

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Doctrine of the Son of God

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Biblical Statement

The term "Son of God" refers to Jesus, who came into the world as a human being. He is also often referred to as "the Son."

God is three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of these persons is fully and equally God, and yet they are one God. This is a mystery that humans cannot fully understand.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have the same character.

"Son of God" refers to God the Son, who came into the world as a human being to be the Savior and Christ. His name is Jesus.

Unlike human sons, the Son has always existed.

In the beginning, the Son was active in creating the world along with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

The Father sent the Son (Jesus) into the world, and the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to his people.

Because Jesus is God's Son, he loves and obeys his Father, and his Father loves him.

Though the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equally God, in most instances in the New Testament, the word "God" refers to "God the Father."

Matthew 3:16-17

Background: In this passage, John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing people in the Jordan River. Jesus came to John so that John would baptize him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ After Jesus was baptized, God's Spirit came down like a dove and rested on him.
- ☐ A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I love and I am very pleased with him."

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Jesus see when he came out of the water? [3:16]
He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove.
2. What did the Spirit of God do when he came down? [3:16]
He rested on Jesus.
3. What did the voice from heaven say after Jesus came out of the water? [3:17]
The voice said "This is my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with him."
4. Whose voice do you think it was speaking? [3:17]
The voice of God the Father.
5. Who was God the Father speaking about when he said, "This is my Son, whom I love"? [3:17]
He was speaking about Jesus.

Comment Section:

Matthew 4:1-7

Background: Jesus had just been baptized. The events in this passage took place directly after that.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.
- ☐ Jesus fasted and was hungry.
- ☐ The devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread and to jump off the highest part of the temple.
- ☐ Jesus quoted scripture to the devil both times.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the devil first tempt Jesus to do? [4:3]
The devil tempted Jesus to command the stones to become bread.
2. How did Jesus respond? [4:4]
Jesus quoted what is written about not living on just bread but on God's word.
3. What do you think it means to live on God's word?
It means to believe God's word and obey it.
4. What did the devil next tempt Jesus to do? [4:6]
The devil tempted Jesus to jump down from the highest point of the temple building.
5. How did Jesus respond? [4:7]
Jesus quoted what is written about not testing the Lord God.
6. Where do you think the words Jesus quoted were written? [4:4,7]
They were written in the scriptures—in the part of the Bible that we now call the Old Testament.
7. When the devil tempted Jesus the first two times, what phrase was the same? [4:3,6]
Both times the devil said, "If you are the Son of God."
8. Do you think that Jesus would have been able to turn the stones into bread? Why do you think that?
Jesus would have been able to do that because he was the Son of God.
9. Who or what did Jesus obey? [4:4,7]
Jesus obeyed God and his word.

Comment Section:

Matthew 14:22-33

Background: Jesus and his disciples were in a deserted place near the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had just taught a large crowd of people there and had miraculously given them all bread and fish to eat.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus' disciples got into a boat and went out on the sea.
- ☐ There was a storm.
- ☐ Jesus walked on the water to his disciples.
- ☐ Peter walked to Jesus on the water but began to sink.
- ☐ Jesus rescued Peter, and they went into the boat.
- ☐ The wind stopped blowing.
- ☐ The disciples worshiped Jesus.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What happened while the disciples were in the boat? [14:24]
The wind was blowing strong against them, and the boat was being pushed around by the waves.
2. What unusual thing did Jesus do? [14:25]
Jesus walked to them on the water.
3. Why do you think that the disciples thought that the person walking to them on the sea was a ghost?
They probably thought this because people have bodies and cannot walk on the sea.
4. What did Peter ask Jesus to do to show that it really was him walking on the water? [14:28]
Peter asked Jesus to tell him to go to him on the water.
5. What happened when Peter was walking on the water and he saw the wind? [14:30]
Peter became afraid and began to sink.
6. What did Peter do when he began to sink? [14:30]
He cried out, "Lord, save me!"
7. How did Jesus save Peter? [14:31-32]
Jesus grabbed Peter and they went into the boat.
8. What happened when Jesus and Peter went into the boat? [14:32]
The wind stopped blowing.
9. How did the disciples respond? [14:33]
They worshiped Jesus and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:22-33 continued

10. What events in this passage showed the disciples that Jesus was the Son of God?

Jesus walked on the sea, enabled Peter to walk on the sea, and made the wind stop blowing.

