**CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE SS 3**

**FIRST TERM**

**SCHEME OF WORK**

**WEEKS TITLE**

1 The Baptism

The Significance of the baptism of Jesus Matt. 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11,21-22

2 The Temptation

Interpretation and significance of the temptation Matt. 4:1-11, 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-13

3. Discipleship

The call of the first four disciples. Matt. 8:16-28, Luke 9:57-63;14:25-33.

4. The demands of discipleship Matt. 8:16-28, Lk 9:57-63, Lk. 14:25-33.

5 &6. Mission of the Disciple Matt. 10:1-15, Mk 6:7-13, Lk 9:1-16.

7. The Arrest and Trials of Jesus Christ. Matt. 26: 36-75

8. Crucifixion,Death and Burial of Jesus. Matt. 27: 32-66

9. The Resurrection of Jesus and his Ascension. Matt. 28:1-10, Mk. 16: 1-20, Lk. 24:1-35

10. Communion and Fellowship. Acts. 1-6.

11. Revision.

12 & 13 Examination

References

1. Martins I. Amaechi – Comprehensive Religious Knowledge for Senior Secondary Schools for SS1, SS2 and SS3
2. A. A. Adeyinka Etal – Christian Religious Knowledge for Secondary Schools Book 2
3. The Holy Bible R. S. V.
4. E. J. Uzoh – Students key points at a glance – Christian Religious Knowledge – Allen Senior Secondary Series
5. WASSCE 1988 – 2017 – Christian Religious Knowledge 3. A. J. U. Obinna.

**WEEK ONE**

TOPIC: COMPARATIVE ACCOUNT OF THE BAPTISM IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

MAT. 3: 13 – 17, MARK 1: 9 – 11, Luke, 3: 21 –22

# **CONTENT**

* Meaning of the synoptic gospels
* The baptism of Jesus Christ
* Significance of the baptism of Jesus Christ

**SYNOPTIC GOSPELS**

SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

The Synoptic Gospels refer to the first three Gospels, namely Matthew, Mark, and Luke. These books exhibit striking similarities in their writing style and the chronological arrangement of events in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. In other words, they offer a unified perspective on these events. Those who authored the Synoptic Gospels are commonly referred to as the Synoptists.

EVALUATION

1. What are the Synoptic Gospels?

2. Explain the relevance of the Synoptic Gospels.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST

(Matthew 3:13–17, Mark 1:9–11, Luke 3:21–22)

All three Synoptic writers provide an account of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. According to Matthew, Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan. John initially hesitated, feeling that he should be baptized by Jesus. However, Jesus insisted on being baptized to fulfill righteousness.

During the baptism, as Jesus was immersed in the water, the heavens opened. The Spirit of God descended upon him like a dove, and a voice was heard, saying, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased."

One minor discrepancy among the Synoptic Gospels relates to the timing of the dove's descent on Jesus. While Matthew and Mark report it happening during the baptism, Luke's account states it occurred after the baptism while Jesus was in prayer (Luke 3:21–22).

EVALUATION

1. Discuss the significance of Jesus's baptism.

2. Note that only Matthew reported John's initial reluctance to baptize Jesus. The other Gospels did not mention this hesitation.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST

1. Identification with Sinners: Jesus's baptism symbolizes his identification with sinners, emphasizing his mission to save humanity from sin.

2. An Example for Disciples: It serves as an example for his disciples and future generations, emphasizing the importance of baptism as an act of faith and obedience.

3. Continuation of Baptism: Jesus's baptism set a pattern that continued in the early Christian church, highlighting its enduring significance.

4. Confirmation of John's Ministry: The miraculous events accompanying Jesus's baptism provided divine approval for John the Baptist's ministry and his role in preparing the way for the Messiah.

5. Public Confirmation of Messiahship: The baptism publicly confirmed Jesus's messiahship and divine sonship, emphasizing his unique role in God's plan.

6. Mission to Benefit Sinners: Jesus's baptism indicated that his mission on earth was primarily focused on benefiting sinners, underscoring his decision to identify with sinful humanity.

EVALUATION

1. What is baptism?

2. State two significances of Jesus's baptism.

GENERAL EVALUATION

1. What is baptism?

2. State two significances of Jesus's baptism.

3. Narrate the first account of creation.

4. Describe the second account of creation.

5. List the characteristics of the new life.

## REFERENCES

* Martins I. Amaechi – Comprehensive Religious Knowledge for Senior Secondary Schools for SS1, SS2 and SS3
* A. A. Adeyinka Etal – Christian Religious Knowledge for Secondary Schools Book 2
* The Holy Bible R. S. V
* E. J. Uzoh – Students key points at a glance – Christian Religious Knowledge – Allen Senior Secondary Series
* WASSCE 1998 – 2017 – Christian Religious Knowledge 3. A. J. U. Obinna.

