

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons
John 3:11-21
Sunday, March 25, 2012
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Five Questions for Discussion
and Thinking Further**

1. What types of things could or would Jesus have seen that He could testify to having seen (give evidence to having seen) that He knew the religious leaders and probably many people would not receive?

From the position of Son of God, before He was born and came into the world in human flesh, Jesus would have seen heavenly and earthly things from the moment of their creation and their creation. He could have described in detail every interaction between heaven and earth and every being in heaven and earth and every interaction between every being. John said that the world could not

contain the books that could be written about the things that Jesus has done (John 21:25).

2. Explain what Jesus meant when He said the Son of Man had descended from heaven?

He meant that He himself, the Son of Man (the title that Jesus preferred to use for himself when teaching people) had come from heaven to earth. Matthew and Luke describe the way Jesus came to Earth in greater detail.

3. Why do you think Jesus compared the serpent that Moses lifted up to the Son of Man being lifted up?

Moses lifted up the serpent as God commanded, and God healed from snake bites all those who looked up at the snake (or serpent) as God commanded. Those who looked upon the bronze snake did not die. This may not be easy for us (or for the Israelites in the wilderness) to understand, but those who obeyed God were healed by God. God the Father and His Son, Jesus, planned for Jesus to be lifted up on a cross and die, so that everyone who looked upon Jesus and His death for them would be saved from sin and have eternal life. Their plan for Jesus to be lifted up on a cross may not be easy to understand, but those who do what Jesus said will not perish but have eternal life now and forever (see John 3:16).

4. How can a person have eternal life? What does having eternal life mean to you?

We can have eternal life by believing in Jesus, the only Son of God. Eternal life is not just living forever or something we will receive in the future or after we die physically. When we believe in Jesus, we have eternal life now (life involves living; we have an eternal way of living on the basis of eternal values that makes a difference now). Eternal life is a blessed and happy relationship with God because we are forgiven for our sins, cleansed from our sins, and empowered to live a godly life by the Holy Spirit who comes to indwell us when we believe in Jesus. We know that we are God's children, for the Holy Spirit helps us pray to God, our heavenly Father. Living an eternal life becomes easier after we receive our resurrected human bodies and live on the new Earth after God makes all things new.

5. Why do you think some people think Jesus Christ came to condemn the world rather than save the world?

The people who think Jesus Christ came to condemn the world do not believe the Bible and they prefer to live in darkness rather than the light because they prefer to do evil. They experience the fact of being condemned already because they will not come to Jesus and into the light in order to be saved (see John 3:18). Because Jesus, the Bible, and Christian witnesses tell them the truth about Jesus and His plans, they feel condemned and sometimes strike back and accuse others of condemning them.

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