Comment Section:

Matthew 17:2-7

Background: Jesus brought three of his disciples up a high mountain.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus' appearance changed.
- ☐ Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus.
- ☐ Peter offered to build shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.
- ☐ A bright cloud overshadowed them.
- ☐ A voice out of the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. When Jesus, Peter, James, and John were on the mountain, what happened to Jesus? [17:2]
His appearance was greatly changed.
2. How did Jesus' appearance change? [17:2]
His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as bright as the light.
3. Who appeared and spoke with Jesus?
Moses and Elijah.
4. Why do you think it would have been surprising to see Moses and Elijah speaking with Jesus? [17:3]
Moses and Elijah had lived hundreds of years before this. They were not still living on earth when Jesus and his disciples were on the earth.
5. What did the voice out of the cloud say? [17:5]
The voice said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him."
6. When Jesus' disciples heard the voice, what did they do? [17:6]
They fell down with their faces to the ground, and they were very afraid.
7. Whose voice do you think spoke out of the cloud? [17:5]
The voice of God the Father spoke. If it is not clear who spoke, see what Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:16-17.
8. When God the Father said, "This is my Son, whom I love," who was he speaking about? [17:5]
He was speaking about Jesus.
9. Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus. Then, concerning Jesus, God the Father said, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him." What did he show about Jesus' authority by doing this?
He showed that Jesus' authority was greater than even Moses' and Elijah's authority.

Comment Section:

Luke 1:26-38

Background: An angel was sent to talk to Mary.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The angel Gabriel came to a virgin named Mary.
- ☐ He told her that she would become pregnant and give birth to a son.
- ☐ He told her that she would name her son Jesus.
- ☐ He told her that her son would be called the Son of the Most High and that he would be a king.
- ☐ He told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and her son would be called the Son of God.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. To whom did God send the angel Gabriel? [1:26-27]
God sent Gabriel to a virgin who was engaged to be married and whose name was Mary.
2. What did the angel say would happen to Mary? [1:31]
Mary would become pregnant and give birth to a son.
3. What name did the angel say Mary would call her son? [1:31]
She would call her son "Jesus."
4. What did the angel say about Mary's son? [1:32]
Her son would be great and would be called the Son of the Most High.
5. Who do you think the Most High is? [1:32]
The Most High is God.
6. What would the Lord God give to Mary's son? [1:32]
The Lord God would give Mary's son the throne of his ancestor David. This means that her son would be king like his ancestor David was king.
7. How will this son's reign be different from anyone else's reign? [1:33]
He will reign forever.
8. If he will reign forever, what must be true about him? [1:33]
He will have to live forever.
9. Why did Mary ask how this would happen? [1:34]
Mary was a virgin. She had not had sexual relations with any man.
10. How would Mary become pregnant? [1:35]
The Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Most High would cover her. This means that the Holy Spirit would come to her and that by his glorious power, she would conceive this son.

Luke 1:26-38 continued

11. How did the angel describe the baby that would be born? [1:35]

He would be holy.

12. What would the baby be called? [1:35]

He would be called the Son of God.

13. Why do you think that he would be called “the Son of God”? [1:35]

Because he would be the Son of God. This baby would also be called the Son of God because he would be conceived by the Holy Spirit rather than by a human father. (The Son of God has always existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit, but he came to earth as a baby created by God through the Holy Spirit.)