## READING ASSIGNMENT

Read A. A. Adeyinka Etal – Christian Religious Knowledge for Senior Secondary Schools Book 3, Pg. 28 – 29

### WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT

1. Jesus was baptized at the\_\_\_\_.(a) lake (b)River Jordan(c) River Galilee (d) dead sea

2. Jesus was baptized by\_\_\_\_\_. (a) John the Baptist (b) St Paul (c) St Peter (d) St Augustus

3. The statement, “this is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased”, “Son” here refers to\_\_\_. (a) John the Baptist (b) Peter (c) Paul (d) Jesus Christ

4. John the Baptist was in the wilderness and his food was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (a) bread and honey (b) locust and wild honey (c) quail and honey (d) beans and honey

5. \_\_\_\_\_ was the fore runner of Jesus Christ (a) Isaiah (b) John the Baptist (c) Elijah (d) Elisha

#### THEORY

1. Explain the baptism of Jesus Christ by John the Baptist
2. State four significance of the baptism

**WEEK TWO**

**TOPIC: COMPARATIVE ACCOUNT OF THE TEMPTATION IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS**. Mat 4: 1-11, Mark 1: 12-13. Luke 4: 1-13

**CONTENT**

* The temptation account
* The significance of the temptation

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Jesus Christ embarked on a forty-day fast in the wilderness, during which he faced temptations from the devil. Both the books of Matthew and Luke record these events, with minor differences in the sequence of temptations.

According to Matthew and Luke, the devil's first temptation was to challenge Jesus's identity as the Son of God. The devil urged him to transform stones into bread. In response, Jesus quoted Scripture, stating that humanity's sustenance comes not only from bread but also from the word of the Lord.

However, the order of the second and third temptations varies between Matthew and Luke. In Matthew's account, the devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple in the Holy City and suggested that he jump, assuring him that angels would protect him. Jesus replied by quoting Scripture, emphasizing that one should not test the Lord.

In the third temptation, the devil presented Jesus with the splendors of the world's riches and glory, offering them in exchange for Jesus's worship. In response, Jesus firmly rebuked Satan, saying, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

Despite the differing order of these temptations, the exact wordings of the three temptations are consistent between Matthew and Luke.

Upon the conclusion of these temptations, both Matthew and Mark reported that angels came to serve Jesus and celebrate his victory. In contrast, Luke indicated that the devil left but would return at an opportune time.

EVALUATION

Narrate the temptation of Jesus according to Luke.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS’ TEMPTATION OR LESSONS TO LEARN

1. No one is above temptation: The experience of Jesus shows that even the holiest individuals are not exempt from facing temptation.

2. Overcoming Temptation: Jesus's example demonstrates that with faith and reliance on God's help, we can overcome temptation.

3. Vigilance in Weak Moments: We should remain vigilant, especially during moments of vulnerability, as these are when Satan is most likely to strike.

4. Temptation Is Not Sin: Understanding that temptation is not sinful in itself; sin occurs when we yield to temptation through our free will. We are responsible for our actions.

5. Overcoming Temptation: Relying on the word of God, prayer, and fasting can help us overcome temptation.

6. Spiritual Attack When Close to God: It's essential to be aware that temptations can become more intense when we are closer to God. Satan often tries to pull us away at such times.

7. Self-Discipline: Self-discipline and control of our desires and passions are important for resisting temptations.

EVALUATION

1. Define temptation.

2. State four significances of the temptation of Jesus Christ.

GENERAL EVALUATION

1. Narrate the temptation of Jesus according to Matthew.

2. Discuss God as the controller of the universe.

3. Describe the uniqueness of man among the creations of God.

4. Write short notes on (a) faith (b) Law.

5. Explain how a Christian can rightly become a child of God.

### WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT

1. Jesus Christ was led by the spirit into the \_\_\_\_\_\_.(a)Galilee (b)Wilderness (c)River Jordan (d) Jerusalem

2. Jesus Christ fasted for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nights (a) three days and three nights (b) seven days and seven nights (c) forty days and forty nights (d) twenty days and twenty nights

3. Jesus’ reply to the second temptation according to Matthew is \_\_\_\_\_\_.(a) begone Satan (b) man shall not live by bread alone (c) you shall not tempt your Lord your God (d) I will comply

4. When Jesus was tempted he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (a) overcame the temptation (b) fell into the temptation (c) yielded to them (d) meditated on them

5. From the third temptation it is obvious that Jesus (a) had political ambition (b) had no political ambition (c) had partial political ambition (d) all of the above

### THEORY

1. Discuss temptation in contemporary Nigeria.
2. Is temptation avoidable? Discuss.

REFERENCES

* + Martins I. Amaechi – Comprehensive Religious Knowledge for Senior Secondary Schools for SS1, SS2 and SS3 page 242 - 245
  + The Holy Bible R. S. V Text Matt. 4: 1-11, Mark 1: 12-13, Luke 4: 1-13

### WEEK THREE

**TOPIC: DISCIPLESHIP**

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 4: 18 – 25, 9: 9 – 13, Mark 1: 16 – 20, 2: 13 – 17; Luke 5: 1 – 11, 27 – 32

Matthew and Mark’s account

In Matthew’s account of the call of the first disciples, it was done by Jesus himself. Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee and saw two brothers – Peter and Andrew, fishing or casting their nets into the sea; Jesus said to them “*come follow me and I will make you fishers of men*”. This shows that both men were fishermen. The implication here is that both men were now disciples to win souls for Christ. Matthew had it that both men abandoned their work and followed Jesus.

