

### If you read nothing else, read this.

In the past two months I have been hit by the crushing sadness of several unexpected, tragic deaths; all friends who died before 35, more than one who took their own life. Not all of them claimed Christ as their Savior.

On Easter Sunday while I rejoiced in the truth and eternal hope of Jesus, my risen Savior, my heart cried out for all those who don't know Jesus as their Savior; those to whom Easter is just another holiday to indulge in big meals and candy, those who I won't see again in Heaven.

My friend, I can't bear the thought that you might die before I take the opportunity to share the truth about Jesus with you. So today I bring you the most important message of all, the best news you'll ever hear. I'll keep it short and let Jesus make it sweet.

Know that this is for you. *God never gives second-hand messages.* If this is in front of you today, it is for a reason. Read it now.

In His grace and authority,  
Jennifer

### Choose Wisely

Every one of us is going to die. It may be in 50 years or in 5 minutes. We don't know when and chances are we won't have a clue it is coming.

When death comes it won't be the end of us; it will simply end our time on earth. Whether you believe in God or not, you will exist after your death. The difference is in how you will exist. There are two choices. We can choose to be in heaven on streets of gold praising God and surrounded by His glory. Or, we can be in a fiery furnace where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Where will you be?

There is only one way to get to Heaven, and that is through Jesus Christ. Accepting Jesus as your Savior is the only way to spend eternity in heaven. Just going to church or being a good person won't get you there. Only by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, inviting Him into your heart, and having a personal relationship with Him can you be saved.

Romans 10:9 tells us "that if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

God is perfect, holy and righteous. The only way to be with Him is to be perfect, holy and righteous. Not one of us can do that. We can't even come close. We are all sinners. Separation from God (eternal damnation) is the punishment for our sins. But because God loves us so much and wants to be with us, He gave us a way to Him. He gave us Himself in Christ, coming to earth as man, living a perfect and blameless life, and accepting a sentence of death and damnation that He didn't deserve. He accepted that sentence for us. He died to pay the price for our sins and save us. His blood covers our sins and makes us acceptable to God.

What choice will you make?

If you die and have not accepted Christ as your savior, you will not go to heaven. You will be in the fiery furnace where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Know that not choosing is making a choice. Also know that there are no second chances after death and no guarantees of a last-minute opportunity to change your mind.

Please open your heart now. Dig as deep as you can to find the place in you that yearns for something more and cries out for your Creator. Do not let another moment go by without searching for the truth that lies in your soul. And when you find it, speak out the words below from the depths of your heart, soul and being.

*Dear God, I know I am a sinner and my sin separates me from you. Thank you that Jesus Christ died in my place so that my sins could be forgiven. Dear Jesus, please forgive my sins. Come into my life and change my heart. Guide me in your ways and show me the truth. Make me new and let me live for you each day. Thank you for saving me and giving me eternal life. In Jesus' precious and holy name, Amen.*

You have a decision to make today my friend. Make it now. Don't wait until it is too late. And, when you make it, let me hear from you so we can celebrate together. E-mail me at [Jennifer@hopeintheLord.org](mailto:Jennifer@hopeintheLord.org) or call me at 402-960-3670.

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## Meditate and Study

Grab your notebook and Bible and get ready to explore! Before you start, ask God to open your eyes and heart to His truth.

There is only one lesson this time. Remember, if this is in front of you, it's not by accident. There is a reason. Take your time to go through it, asking God to open your heart and mind. If you need a few days to digest something before you move on, take the time. Just be sure to come back and finish!

### Lesson 6-1

1. What did you learn or apply from the last lesson?  
If you didn't do the lesson, you can print it at  
<http://www.hopeintheLord.org/DownloadBibleStudy.html>
2. Read Psalm 139:13-16.
  - a. Who created you? (See also Psalm 139:1).
  - b. How were you created?
  - c. What do you learn about your life and future?
  - d. What was new to you in this passage?
3. Read Psalm 139:1-4.
  - a. What does the Lord know about you?
  - b. Do you find comfort in this? Why or why not?
4. Read James 4:17.
  - a. What is sin?
  - b. Have you ever sinned?
5. Read Romans 3:23.
  - a. What do you learn about sin?
  - b. What do you learn about humanity in relation to God?
6. Read Romans 6:23.
  - a. In your own words, describe the difference between a wage and a gift.
  - b. What are the wages of sin?
  - c. What is the gift of God?
7. Read John 14:6
  - a. What is Jesus?

Considering what you've studied in this lesson or may find elsewhere in the Bible using a concordance, index or keyword search,

- b. How is Jesus the way?
- c. How is Jesus the truth?
- d. How is Jesus the life?
- e. Who is the Father?
- f. How do we come to the Father?
- g. Does this indicate there are any other ways to the Father?
- h. Take a moment to process this. What does it mean to you?

8. Read John 14:19-21.

- a. What do you think it means to see Jesus?
- b. Do *you* see Jesus?
- c. What does it mean to love Jesus?
- d. What is the result of loving Jesus?

9. Read 1 Peter 3:18.

- a. What additional aspects do you learn about Christ's death for our sins?

10. Read Romans 10:9-10.

- a. What two actions lead to salvation (verse 9)?
- b. What does verse 10 tell you about why these two actions are significant?
- c. According to what you've studied, is there any other way to have eternal life in Heaven?
- e. Have you done these two things?
- f. If no, why not?
- g. If yes, what was the result?

11. Close with a prayer, pouring your heart out to the Lord. Share with Him your questions as well as your praises.

My friend, how I pray the Lord will open your eyes to see the truth today. That you will hear your sinful heart cry out for His holy perfection and accept Him as your Lord and Savior. That you will know Jesus is who He says He is.

#### The Facts about the Good News:

- +God created you, individually and with great care. He loves you deeply and knows you intimately.
- +Every one of us is a sinner.
- +Our sin separates us from God, our loving Creator.
- +We have earned death because of our sins.
- +Because of His love for us, God gives us the gift of eternal life. We can't earn it.
- +This gift is given to us through Jesus Christ alone, who is the only way to the Father.
- +Jesus Christ, fully man and fully God, lived a sin-free life on this earth, was crucified, died, was buried, and then rose again.
- +To accept this gift, we must confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead.

Did you make a decision to accept Christ as your Savior? If so, please contact me so we can celebrate together and look at the next steps. You can reach me at [Jennifer@hopeintheLord.org](mailto:Jennifer@hopeintheLord.org) or call me at 402-960-3670.

If Christ is already your Savior, what can you do to help others find Him?

In praise of Him who gives me life and hope,  
Jennifer