Comment Section:

Luke 10:21-22

Background: Jesus had sent his disciples to the towns to heal people and to teach them about the kingdom of God. When they had done this, they returned to Jesus, saying, “Lord, even the demons submitted in your name.” Jesus taught them to rejoice that their names are written in heaven.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ Jesus praised his Father for hiding things from the wise but revealing them to infants.
- ☐ The Father had entrusted those things to Jesus.
- ☐ Jesus said that no one knows the Son except the Father.
- ☐ Jesus said that no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son reveals him.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In whom did Jesus rejoice? [10:21]
He rejoiced in the Holy Spirit.
2. Whom did Jesus praise? [10:21]
He praised his Father.
3. What did Jesus call his Father? [10:21]
He called his Father “Lord of heaven and earth.”
4. Who do you think is the Lord of heaven and earth? [10:21]
God the Father
5. What did Jesus’ Father entrust to him? [10:22]
Jesus’ Father entrusted all things to him.
6. Who knows the Son? [10:22]
Only the Father knows the Son.
7. Who knows the Father? [10:22]
Only the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
8. Who was Jesus talking about when he spoke about “the Son”?
He was talking about himself.

Comment Section:

John 3:16-18

Background: Here Jesus is having a conversation with Nicodemus, a Pharisee who came to him at night to ask him questions.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God loved the world by giving his one and only Son.
- ☐ Whoever believes in the Son will have eternal life.
- ☐ God sent his Son to save the world, not to condemn it.
- ☐ He who believes in the Son is not condemned.
- ☐ He who does not believe in the Son is already condemned.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did God do because he loved the world? [3:16]
He gave his only Son.
2. Where did God send his Son? [3:17]
God sent him into the world.
3. Where do you think God sent his Son from? [3:17]
God sent him from heaven.
4. Why do you think Jesus is called God's "only" Son? [3:16]
There is no one else that is a son or daughter to God in the way that Jesus is the son. Sometimes angels, important leaders, or Christians are called sons of God, but Jesus is the only divine Son.
5. What will happen to those who believe in the Son? [3:16]
Whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
6. Why did God send his Son? [3:17]
He sent his Son not to condemn the world but to save the world through the Son.
7. What is true about people who do not believe in the name of the only Son of God? [3:18]
They are already condemned.

Comment Section:

John 5:16-23

Background: One Sabbath day Jesus healed a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years, and he told him to pick up his mat and walk. When the Jews saw the man, they told him that he was not permitted to carry his mat on the Sabbath, and they asked who had healed him. The man later told them that Jesus had healed him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The Jews persecuted Jesus.
- ☐ Jesus said that his Father and he were working.
- ☐ The Jews wanted to kill Jesus because he called God his own Father.
- ☐ Jesus spoke about the Father and the Son.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. When Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, what did the Jews do? [5:16]
They persecuted Jesus.
2. How did Jesus respond to the Jews? [5:17]
Jesus said, "My Father is working even now, and I, too, am working."
3. Why did the Jews seek even more to kill Jesus? [5:18]
They wanted to kill him because he broke the Sabbath and called God his own Father. The Jews knew Jesus meant what when he called God his own Father. [5:18] They knew Jesus meant that he was equal with God.
4. What do you think? Was Jesus saying that he was equal with God?
Yes.
5. What did Jesus say about what the Son does? [5:19]
He said that the Son does only what he sees the Father doing.
6. What does the Father do concerning the Son? [5:20]
The Father loves the Son and shows him everything that he does.
7. What do the Father and the Son do concerning those who have died? [5:21]
The Father and Son raise them to life.
8. What is the reason that the Father judges no one? [5:22]
The Father judges no one because he has given all judgment to the Son.
9. What do you think, "he has given all judgment to the Son" means?
It means that the Father gave the Son all authority to judge everyone.

John 5:16-23 continued

10. For what purpose did the Father give all judgment to the Son? [5:23]

The Father did this so that everyone will honor the Son just as they honor the Father.

