament scriptures since Jacob’s whale was believed to have holy water
6. That Jesus did not need physical food but a good relationship with Godly maters
7. It signifies that people who come to Jesus to share their experiences with, they share his life
8. The 5 husbands the woman had signified the immorality of that Samaritan woman
9. It signifies the humanity of Jesus that is, he gets tired and thirsty
10. It signifies lack of understanding of Jesus by his disciples and other people i.e. they were surprised to find him with the woman
11. It signifies the equality of sexes before God i.e. Jesus talked to all men and women i.e. Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman
12. It signifies the faith of the Samaritan woman i.e. immediately she left everything and went to tell others about Jesus
13. It signifies that Jesus is a messiah who gives times to win people’s hearts to God
14. It signifies the lack of understanding of a woman towards spiritual matters e.g. the meaning of life giving water
15. It signifies Jesus as a prophet i.e. he disclosed everything about the woman
16. It signifies that Jesus is greater than Jacob since those who drunk from his well felt thirst again
17. The water in the discourse signifies the new life one gets after believing Jesus
18. It signifies Jesus as a source of eternal life
19. It signifies that need to worship only one God i.e. the Samaritans worshiped many gods but they never got salvation
20. It signifies the need for repentance i.e. the woman confessed to leave all the five men and follow Jesus

**The discourse of “I AM” sayings in John’s gospel**

1. **‘**I am the bread of life” (John 6:25-59)
2. **“**I am the light of the world” (John 8:12-20)
3. “before Abraham was born, I am” (John 8:58)
4. “I am the gate and I am the good shepherd” (John 10:7-11)
5. “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25-27)
6. “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:1-14)
7. “I am the real vine” (John 15:1-17)

**Meaning of the above discourses**

1. it signifies people’s lack of understanding of Jesus ‘ mission
2. it signifies Jesus as a source of eternal life
3. it signifies God’s love to man through Jesus Christ
4. it signifies that Jesus is the source of spiritual nourishment and whoever comes to him will never be hungry
5. it signifies Jesus intention to discourage materialism
6. It signifies Jesus ‘ s humanity
7. Pointed to the lord’s supper that Jesus was going to eat with his disciples
8. It signifies the increased hostility from the crowd towards Jesus as a result of misinterpreting the discourse
9. It signifies the divine authority of Jesus
10. It signifies that Jesus is the sustainer of life that whoever believes in him will never be hungry
11. It signifies Jesus’ obedience to God the father
12. It signifies the heavenly banquet
13. It signifies Jesus as a son of God
14. It signifies Jesus being greater than the Israelites’ ancestors
15. It signifies e reflection of the old testament scriptures ie, God told Moses “I am who I am”
16. It signifies Jesus openly declaring his messiah ship
17. It signifies Jesus as the light of the world

**The meaning of I am the real vine**

1. The vine signifies the nation Israel
2. The branches signify followers of Jesus Christ
3. It signifies the good relationship that existed between God the father and Jesus
4. It signifies Jesus as a true vine planted by God
5. It signifies the coming judgment as any branch that does not bear fruits will be cut off and thrown into fire
6. It signifies the divinity of Jesus
7. It signifies that no human being can do well without the guidance of God
8. The dead branches signify the un faithful Christians
9. It signifies that followers of Jesus derive their life from Jesus a true vine
10. It signifies Jesus as the stem on which unity of the church is held
11. It signifies the greatest commandment of love
12. It signifies that Jesus expect his followers to bear fruits by practicing Christian living
13. It signifies the open messiah ship of Jesus
14. It signifies the reward that awaits those who bear good fruits
15. It signifies believers continue having life as long as they are united in Christ
16. It signifies that faith in Christ is proved through prayers
17. It signifies God’s glory is revealed through good behavior of Jesus’ followers

**The significance of the story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11)**

1. It signifies that Jesus was the messiah who came to correct the errors of the Mosaic law
2. Bringing the woman to Jesus without the man signified the unfairness of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law
3. It signifies that Jesus is a fair judge of man’s sin and always gives man a chance to repent
4. It signifies a Pharisees spiritual blindness ie they had forgotten that Jesus is wiser than them
5. It signifies that all people are sinners since no one tried to stone the woman
6. It signifies that the mosaic law was not as useful as having faith in Christ since it could not save sinners
7. It signifies the divinity of Jesus through his power to forgive mankind
8. It signifies Jesus as the messiah according to the old testament i.e. the messiah will reconcile people
9. It signifies that there’s no sin beyond forgiveness by God
10. It signifies the humanity of Jesus i.e. he emphasized with the woman who was about to be stoned to death
11. It signifies Jesus’ intention to expose the hypocrisy of the Pharisees i.e. they thought they were righteous yet not
12. It signifies the Pharisees’ lack of moral authority to judge i.e. they were adulterous yet they judged an adulterous woman
13. It signifies that a new beginning is possible through Jesus Christ as the woman was told not to sin again
14. It signifies God’s love to sinful mankind
15. It signifies the cause of hostility between the teachers of the law and Jesus
16. It signifies the need for holy living
17. It signifies the universality of Jesus i.e. he came for both men and women

**The significance of Jesus’ washing of his disciples’ feet (John 13:1-20)**

1. It signifies a perfect example of service
2. It signifies the disciples’ lack of understanding of Jesus i.e. Peter hesitated Jesus not wash his feet
3. It reflected the old testament’s scripture e.g. both God and Jesus said “I am who I am”
4. It signifies the fulfillment of the expectations of the messiah i.e. a humble one
5. The act pointed to the humiliation Jesus was about to undergo
6. It signifies Jesus’ love to his disciples
7. It signifies Jesus’ aim to say farewell to his disciples since after the actions they took a meal
8. It signifies Jesus as a son of God as he told the disciples that time had come for him to go back to the father
9. Putting off his garments signified his death and putting them on again signifies his resurrection
10. It signifies Jesus’ divinity i.e. he knew who was going to betray him
11. It signifies Jesus’ humanity i.e. he was troubled when he was saying farewell to the disciples
12. It signifies the good relationship between him and the disciples as a master cannot wash the feet of his slaves
13. It signifies the practical training Jesus was giving to his disciples
14. It signifies the spiritual cleansing of the disciples
15. It signifies Jesus as a servant of mankind
16. It signifies Jesus’ intention to reveal his betrayer to all his disciples
17. It signifies the beginning of the lord’s supper

**The teaching of John’s gospel and judgment of mankind**

1. According to John , the judgment of mankind takes place now and then not in the future (John 5:22-24)
2. The judgment of and individual is determined by ones attitude towards Jesus believers and non believers
3. He says that Jesus gives fair judgment to mankind depending on the account of what one did
4. He says that Jesus is the light of the world and whoever believes him will have the light of life
5. Jesus said that he came in the world so that the blind can see and those who can see become blind
6. Jesus said that whoever hears his message and does not obey with it, will be judged
7. He also says that those who reject him will have put judgment on themselves
8. Jesus says that he does not speak on his own authority but on the one who sent him to offer internal life
9. Jesus pointed out that time will come when the dead will come out other graves and those who will have done wrong will be condemned
10. He says that God does not judge anyone as he gave the authority to his son whoever sees him has seen God
11. He says that those when hear his words their bodies will be transformed on the last day
12. He says that the holy spirit will prove to people of the world that they are sinners
13. He also told pirate that the authority to judge others is from God the father since he will use the same measures to judge the one who judged others
14. Jesus gave his disciples the power to forgive sins of others and not to forgive (John 20:21-23)

***Note:***

*The relevancies in John should be got from the significances or meaning of each topic*