As he moved on, Jesus saw two brothers also, James and John the sons of Zebedee. They were mending their fishing nets with their father. They also were fishermen. Jesus called them and they left what they were doing alongside their father and followed Jesus.

Jesus’ choice of his next disciple was recorded in Matthew 9: 9-13. He met a tax collector named Matthew at his duty post and called him. He left his profession and followed Jesus. In Mark’s account, he called the tax collector Levi the son of Alphaeus. Both the accounts of Matthew and Mark in the call of Peter, Andrew, James and John are similar.

EVALUATION

1. Who are disciples?
2. Who are the first four disciples of Jesus?

Luke’s Account

The account of Luke differs from that of Matthew and Mark. In his own version, Jesus was preaching at the shore of Gennesaret, where he saw two empty boats, owned by fishermen washing their nets. He entered that of Peter and asked him to push the boat a bit into water so that he could preach freely without confusions from the crowd.

After He had preached, Jesus asked Peter to throw his net into the sea, Peter refused with the excuse that they had caught nothing since the night. When he obeyed Jesus, he was surprised at the catch. He knelt on his knees confessing to Jesus that he was unworthy to be in His presence. Jesus then decided to make him fishers of men. Luke also had it that James and John witnessed this miracle and decided to follow Jesus.

Despite the disparities in their accounts, the striking and similar thing is that the teachings and invitation of Jesus was irresistible by these men. They abandoned their profession, possession, and even families and followed Jesus.

EVALUATION

1. Narrate Luke’s account of the call of the disciples.
2. What is your view about this difference in Luke’s account?

The demands of discipleship

Matthew 8: 18 – 22, Luke 9: 57 – 63, 14: 25 – 33

The overall demands of true discipleship are that we should as true believers sacrifice a lot of things for the kingdom of God. Matthew and Luke gave the accounts of three prospective disciples but they changed their minds when they understood the task and challenges of being disciples.

The first disciple turned back when Jesus told him that he had no place to call his home where they always relax. Christ said to him “Foxes have holes and bird of the air has nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head”. Christ wanted the man to know that discipleship involves some difficulties and requires personal commitment and sacrifices.

Jesus also encountered and invited another man, but he gave excuse that he be allowed to go and bury his father before he became a disciple. Jesus advised the man to “let the dead to bury the dead”. In this statement, Christ meant that Christians should give the service of God preference before other services.

The third invited man sought for permission to go home and say final goodbye to his people. Jesus said to him “ no one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God”(Luke 9:62). What Jesus meant by this was that the service of God needed absolute loyalty and not divided attention or distractions.

Through these teachings, Jesus made us to understand that the task of discipleship needs utmost commitment. He advises that we should consider the demands of discipleship before going into it.

### EVALUATION

1. How did Jesus call the first four disciples
2. Why must the task of discipleship require sacrifice?

**GENERAL EVALUATION**

1. Mention three demands of discipleship.
2. Describe the life of Joseph in Portiphar’s house.
3. Describe the skills of Joseph as governor of Egypt.
4. What five lessons can we learn from Paul’s reconciliation bid?
5. State two reasons why a Christian should forgive others

**READING ASSIGNMENT**

R.S.V Bible Read Matt. 4: 1-11, 1:12-13, Luke 4: 1-13

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT**

1. The first set of Jesus disciples were\_\_\_\_.(a) traders (b) fishermen (c) sailors (d) tentmakers
2. Peter and Andrew were called by the sea of (a) Samaria (b) Gannesaret (c) Galilee
3. According to Luke’s account, Matthew was named\_\_\_\_\_.(a) Thaddeus (b) Levi (c) Alphaeus (d)

Thaddeus

1. The third invited disciple who declined Jesus offer went to \_\_\_\_ (a)Marry a wife (b) bury the dead (c) say farewell to his disciple (d) pack his clothes

5. Peter and Andrew were called by the Sea of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (a) Samaria (b) Gennesaret (c) Galilee (d)Bali

**THEORY**

1. Give an account of how Jesus called his first disciples.
2. Enumerate the demands of discipleship.

**WEEK FOUR**

**TOPIC: The Demands of Discipleship**

**CONTENT**

* + What discipleship entails.
  + Lessons to Learn from demands of discipleship and call to discipleship.

What discipleship entails

In anything one wants to do, there must be some difficulties. In most cases, one has to sacrifice something very costly before he can undertake a particular venture. For instance, for one to learn a trade or study any course at school, one has to sacrifice his time, energy, money or even his pleasure. Jesus teaches that demands of discipleship are even harder.

Matthew and Luke gave an account of three prospective discipleship of Jesus who apparently declined to follow him upon learning the hard demands which discipleship entails. The first disciple, who volunteered to follow Jesus later changed his mind when Jesus told him that he (Jesus) had no house of his own, where they could go in and relax.

Christ wanted the man to understand that contrary to his expectation, discipleship involves some difficulties and uncertainties and therefore requires some personal sacrifices and commitment Jesus also invited a second man to be his disciple, to which the man asked Jesus to wait so he could bury his father, after which he would follow him. Jesus advised this second fellow to “Let the dead bury the dead”. By this, Christ meant that whoever did not receive the gospel was spiritually dead and they should therefore attend to the physically dead. He also meant that Christians should give the service of God preference before other services.