11. Why did the Son come? [5:23]

The Son came because Father sent him.

12. To whom was Jesus referring when he spoke about the Father and the Son? [5:19]

He was speaking about God the Father and himself.

13. How did Jesus show that the Son is equal to the Father? [5:19-23]

The Son does what the Father does. The Father and the Son raise the dead and give life.

The Father gave the Son all authority to judge everyone. If people do not honor the Son, they do not honor the Father.

Comment Section:

John 10:25-39

Background: One time when Jesus was walking in the temple, some Jews surrounded him and demanded that they tell them whether he was the Christ.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus told them that he had already told them, that his works testified about him, and that the reason they did not believe was that they were not his sheep.
- ☐ Jesus told them his Father gave him his sheep and that he and the Father are one.
- ☐ The Jews got ready to stone Jesus.
- ☐ The Jews said that they were about to stone Jesus because he spoke blasphemy.
- ☐ They said that Jesus spoke blasphemy by making himself God.
- ☐ Jesus reminded them about the part of the law that says, "You are gods."
- ☐ Jesus reminded them that the Father had set him apart and sent him into the world.
- ☐ Jesus told them not to believe him if he was not doing the works of his Father.
- ☐ Jesus told them to at least believe his works and know that the Father is in him and he is in the Father.
- ☐ The Jews tried to seize him again, but he got away.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What do you think Jesus had already told the Jews? [10:25]
He had already told them that he was the Christ.
2. What things did Jesus say testified about him? [10:25]
The works that he did in his Father's name testified about him.
3. What do you think they testified? [10:25]
They testified that he was the Christ.
4. What did Jesus say was the reason that the Jews did not believe him? [10:26]
They did not believe him because they were not his sheep.
5. Who did Jesus say gave him his sheep? [10:29]
Jesus said that his Father gave him his sheep.
6. What did Jesus say about him and his Father? [10:30]
Jesus said that he and his Father are one.
7. What was the Jews' reason for stoning Jesus? [10:33]
They said that they were stoning him for blasphemy.
8. Why did the Jews say that Jesus spoke blasphemy? [10:33]
They said that Jesus was making himself God.

John 10:25-39 continued

9. What do you think was the reason the Jews said that Jesus was making himself God? [10:33]
Jesus had called God “my Father” and he said that he and the Father are one.
10. What do you think the Jews meant when they said, “You, a man, are making yourself God”? [10:33]
They meant that Jesus was only a man but he was saying that he was God.
11. What did Jesus quote from the law? [10:34]
Jesus quoted the passage that says, “I said, ‘You are gods.’”
12. Who was called gods in this passage? [10:35]
The people to whom the word of God was written.
13. What do you think Jesus meant when he said that the scripture cannot be broken? [10:35]
He meant that the scripture is true and it cannot be changed.
14. What did Jesus say the Father had done for him? [10:36]
The Father had set Jesus apart and sent him into the world.
15. What do you think Jesus meant when he asked his question in 10:35-36?
Jesus meant that they should not say that he was blaspheming when he said, “I am the Son of God.” In the scripture, God said of those who received his words “you are gods.” But Jesus’ work showed that the Father had sent him into the world, and this shows that he is the Son of God.
16. According to Jesus, under what circumstances should people not believe him? [10:37]
Jesus said that they should not believe him if he was not doing his Father’s works.
17. According to Jesus, what should people do if he was doing his Father’s works? [10:38]
They should believe his works.
18. From what you know about Jesus, what works do you think he was talking about? [10:37-38]
He was talking about his miracles and his teaching.
19. What would believing Jesus’ works teach them? [10:38]
It would teach them that the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father.
20. Why did the Jews try to seize Jesus again?
They tried to grab him because he said that the Father was in him and he was in the Father.
21. What do you think the Jews understood Jesus to mean when he said that the Father was in him, and he was in the Father? [10:38]
They understood that Jesus was continuing to say that God was his Father and that his relationship with God was different from anyone else’s relationship with God.

