

Winter Quarter 2016-17

Creation and Salvation

UNIT I: The Saviour Is Born

December 4	The Promise of a Saviour	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>
December 11	The Promise Affirmed	<i>Luke 1:39-56</i>
December 18	The Forerunner of the Saviour	<i>Luke 1:8-20</i>
December 25	The Saviour's Birth (Christmas)	<i>Luke 2:8-20</i>

UNIT II: All Creation Praises God

January 1	Praising God the Creator	<i>Psalm 33:1-9</i>
January 8	All Creation Joins in Praise	<i>Psalm 96:1-6, 10-13</i>
January 15	Praise God the Provider	<i>Psalm 65:1-2, 9-13</i>
January 22	Praise for the Creator's Wisdom	<i>Psalm 104:1-4, 24-30</i>
January 29	All Creation Praises the Lord	<i>Psalm 148:1-14</i>

UNIT III: The Church Is Born

February 5	Heirs of the Promise	<i>Galatians 3:26—4:7</i>
February 12	Delivered from Bondage	<i>Galatians 4:8-20</i>
February 19	Freedom in Christ	<i>Galatians 5:1-17</i>
February 26	Holy Living in the Spirit	<i>Galatians 5:18—6:10</i>

Our lessons this quarter touch on the broad and crucial themes of creation and salvation. Salvation, as Scripture tells us, is found in Christ alone (cf. Acts 4:12). The historical account of His arrival in this world is most fully presented in Luke's Gospel.

Lesson 1 tells us of the angelic announcement to Mary that she would bear the Messiah. The Lord chose a humble young woman from an insignificant village to fulfill His plan for Christ's birth. The second lesson relates Mary's visit with her older relative Elisabeth and the divine testimony both women gave to the promised Saviour carried in Mary's womb.

Lesson 3 backtracks a bit to give us some background on how Elisabeth's husband received a message from the Angel Gabriel that they would be the parents of John, the forerunner of Christ. The fourth lesson takes us to the familiar passage in Luke 2, which describes the birth of Jesus and the witnesses God provided to that event.

The second unit of lessons takes us to the Psalms and focuses on the Creator and the creation. Psalm 33 invites us to praise the Creator for His glorious attributes and His mighty work of Creation. Psalm 96 calls us to praise God for His greatness and glory and even looks forward to Christ's second coming.

Our lesson in Psalm 65 stresses God's provision for all His creation, including us. Psalm 104 reveals God's greatness and wisdom through His creation. Psalm 148 is a beautiful poem that calls on heaven and earth and all that is in them to praise God. Our studies in this unit should enrich our worship as we contemplate the many reasons we have for praising God.

Four lessons in Galatians complete our quarter and give us valuable truths regarding our salvation in Christ. Lesson 10 reminds us that we are children of God by faith alone. Lesson 11 describes the spiritual bondage from which Christ has delivered us and warns against enslaving ourselves again to works rather than resting in God's grace.

In lesson 12 Paul described the freedom we have in Christ, the need to stand strong in that freedom, and the proper use of it. The final lesson speaks of the fruit the Holy Spirit works in us and offers practical instruction on how those character qualities are to be upheld in our lives.