The third invitee obtained permission to go home and bid farewell to his people. Jesus replied “No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (Lk 9:62) What Jesus meant was that the service of God demands absolute loyalty-not divided loyalty, no distraction and no disturbance. One just has to make up his mind before beginning or deciding. The issue Jesus stresses here is that one should consider the cost or demands of discipleship before entering into it.

**EVALUATION**

1. Enumerate the demands of discipleship.
2. Examine the significance of discipleship.

Lessons to learn from call to discipleship and demands of discipleship.

1. No matter our profession we can be called to serve God. Even as sinners, God can still call us. Matthew was a tax collector, a profession Jews hated. To them, a tax collector was a Roman agent of profession, a traitor, a sinner and a profiteer.

2. The first apostles left everything and followed Jesus. Likewise, we should respond to God’s call promptly.

3. We cannot combine the work of God with earthly duties.

4. The work of God demands full concentration and commitment.

5. Serving God may demand abandoning our loved ones, our family, our cherished professions etc.

**EVALUATION**

* + 1. Enumerate the demands of discipleship.
    2. Discuss the different ways God calls people today to serve him

**GENERAL EVALUATION**

* 1. Enumerate the demands of discipleship.
  2. Discuss the different ways God calls people today to serve him.
  3. Do you agree that Moses was a good nationalist? Why?
  4. What advice did Paul give on the use of individual talents in his epistle?
  5. Identify any two ways of applying your talents.

**READING ASSIGNMENT**

* Comprehensive Christian Religious Knowledge fr SS 1-3. By Matins I. Amaechi RSV Bible
* Matt. 8:18-22, Lk 9:57-63, 14:25-33.

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT**

1. According to Jesus, discipleship require\_\_\_\_\_.(a) rejection to participate in local politics (b) renunciation of one’s family ties (c) denial of basic life necessities (d) thinking on priorities

2. The first four men Jesus called were\_\_\_\_. (a) Boatmen ferrying passenger (b) Fishermen (c) Masons (d) stone carvers

3. The first two disciples called by Jesus were\_\_\_\_\_. (a) Peter and Andrew (b) James and John (c) Andrew and Judas (d) Matthew and Philip

4. The Statement…. “the son of man has nowhere to lay his head”, was directed to\_\_\_\_. (a) the tax collector (b) the voluntary disciple (c) James

5. By Profession, Matthew the disciple was a (a) Tax collector (b) Tent maker (c) Fisherman (d) Cattle rearer

**THEORY**

1. Enumerate the demands of discipleship.

2. Discuss the different ways of God calls people today to serve him.

**WEEK FIVE AND SIX**

**TOPIC: MISSION OF THE DISCIPLES**

**CONTENT**

* Mission of the twelve - Matt. 10:1-15, Matt. 10:1-15, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 9:1-16
* Mission of the seventy – Luke 10:1-24
* Lessons to Learn from the two missions and the significance.

**Mission of the twelve**

After Jesus had taught his disciples both privately and publicly he decided to send them out to practicalise what they had learnt. The three synoptic gospels recorded the mission of the twelve disciples.

Matthew stated that the mission of the twelve was limited to the Jewish territories but Luke and Mark did not record it. Matthew alone stated the names of the disciples that were sent out but not recorded by the two other gospels. Mark stated that the disciples were sent out in pairs i.e. two by two but Luke and Matthew did not state it. Matthew stated that Jesus called the twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirit to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. Jesus announced rules guiding their mission-a code of conduct. The first was that they should not go with money or tunics or bags. They should stay in places where they were received with open hands.

The important fact here is for Christians to understand the preparation they must undergo in terms of sound teaching and practical experience in becoming a priest, evangelist, ministers of God and other Ministerial assignment.

**EVALUATION**

1. Who are missionaries?
2. What are the similarities and differences between the mission of the twelve and the seventy?

**Mission of the seventy-Luke 10: 1-24**

Luke alone gave the account of the mission of he seventy. According to Luke, seventy other were appointed by Jesus. He sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself would go later. He said the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few, they should that God would send more labourers into the field.

A major difference between the mission of the seventy and that of the twelve is that in the case of the seventy, Jesus did not discriminate on areas to go into, e.g. Jewish or Gentile territories. Again on the mission of the seventy, Jesus warned them to be very cautious in their mission, as he was sending them out as “Lambs in midst of wolves”. He charged them not to carry purse bags, sandals and to salute no one on the road. Just like that twelve, the seventy went in twos and returned, giving account of a very successful mission. Jesus admonished them not to rejoice as a result of the success of their mission, especially their triumph over demons but because their names had been written the book of life in heaven.

**EVALUATION**

1. What instructions were given to the twelve disciples before they set out for their mission?

2. Mention any four differences that are notable in the account of Matthew and Mark.

**LESSONS TO LEARN FROM THE TWO MISSIONS AND THE SIGNIFICANCE**

1. Jesus charge against taking money, two tunics, bag and saluting people on their way meant that the mission was urgent, hence unnecessary luxuries should be avoided.