Comment Section:

Romans 1:1-4

Background: The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to Christians living in Rome. This passage is Paul's introduction to the letter.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul introduced himself as a servant of Jesus Christ.
- ☐ Paul was called to be an apostle and was set apart for the gospel.
- ☐ The gospel concerns God's Son; the gospel was promised beforehand by the prophets in Scripture.
- ☐ The Son is a physical descendant of David.
- ☐ The Son was declared the Son of God through the Holy Spirit by the resurrection.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who is the gospel about? [1:2-3]
The gospel is about the Son of God.
2. What important person did God's Son have as an ancestor? [1:3]
King David of Israel was an ancestor of God's Son.
3. How do you understand the phrase in your language for "flesh"? [1:3]
"Flesh" here refers to the physical body. (Here, flesh has nothing to do with sinful nature.)
4. When the Spirit of holiness raised the Son from the dead, the Spirit declared what about him? [1:4]
By raising him from the dead, the Spirit declared the Son to be the Son of God.
5. Who is the Son? [1:4]
Jesus Christ

Comment Section:

Romans 5:8-10

Background: This passage comes from Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome. In this chapter, the words "we," "us," and "our" refer to Paul and the Christians in Rome, and they also apply to all who believe in Jesus Christ. Paul was teaching about the peace that believers have with God because Jesus justifies those who trust in him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This proves that God loves us.
- ☐ God justified us by Jesus' blood. So we know that Jesus will save us from God's wrath.
- ☐ We were God's enemies, but we were reconciled to God through his Son's death. So we know that we will be saved by his Son's life.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How does God prove his love for us? [5:8]
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
2. How do you think Christ's death proves God's love? [5:8]
God loves Christ, but he allowed Christ to take the penalty for our sin and die in order to save us. This proves that he loves us.
3. How are we justified? [5:9]
We are justified by Christ's blood.
4. What do you think "We are justified by his blood" means? [5:9]
It means that God says that we are righteous because Christ died for us.
5. How will we be saved from God's wrath? [5:9]
By Christ
6. While we were God's enemies, what did he do for us? [5:10]
God reconciled us to himself through his Son's death.
7. Who is God's Son? [5:10]
Christ
8. What do you think a person's relationship with God is like if he is reconciled to God? [5:10]
He has a peaceful relationship with God. God is no longer angry with him.
9. How do you think people are saved by Christ's life? [5:10]
Christ rose from the dead and is alive forever, and he gives eternal life to people whom he has reconciled to God.

Comment Section:

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Background: This passage comes from Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth. Some of them did not believe that those who have died would be raised to life. Paul was teaching that since Jesus Christ was raised to life, we know that those who have died will be raised to life.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Christ has been raised from the dead.
- ☐ Just as everyone dies because Adam died, everyone who belongs to Christ will be made alive when he comes.
- ☐ Christ will end all other rule and authority, and he will give the kingdom to God the Father.
- ☐ He will reign and destroy all his enemies, even death.
- ☐ Everything will be under Christ's authority, and Christ will be under God the Father.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What happened to Christ? [15:20]
Christ was raised from the dead.
2. What do you think "the firstfruits of those who died" means? [15:20]
Christ was the first to be raised from the dead, and he shows that the others who have died will be raised from the dead.
3. What does verse 21 tell us about death and the resurrection from the dead? [15:21]
Death came because of a man, and the resurrection from the dead came because of a man. This means that people die because of one man (Adam), and they will be resurrected because of another man (Christ).
4. What do you think it means to be "in Adam" and to be "in Christ"? [15:22]
To be "in Adam" means to be united with Adam or associated with him because of sin. Because Adam sinned, his descendants sin. To be "in Christ" means to be united with Christ or associated with him.
5. What happens to people who are in Adam, and what will happen to people who are in Christ? [15:22]
Everyone who is in Adam dies for their sin. Everyone who is in Christ will be made alive.
6. When will those who belong to Christ be made alive? [15:23]
Those who belong to Christ will be made alive when Christ comes.
7. What will happen at the end? [15:24]
Christ will give the kingdom to God the Father and will end all other rule, authority, and power.
8. Who will reign? [15:25]
Christ will reign.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 continued