2. Jesus’ warning that he was sending the disciples out as lambs in the midst of wolves meant that they were bound to face persecution and stiff challenges in the ministry.

3. Just like he sent out his apostle and disciples, Jesus, today can also send us on assignments.

4. Jesus’ decision to send out the seventy on the same mission he had earlier sent the twelve points to the importance of the assignment.

**EVALUATION**

1. Compare and contrast the missions of the apostles and the seventy disciples.

2. State any four qualities required of today’s evangelist.

**GENERAL EVALUATION**

1. What instructions were given to the twelve disciples before they set out for their mission?

2. Mention any four differences that are notable in the account of Matthew and Mark.

3.Mention three leadership qualities of Joshua.

4. Describe the faith of Joshua.

5. What are the attributes of and reward for humility as stated in the epistles?

**READING ASSIGNMENT**

* Comprehensive Christian Religious Knowledge for SS 1-3 By Martins I. Amaechi
* RSV Bible.

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT**

* + 1. Saul was introduced to the Christians in Jerusalem as a new convert by (a) Ananias (b) Peter (c)Barnabas (d) John mark
    2. Paul was dragged out of the city and stoned at (a)paphons (b)Lystra (c)Iconium (d) Derbe
    3. The pronconsul whom Elymas tried to prevent from receiving the gospel was (a)Cornelius (b) Sergius Paulius (c) Barnabas (d) Bar-Jesus
    4. The paralysed man Peter healed at Lydda was (a) Elymas (b) Aenas (c) Tabitha (d) Bar-Jesus
    5. Dorcas was raised from death at (a) Derbe (b) Antioch in Pisidia (c) Joppa

**THEORY**

1. Narrate the story of the conversion of Saul and show with two examples the effect of this conversion on the growth of the church.
2. What was the obstacle faced by the apostles in extending the gospel to the gentiles and how it was resolved.

**WEEK SEVEN**

**TOPIC: THE TRIALS OF CHRIST**

**CONTENT**

* Christ before the High Priest Matt. 26:36-75, Mk 14:53-72,LK. 22
* Christ before Pilate and the Roman Authorities Matt 27:11-13, MK 23:1-25, LK. 23:1-5
* Christ before Herod Lk.23:6-12

**The Trials of Christ (Matt 26:57-68)**

There were basically two separate trials of Jesus – The Jewish trial and the Roman trial. After Judas had betrayed Jesus Christ, he was arrested and taken to Caiaphas, the high priest where the members of Sanhedrin – The highest Jewish council- gathered. There Jesus was tried and found guilty of blasphemy for claiming to be the son of God. The punishment for this offence by Jewish law is the death penalty, but being a colony of the Roman Empire, they did not have power to pass the death sentence. They had to take Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman representative he was tried the second time and found guilty, although he was innocent.

**CHRIST BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST**

Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemanewhere he told his disciples to wait for him while he went up to pray. He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Going further, Jesus prayed, “My father, If it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not as I will but as thou will” He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, he reprimanded them for not watching and praying along with him. For the second time he prayed, repeating the same words. Again, he came back and still found them sleeping.

While Jesus was still speaking with his disciples, Judas one of his disciples came with a great crowd he kissed Jesus immediately Christ was arrested and taken away . Those who seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. Jesus was accused of blasphemy. He was asked to defend himself, but Jesus did not answer a word. Peter who was sitting outside the courtyard with a maid was challenged to be with Christ he denied not knowing him, shortly after saying that, the third time, the cock crow, Peter was ashamed and went out and wept bitterly.

**EVALUATION**

1. Narrate the trial of Jesus before the High Priest.
2. Discuss the implication of the trial on the disciples.

**CHRIST BEFORE THE ROMAN AUTHORITY Matt. 27:11-31**

Instead of the former religious charge of blasphemy for which the highest Jewish court the Sanhedrin had condemned him they now brought three new political charges against him knowing fully that Pilate was more interested in political than religious charges. The new charge were as follow:

1. That Jesus was a seditious agitator perverting the nation.

2. That Jesus was inciting people not to pay tax.

3. That he claims to be a king, thereby overthrowing Caesar.

Pilate knowing that Jesus was accused out of envy, tries to set him free, Pilate’s wife told him not to have anything to do with the death of Christ having told him the dream she had Pilate washed his hands and have Barabbas released to them. Having flogged Jesus, they led him off to be crucified.

**CHRIST BEFORE HEROD – Luke 23:6-12**

The trial of Jesus before Herod was only recorded in the gospel according to Luke when Pilate learnt that the man was a Galilean which was within Herod’s Jurisdiction he sent him over to Herod who was himself in Jerusalem .When Herod saw Jesus, he was glad, for he had long desired to see him. He had heard about Jesus and he was anxious to see some signs performed by him.

Herod questioned Jesus at length but Jesus did not reply him, not minding that the chief priest and the Pharisees were accusing him vehemently. However, Herod and his soldiers treated Christ with contempt and mockery. The trial of Christ gave Herod and Pilate an opportunity to reconcile for they were enemies before that time .

**EVALUATION**

1. Briefly narrate the account of Jesus’ trial before Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod.
2. What charges were leveled against him at each stage.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRIAL OF CHRIST**

* 1. Despite the series of false allegation leveled against Jesus and the fact that he was not found guilty, he was crucified because it was the will of God that it should be so.
  2. The messiahship of Jesus Christ could only be accomplished through his death and by this the scripture was fulfilled.
  3. Although, it had been destined that Jesus would die because Judas was living in sin, he was used to accomplish the obnoxious task. Christians should therefore be steadfast.

**GENERAL EVALUATION**

1. Give an account of the crucifixion of Jesus and the significance of the trial of Christ
2. Outline Pilate’s attempt to save Jesus and why he failed.
3. Describe how Deborah led her people to victory.
4. Mention various ways women are contributing to the development of the society today.
5. From Paul’s letter to the Romans explain the term Justification?

**READING ASSIGNMENT**

Comprehensive Christian Religious Knowledge for SS 1-3 By Martins I. Amaechi Page 161 -168

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT**

* + 1. Herod was happy to see Jesus because (a) Jesus came from Galilee, Herods territory (b) he thought Jesus was John the Baptist reincarnate (c) he hated Jesus greatly (d) He hoped to see Jesus perform signs
    2. Who was the first to try Jesus \_\_\_ (a) High Priest (b) Sanhedrin (c) High priest (d) Herod
    3. The notorious Prisoner released by Pilate instead of Jesus was\_\_\_\_. (a)Barabbas (b) Barnabas (c) Barsabba (d)Bar-Jesus
    4. Simon who was compelled to carry Jesus cross came from\_\_\_\_\_. (a)Judea (b)Galilee (c) Cyrene (d)Cyrus
    5. Which of the following did Pilate ask Jesus during the trial (a) What is it that these men testify against you? (b)Are you Jesus the prophet from Galilee? (c) Are you the king of kings (d) I adjure you by God, tell me if you are the Christ.

**THEORY**

* + - 1. Write short notes on the role played by the following in the trial, Crucifixion and the burial of Jesus Christ: (i) The chief Priest (caiaphas) (ii) Simon of Cyene (iii) Herod Antipas
      2. Justify the reactions of Jesus at his trial with Pilate.

**WEEK EIGHT**

**TOPIC: CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL OF JESUS (MATT 27. 32-56)**

**CONTENT**

i) The Burial of Jesus Matt 27:57-61

ii) The Words of Jesus on the cross

iii) Significance of Christ death and the lessons to learn.

After Jesus had been condemned to death, he was led away by soldiers to the place of his crucifixion. Due to physical exhaustion, Jesus was unable to carry his cross. A man of Cyrene, Simon whom they met on the way was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus to the place of his crucifixion called Golgotha which means the place of skill. They offered him wine mixed with gall which he tasted but refused to drink. They shared his garment away themselves by drawing lots. At about sixth hour, there was darkness over the land until the ninth hour. Jesus cried out with aloud voice “saying Eli’ Eli Lama Sabathani”!

The curtain of the temple was torn into two from top to bottom when those who were keeping watch over Jesus saw what happened, they were filled with awe, they testified that Jesus was truly the son of God.

Those who had followed Jesus from Galilee ministering to him these included many Magdalene,

Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

**THE BURIAL OF JESUS Matt 27:57-61**

In the evening of the day of Crucifixion a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea who was also a disciple of Jesus went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate ordered it to be given to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen and laid it in his own new tomb Mary Magdalene and other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulcher.

**EVALUATION**

1. Summarize the account of the death of Jesus, pointing out its significance.
2. Trace Matthew’s account of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus.

**THE WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS Matt 27: 46, Mark 15:34, Luke 23, 34,43,46**

Jesus made seven statements on the cross, only four are found in the synoptic gospels while the other three are in the gospel of John we lay emphasis here on four that are in the syllabus .

i.’’ Eli Eli Lama Sabathani” (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34) This expression means “My God, my God why has thou forsaken me”?

ii.’’ Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 13:34)

By this statement, Jesus was praying for forgiveness for his enemies – those who betrayed him and those that mocked him and crucified him on the cross.

iii. “Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:24)

By this statement, Jesus offered salvation to the repentant robber. This further shows Jesus determination to offer salvation to repentant sinner even on the cross.

iv. “Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46) Jesus made this statement when he was about to field up his spirit.

**EVALUATION**

1. Mention three words of Jesus on the cross.
2. Examine the comment of Jesus on the cross.

**Significance of Christ’s Death and the Lessons to Learn**

* 1. We should forgive those who wrong us even as Jesus forgave his fortues and those who killed him.

1. Everyone like the robber who was crucified with Jesus.
2. The tearing of the temple curtain symbolized that unlike in the past Jesus death guaranteed believers straight access to God. No more sacrifices.
3. Jesus words on the cross signify that his death was within God’s plan to save mankind.

**GENERAL EVALUATION**

1. List Jesus seven words on the cross.
2. Summarize the account of Jesus trial before Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod?
3. Mention four ways that God leads people.
4. Narrate the crossing of the Red Sea event.
5. How did Paul differentiate between Law and Grace?