9. What do you think “until he has put all his enemies under his feet?” [15:25]
It means “until he has defeated all his enemies.”
10. How do you think the quote “he has put everything under his feet” strengthens what Paul was saying? [15:27]
This is a quote from the Old Testament. It shows that what Paul was saying was true because the scripture said that it would happen.
11. In the phrase “he has put everything under his feet” what is not included in the word “everything”? [15:27]
The one who put everything under him.
12. Who is that one? [15:27]
God the Father
13. What does “put everything in subjection under him” mean? [15:27]
It means “put everything under his authority.” God the Father will make Christ rule over everything.
14. What will happen when all things are subjected under Christ? [15:28]
The Son will be subjected under the one who put all things into subjection under him. The Son will be under the Father’s authority.
15. Who do you think this Son is? [15:28]
This Son is Christ.
16. Whose Son do you think he is? [15:28]
He is the Son of God.
17. What does 15:21 tell us about the Son of God?
The Son of God was also a man.

Comment Section:

Colossians 1:13-20

Background: This passage comes from Paul's letter to the Christians in Colossae. Paul had told the Colossians about how he and his co-workers prayed for them. Here Paul told about what God the Father has done for people who believe in his Son. In this passage, the word "us" refers to Paul and the Colossians, and it also applies to all who believe in Jesus Christ.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ He [God the Father] has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and moved us into his Son's kingdom.
- ☐ Through his Son, God redeems us and forgives our sins.
- ☐ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
- ☐ The Son created all things and sustains all things.
- ☐ The Son is the head of the church.
- ☐ The Son is the first to rise from the dead.
- ☐ All God's fullness is in the Son.
- ☐ God reconciles all things to himself through the Son's death.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What has God the Father rescued believers from? [1:13]
He has rescued believers from the dominion of darkness. This means that he has rescued believers from being controlled by sin.
2. Whose kingdom has the Father moved believers to? [1:13]
He has moved believers to his Son's kingdom.
3. What does God do for those who believe in his Son? [1:14]
He redeems them and forgives their sins.
4. What do you think "He is the image of the invisible God" means? [1:15]
It means that God is invisible, but his Son shows us what God is like.
5. What else does this verse tell us about the Son of God? [1:15]
He is the firstborn over all creation.
6. What does "the firstborn over all creation" mean? [1:15]
It means either or both of these: the highest authority over all creation or the one who existed before all creation. It does not mean that there was ever a time when the Son did not exist.
7. Why is the Son the firstborn over all things? [1:16]
Because everything was created through him and for him.

Colossians 1:13-20 continued

8. What do you think these two phrases mean: “in him all things were created” and “all things were created through him”? [1:16]
They mean that God created everything through the Son. God caused the Son to create everything or God gave the Son authority to create all things.
9. What does verse 17 tell us about the Son and all things? [1:17]
The Son is before all things and all things hold together in him.
10. What do you think “He himself is before all things” means? [1:17]
The Son existed before all other things existed.
11. What do you think “in him all things hold together” means? [1:17]
The Son holds everything together so that it all continues to exist and work as God planned.
12. What does verse 18 tell us about the Son and the church? [1:18]
The Son is the head of the church. This means that he is the leader of the church and has authority over the church.
13. Why does the Son have first place among all things? [1:18]
Because he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead. “He is the beginning” probably means that he is the one who started the church. “He is the firstborn from among the dead” means that he is the first to rise from the dead with eternal life. The church will also rise from the dead to eternal life.
14. Whose fullness lives in the Son? [1:19]
God’s fullness lives in the Son.
15. What does it mean that the Son has the fullness of God?
This means that the Son has the full nature of God. He is God, just as the Father is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.
16. Through whom does God reconcile everything to himself? [1:20]
Through the Son.
17. How does God make peace with everything? [1:20]
He does it through the blood of the Son’s cross.
18. What do you think it means for God to make peace with everything through the blood of the Son’s cross? [1:20]
It means that Jesus’ death for people’s sin made it so that God could live peacefully with his creation.