**READING ASSIGNMENT**

Comprehensive Christian Religious Knowledge for SS 1-3 By Martins I. Amaechi Page 161 -168

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT**

1. “My Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from me” Cup as used here stands for (a) Trial

(b) accusation (c) death (d) temptation

1. During the trial of Jesus, the Jews preferred that Pilate should release (a) Bar-Jesus (b) Barabbars

(c) Barnabas (d) Bartholemew

1. All the following were the words of Jesus on the cross except (a)My father if it be possible let this cup pass from me (b)Today you will be with me in paradise (c) Father forgive them for they know not what they do (d) My God, my god why has thou forsaken me
2. Jesus surrendered to his enemies when he was arrested at Gethsemane because(a) his disciples did not support him (b)he did not invite angels to fight for him (c)he was over powered by his enemies (d) The scripture must be fulfilled.
3. At Jesus death, the temple curtain tore into two, Signifying that (a)Jesus fulfilled the old testament (b) believers could have direct access to God (c) Jesus was a Priest (d) God did not support his death.

**THEORY**

* + 1. List Jesus seven words on the cross.
    2. Summarize the account of the death of Jesus, pointing out its significance.

**WEEK NINE**

**TOPIC:** **THE RESURRECTION AND APPEARANCES OF JESUS.**

**CONTENT**

* The synoptic account of the resurrection Matt. 28:1-8, Mark 16: 1-8, Luke 24:1-11
* The appearances of Jesus Matt 28:9-20, Mark 24: 13-49

**The synoptic account of the resurrection** Matt. 28:1-8, Mark 16: 1-8, Luke 24:1-11

Resurrection means coming back to life after death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was to show his victory over death. The account of the resurrection appears in all three synoptic gospels. They all stated that when the women disciples – Mary Magdalene, Mary, mother of James and Salome went to the tomb to embalm the body of Jesus, They discovered that He had resurrected. Matthew reported that there was great earthquake; an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone and sat upon it. It was this angel that informed the women that Jesus had risen from the dead.

However Luke and Mark did not report any earthquake Mark reported that as the women were contemplating who would help them roll a way the stone at the entrance of the tomb, they discovered that the stone was no more there. Luke’s account was similar to that of Marks except that he added that as the women were perplexed over what happened to the body of Jesus two men stood by the dazzling apparel.

**EVALUATION**

1. Define resurrection.
2. What is the significance of resurrection

**THE APPEARANCES OF JESUS (Matt 28: 9-20, Luke 24:13-49)**

**A**fter the resurrection, Jesus made several appearance to his disciples. Matthew recorded that Jesus appeared to the women disciples May Magdalene and Mary the mother of James while they were on their way to Galilee to inform the disciples to meet him in Galilee.

Matthew further recorded that the chief Priest and the scribes bribed the guards to falsify the resurrection story to make people believe it was the disciples that came and stole him at night. Luke recorded that Jesus appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, while the disciples were still discussing about his appearance, Jesus stood among them. They were afraid and they felt it was a sprit. Jesus told them not to be afraid that He is the one. Jesus ate together with them Luke concluded by stating that he charged the disciples to preach repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations beginning from Jerusalem.

**EVALUATION**

1. Narrate the story of the resurrection appearance of Jesus to women according to the gospel of Matthew.

2. What is the significance of the resurrection to Christians.

**The significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ**

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the basis of Christian faith , without his resurrection, there would be no Christian faith .
2. God raised Jesus from the dead thereby confirming him as His son
3. Resurrection equally forms the basis of Christian hope of salvation .
4. It is an assurance that as God raised Jesus from dead, so will God raise every Christian.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS APPEARANCE**

* 1. The appearance helped the disciples to be firmly convinced that Jesus really rose.
  2. The appearance strengthened their faith
  3. It was during the appearance of Jesus that he told the disciples their responsibilities after the ascension.
  4. It was at that period that he promised them the power from on high (The Holy spirit) This promise was fulfilled on the Pentecost day.

**GENERAL EVALUATION**

* 1. Narrate the story of the resurrection and appearance of Jesus to women in the Gospel of Matthew.
  2. What is the significance of the resurrection of Christians?
  3. Narrate the provision of water for the Israelites.
  4. Mention at least, three parables that describe the kingdom of God
  5. Narrate the parable of the sower and outline its significance.

**READING ASSIGNMENT**

Comprehensive Christian Religious Knowledge for SS 1-3 By Martins I. Amaechi Page 161 -168

R.S.V Bible Read Matt 28:1-8, MK. 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-11

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT**

1. According to Matthew, Jesus first appeared to the women who went to the tomb on their way to\_\_\_\_. (a) the tomb (b) Damascus (c) Bethlehem (d) Samaria
2. According to Luke, Jesus appeared to the rest of the disciples at\_\_\_\_\_. (a)Galilee (b)Capernaum (c) Emmanuel (d) Jerusalem
3. In order not for his disciples to steal Jesus body, the Jewish leaders\_\_\_\_\_. (a) buried the body themselves (b) bribed the disciples (c)Set a guard at the tomb (d) chained the tomb.
4. The major significance of the resurrection of Jesus to Christians is that\_\_\_\_. (a) Christians too could die and resurrect as Jesus (b) Christians too can perform miracles (c) It gives the Christians assurance of life after death (d) It confirms that Jesus is the son of God.
5. The mission of the three women who went to the tomb was to\_\_\_\_. (a) bribe the soldiers (b) anoint Jesus body (c)embalm Jesus’ body (d)Cement the tomb.

**THEORY**

1. Write short notes on the following in respect of resurrection and appearances of Jesus (a)The soldiers (b)The angel (c)The women (d) The two disciples going to Emmaus.
2. What two lessons can be drawn from the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**WEEK TEN**

**TOPIC: COMMUNAL LIVING IN THE EARLY CHRISTIAN**

**CONTENT**

* Election of the successor of Judas Iscariot Act 1:15-26
* Identify the characteristics of the early Christian community.
* Disclose the problem of the early Christian communal living.

**ELECTION OF THE SUCCESSOR OF JUDAS ISCARIOT Act 1:15-26**

Fellowship in the early church depicts the intimate relationship that existed among the brethren of the early church.

After Jesus Christ’s ascension the apostles and the disciples about one hundred and twenty of them were together. Peter addressed them on the need to find a replacement for Judas Iscariot who had committed suicide following his betrayal of Jesus Christ. The person must have also witnessed, resurrection and ascension and should preach the gospel and take care of the needs of the Christian community.

Two names were forwarded – Barnabas and Matthias. After they prayed they cast lots for them; the lot fell on Matthias. He was numbered among the Eleven.

After Peter’s speech on the Pentecost day, about three thousand men were converted to Christianity. Thus, the number joined the apostles to form the first Christian community, living a communal life. They ate together. Lived together and did almost everything in common.

**EVALUATION**

1. Describe the election for the replacement of Judas Iscariot.
2. Mention the names of the twelve disciples of Jesus.

**Identify the characteristics of the early Christian community.**

1. They all lived as a community sharing, Fellowshipping, praying and praising God.
2. There was a common purse for all disciples and the ones who had enough food shared it with others according to each person’s need. Those who owned lands and other properties sold them and deposited the proceed at the apostles’ feet for the common use of all.
3. There was the spirit of oneness among them, as they worshipped God daily, sharing what they could afford with joy God responded by multiplying their number greatly daily.

**EVALUATION**

* 1. What social problems brought about the appointment of deacons in the early church.
  2. Mention five social problems facing the church today.

**PROBLEMS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND SOLUTIONS – Act 5:1-11**

Like any other organization of human beings, the joy and communal living among the brethren gave way to human weaknesses and problems. In the early church dishonesty and discrimination came in to destroy and discrimination came in to destroy the spirit of fellowship but was quickly stopped by the apostles. The case of Ananias and Sapphira should the whole church. They lied upon the Holy spirit, they died a shameful death.

The early church was made up of Hebrews, Greeks and people from other nations of the world. Problem arose when the non-Jews accused the Jews of neglecting their widows in the daily distribution of food that was donated by the wealthy members of the church. A meeting was summoned at the end of the meeting, Seven deacons were chosen from the congregation. The selected deacons’ included: Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas.

Some social problems facing the church today.

1. The issue of women ordination.
2. So many pastors take the work of God as part time duty.
3. Local traditions are clashing with Christian values and ethics.
4. Stealing of church funds.
5. The urge to get rich over night by pastors.
6. Proliferation of churches.
7. Lack of unity among members.
8. Fight for positions of authority.
9. Differences in doctrine.
10. The legitimacy or otherwise of polygamy.

**EVALUATION**

1. Mention five challenges of present day church.
2. What are the solutions to these challenges?

**LESSON TO LEARN**

1. There is no human organization that does not experience problems of one kind or another.
2. Dishonesty and lies do not pay but lead to death.
3. The poor and less privileged should be cared for in the church.
4. Domestic problems in the church should not be allowed to distract us from the major task of evangelism.

**GENERAL EVALUATION**

1. Mention five social problems facing the church today.
2. How did the apostles solve the problem of favouritism in the early church?
3. Describe the protection of God over the Israelites.
4. Discuss the effect of the Red Sea event on the Israelites.
5. Narrate the parable of the prodigal son.

**READING ASSIGNMENT**

Comprehensive Christian Religious Knowledge for SS 1- 3 By Martins I. Amaechi Page 196 -200

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT**

1. The man who succeeded Judas as an apostle was (a) Peter (b) Barnabas (c)Philip (d)Matthias
2. The first problem that crept into the early church was (a)the dishonesty and death of Ananias and Sapphira (b)the problem of favouritism (c) The problem of food (d) The problem of leadership
3. The seven deacons of the early church had the primary role of (a)baptizing (b) preaching (c)healing (d) daily distribution
4. The couple who died for lying to the Holy Spirit was (a) Joseph and Mary (b)Ahab and Jezebel (c)Ananias and Sapphira (d) Elkanah and Peninnnah
5. The man noted for his generosity in the early church was\_\_\_\_. (a) Simon (b) Peter (c) Barnabas (d) Stephen.

**THEORY**

1. What social problems brought about the appointment of deacons in the early church?
2. Mention five social problems facing the church today?