Comment Section:

1 John 2:22-24

Background: This passage is from John's first letter, which he wrote to some Christians who had been listening to false teachers. These teachers were saying that since Jesus was a man, he could not also be the Christ, the Son of God from heaven. Here John wrote about these false teachers.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ is a liar and the antichrist, because he denies the Father and the Son.
- ☐ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.
- ☐ Whoever confesses the Son also has the Father.
- ☐ If what you heard remains in you, you will also remain in the Son and in the Father.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did John say about anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ? [2:22]
A person who does that is a liar and an antichrist. He denies the Father and the Son.
2. What do you think "He denies the Father and the Son" means? [2:22]
It means that he rejects the Father and the Son.
3. Who are the Father and the Son that John wrote of? [2:22]
The Father is God the Father, and the Son is God's Son, Jesus Christ.
4. How would denying that Jesus is the Christ show that one is rejecting the Father and the Son? [2:22]
The Father sent Christ Jesus. To say that Jesus is not the Christ is to reject him as the Son, and whoever rejects the Son also rejects the Father who sent him.
5. What is true about a person who denies the Son? [2:23]
A person who denies the Son does not have the Father.
6. What is true about a person who confesses the Son? [2:23]
A person who confesses the Son also has the Father.
7. What does "has the Father" mean? [2:23]
It means "is in relationship or union with the Father." It may mean "is one of the Father's children."
8. What did John tell the Christians to do? [2:24]
They should let what they heard from the beginning remain in them. This means that they should continue to believe the truth that they first learned about Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:22-24 continued

9. What is true of a person who lets what he heard from the beginning remain in him? [2:24]
He remains in the Son and in the Father. This means that he remains in relationship or union with the Son and the Father.

Comment Section:

1 John 5:5-13

Background: This passage is from John's first letter, which he wrote to some Christians who had been listening to false teachers. These teachers were saying that since Jesus was a man, he could not also be the Christ, the Son of God. In this passage, John was writing about how God has testified, or shown, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus is the Son of God.
- ☐ He came by water and blood.
- ☐ The Spirit, the water, and the blood testify.
- ☐ God has given testimony concerning his Son.
- ☐ If anyone does not believe what God said about his Son, that person is calling God a liar.
- ☐ God's testimony is the eternal life that he gives through his Son.
- ☐ Whoever believes in the Son of God has eternal life.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who overcomes the world? [5:5]
Anyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. How did Jesus Christ come? [5:6]
He came by water and blood.
3. What do you think the Spirit, the water, and the blood testify about? [5:6- 8]
They testify that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
4. What do you think the water and the blood are?
Perhaps the water refers to Jesus' baptism and the blood refers to his death. Or perhaps they refer to the sacraments of baptism and communion.
5. About whom has God testified? [5:9]
God has testified about his Son.
6. Who has this testimony in himself? [5:10]
Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in himself.
7. What does "believe in the Son of God" mean? [5:10]
It means believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
8. If a person does not believe God, what does he believe about God? [5:10]
He believes that God is a liar.

1 John 5:5-13 continued

9. What is the testimony, or proof, that God has given concerning his Son? [5:11]

The testimony, or proof, is the eternal life that he has given in his Son.

10. Who has this eternal life? [5:12]

Anyone who has the Son.

11. Again, who has eternal life? [5:13]

Anyone who believes in the name of the Son of God.

Comment Section: