

Lesson 1

Hebrews 1 – 2

Question 1

In chapters 1 and 2 of *The Letter to the Hebrews*, the sacred author speaks of the Incarnate Son of God through multiple references to the angels. Before we consider why the author makes so many references to the angels in speaking of Jesus Christ, let's first briefly summarize what we know about angels. Who or what are angels, and can we know with certainty that they exist? What, exactly, do they do? Are angels higher or lower than human beings?

Readings: Gn 22:11-12, 28:12-13; Ex 3:2, 14:19, 23:20; 1Kg 19:5-7, 22:19; Tb 12:11-15; Ps 91; Dn 9:20-21, 10:13; Mt 1:20, 2:13,19, 4:11, 13:49, 18:10, 28:2-7; Mk 1:13; Lk 1:11,26-38, 2:9-15, 10:19, 15:10, 20:36, 22:43, 24:23; Jn 1:49-51; Ac 5:19-20, 10:3-8; 1Co 6:3, 11:10; 2Pt 2:4,11; Ju 1:6,8-10; CCC 311, 326-30, 334-36, 350-52, 414.

Question 2

2a. What does the author say about how God spoke to us in the past, and how has He spoken to us “in this, the final age” (Hb 1:1-3)? To whom is Scripture referring when it uses the title *son of God* (cf. Hb 1:4-5)? Briefly explain your answer in light of the readings.

Readings: 1Ch 17:11-15; Jn 1:14,18, 3:16; Ep 4:13; 1Jn 4:2,9; Rv 21:7; CCC 65, 262, 423-24, 441-45, 460-63, 469, 653, 1286, 2788, 2798.

2b. Based on what God reveals in the opening chapters of *The Letter to the Hebrews*, are angels higher or lower than Christ the Son of God and Son of man (i.e., son of Adam and son of Mary; cf. Lk 3:38; 1Co 15:45; and Mt 1:18, 2:11; Mk 6:3; Lk 1:26-32, 2:34)? Explain your answer. Secondly (II), what does Scripture mean when it says that God made Christ “perfect through suffering” (Hb 2:10)?

Readings: Pss 2, 8; Mt 11:27, 13:41-42, 16:27, 24:31, 26:53; Mk 15:39; Lk 9:26, 10:17-20, 12:8-9; Jn 3:13,18, 6:40, 13:3; Ac 13:32-37; Rm 1:3-4; Ep 1:17-23; Col 2:8-10; 1Th 4:16; 2Th 1:6-7; 2Pt 1:16-18; Rv 19:9-10; CCC 325, 331-33, 454-55, 1053, 1138-39.

Readings (II): Jn 1:4-5a, 3:35, 17:1-2; Rm 8:3, 11:33-36; 2Co 5:21; Hb 5:7-10, 7:28, 10:11-14; CCC 515, 536, 602-03, 606-09, 612, 1009, 2606, 2741.

Lesson 2

Hebrews 3 – 5:10

Question 1

1a. Read Hebrews 3. To whom does the author compare Christ, and what is he saying through this analogy (cf. Hb 3:1-6)? How does the author use Psalm 95 to summarize not only the dilemma confronting Israel in the Old Covenant, but also the dilemma *still* confronting the world in these “final days” of Jesus Christ (Hb 1:2)?

Readings: Nb 14; Pss 95, 127:1-2; Ac 13:38-41; 1Co 10:1-12; 2Co 3:7-14.

1b. Read Hebrews 4:1-11. What is the “place of rest” to which the Old and New Testaments refer, and who is allowed to enter there? Secondly (II), to what are the Old and New Testament scriptures referring when they speak of “this day” or “today” in reference to entering our “place of rest”?

Readings: Dt 11:31-12:14, 31:1-6; Js 22:1-6; Pss 55:1-9, 62; Ws 4:7-15; Is 28:11-12, 57:1-2; Jr 6:16-19, 31:1-3; Ez 34:11-16; Mt 11:28-30; Mk 6:30-31a; Lk 10:5-6; Jn 1:32-33; Ac 2:3; 2Co 12:9; 1Pt 4:14; Rv 14:13; CCC 345-49, 624, 1166-67, 1405, 1720-21, 2628, 2632.

Readings (II): Ex 34:10-12; Dt 30:11-20; Js 24:14-15; Ne 8:8-12; Ps 138; Jr 11:1-5, 42:19-22; Mt 21:28; Lk 4:21; Hb 13:8; CCC 1165, 2659-60, 2836-37.

1c. What is the meaning of Hebrews 4:12-13 in light of the passage immediately before it (Hb 4:1-11)?

Readings: 1Sm 16:6-7; Ws 1:4-12, 7:22-24; Jr 17:9-10; Jn 12:46-50; CCC 368, 2520, 2527.

Question 2

Summarize in your own words the great mystery the author is explaining to us in Hebrews 4:14-5:10. How is this mystery connected to the Incarnation? (Also review Hb 2:10-18.)

Readings: Ps 85; Jn 17:19; Rm 6:8-11, 8:3; 2Co 5:21; 1Pt 2:21-25; 1Jn 3:5; CCC 461, 464-65, 467, 469-72, 479-81, 483, 540, 607, 1009, 2825.

Lesson 3 Hebrews 5:11 – 8

Question 1

Before the author of *The Letter to the Hebrews* further explains the priesthood of Jesus Christ (of which he has already been speaking, particularly in Hb 4:14-5:10), he presents a rather lengthy exhortation preparing the reader to hear the mystery he plans to expound in chapters 7-10. What complaint or concern does the author express in Hb 5:11-6:2, and how ought we respond to the kinds of difficulties we sometimes encounter in hearing the doctrines of our faith explained to us?

Readings: Ws 6:22; Ba 3:37-4:4; Mt 13:18-19; Lk 24:44-49; 1Co 3:1-3; Ep 4:18; 2Tm 2:11-13; Ti 1:1-3; CCC 5-7, 143, 157, 162, 184, 2086, 2089-90.

Question 2

2a. Read Hebrews 7 and 8. Who is Melchizedek, and how is Abraham's encounter with him fulfilled and surpassed in the Person of Jesus Christ? Secondly (II), how is the priesthood of the New Covenant radically different from the levitical priesthood of the Old Covenant? (Is there any way in which the priests of the Old and New Covenants are similar? Explain your answer.)

Readings: Gn 14:17-24; Ps 110; CCC 58, 128-30, 1333, 1350, 1539-44.

Readings (II): Lv 21:1a,6,21, 22:1-3,9; Nb 3:5-15, 8:5-16, 18:1-10,20; Si 45:7-22; Ml 2:7; Mt 10:1; Lk 22:19-20; Jn 20:20-23; Ac 2:41-42, 20:7a; 1Co 11:23-26; CCC 1342, 1548-54, 1581-85.

2b. Explain the point the author is making in Hb 7:26-28. Since Christ's sacrifice is offered only "once and for all" (Hb 7:27), why does the Church speak of offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every day until the end of time?

Readings: Rm 3:25-26, 6:9-10; 1Tm 2:5-6; Hb 9:11-12,24-26, 10:1-3,11-14; 1Pt 3:18,21-22; CCC 614, 662, 1084-85, 1104-05, 1111-12, 1132, 1165, 1330, 1364, 1366-68, 1545-47, 2824.

Lesson 4

Hebrews 9 – 10:18

Question 1

1a. What does the sacred author tell us about the sanctuary of the Old Covenant (Hb 9:1-5)? Who was allowed to enter this “second tent” or “inner tabernacle,” how often did he enter there, what did he take into the sanctuary with him, and what was the purpose of his offering (Hb 9:6-10)? How is all of this fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ (Hb 9:11-15,23-28)?

Readings: Lv 4:1-6, 21:10-15; Nb 17:16-26, 35:2-3,6-8,12,25; Js 20:6; 2Ch 19:11; Zc 6:11-13; Rm 8:34; 1Tm 2:5; Hb 7:25; CCC 433, 519, 522, 593, 662, 667, 771, 1090, 1137, 1183, 1379, 2634.

1b. According to the sacred author, what must characterize the fulfillment of a will or testament (cf. Hb 9:16-21), and according to the Law (cf. Hb 9:22), what is necessary for purification and forgiveness?

Readings: Gn 4:10, 22:1-18; Ex 12:5-7,12-14, 24:1-11; Mt 26:27-28; Jn 6:53-56; Rm 3:25-26, 5:9; 1Co 10:15-16; Ep 1:7, 2:13; Col 1:20; Hb 8:5, 11:28, 12:22-25, 13:11-12,20; 1Pt 1:2,18-20; 1Jn 1:7, 5:6-8; Rv 5:9; CCC 571, 599, 601-02, 609, 613, 766, 1365, 1381, 1384.

1c. How does the New Covenant of Jesus Christ (cf. questions 1a and 1b above) change the lives of the beneficiaries of God’s Will and Testament, and what is Mary’s role as the preeminent beneficiary of Christ’s redeeming work? Since Christ is the only true mediator between God and humanity, why do we ask the Mother of God to intercede for our needs?

Readings: Ac 17:28; Ep 2:8-10, 3:20-21; Ph 2:13; Hb 13:20-21; 1Jn 1:7; Rv 1:4-6, 12:10-11; CCC 491-92, 618, 964-65, 967-72, 1138-39, 1476.

Question 2

Keeping in mind all that the sacred author declares concerning the high priest as mediator, the necessity of bloodshed as a sin offering, the high priest’s access to the Holy of Holies (cf. Hb 9:3), the death of the testator in regard to the will’s effect, and the “body” which God prepares in order to fulfill His will (cf. Hb 10:5-10), explain why the Eucharist, since the first days of the Church, has been “the source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC 1324) and “the sum and summary of our faith” (CCC 1327).

Readings: CCC 610-11, 1324-25, 1331-32, 1341, 1343-44, 1356-63, 1407, 1409-11.

Lesson 5

Hebrews 10:19 – 13

Question 1

1a. Summarize what the sacred author is saying in Hebrews 10:19-11:1. What kinds of attitudes and actions must characterize the lives of those who live under the New Covenant established in “the blood of Jesus” (Hb 10:19)?

Readings: Is 26:7-13; Ha 2:1-4; Mt 5:1-12; Rm 6:4; 1Co 1:4-9; 2Co 6:14-7:1; 1Pt 3:21-22, 4:12-19; CCC 1813-14, 1816-22, 1827, 2016.

1b. What is the main point of chapter 11 and what might be the purpose of so many illustrations? Why are these illustrations especially poignant in light of what the author says in Hebrews 11:40-12:2a?

Readings: Rm 4:18-25; 1Co 13:11-13; 2Co 5:6-10; Ga 3:6-7; Hb 2:16, 6:13-15; Ja 2:21-23; 1Jn 3:2-3; CCC 145-47, 163-65.

Question 2

2a. In Hebrews 12:1-13, what does the sacred author tell us to remember as we find ourselves confronted by the many hardships, struggles, disappointments and failures of life? Secondly (II), what do we learn about prayer from the lessons of faith and hope explained in Hebrews 11-12?

Readings: Dt 8:2-6, 32:39; Jb 5:17-19, 33:12-30; Pss 38, 66:10-16, 141; Prv 3:11-12; Si 2:1-8, 17-18, 4:11, 16-19, 23:2-6; Ho 6:1-3; 1Co 11:31-32; 1Pt 4:12; Rv 3:19-22; CCC 227, 304, 313-14.

Readings (II): Pss 4, 16, 71; CCC 2560, 2570-73, 2575-77, 2590-93, 2715-16.

2b. Briefly summarize what the author is saying to us in Hebrews 12:18-29. To what is he referring when he speaks of God’s shaking the earth in order to establish “an unshakeable kingdom” (Hb 12:26-28, 13:14-16)?

Readings: Ex 19:16-25; Jg 5:4-5; Pss 24, 29, 46, 68, 97; Is 33:11-16; Hg 2:1-9; Mt 24:29-31, 35; Lk 21:25-28; 2Pt 3:10-14; Rv 20:11-21:4; CCC 280, 1042-43, 1047, 1050, 1060.

Lesson 6

James 1 – 2

Question 1

Read chapter 1. What does St. James say is the true source of temptation, and why should we never say that God is tempting us (Ja 1:13-17)?

Readings: Gn 3:12-13; Dt 30:15-18; Jb 5:6-8, 15:35, 34:10-12; Ps 7:11-17; Prv 19:3; Si 15:11-20; Mt 23:27-28; Rm 7:14-23; 1Co 10:12; Ga 6:8; Ja 4:1-2; 1Jn 1:5; CCC 164, 368, 1808, 1853, 1888, 2515-18, 2612, 2846-49.

Question 2

What does the apostle teach about anger (Ja 1:19-21), and how is anger often connected to judgmentalism (cf. 2:10-13, 5:9)?

Readings: Jb 40:6-14; Ps 103; Prv 14:17; Si 1:22-24 [NAB 1:19-21], 6:2-4, 10:6, 19:13-17 [NAB 19:12-16]; Is 57:14-21; Ho 11:9; Mt 5:20-26, 43-48, 11:29, Rm 12:17-21; Ep 4:23-27; 1Pt 3:9; CCC 578, 1435, 1762-65, 1767-68, 1772, 2079, 2259, 2302.

Question 3

Summarize what St. James says concerning riches and poverty in 1:9-11, 27, 2:1-9, 4:13-17 and 5:1-6. What makes a person rich or poor in the eyes of God? Explain your answer.

Readings: Dt 1:16-17a, 24:14; Tb 12:8-9; Ps 49, Prv 11:4, 28; Ws 2:1a, 6-12, 21-22; Si 29:8-13; Zp 2:3; Mt 6:19-21, 25:31-46; Lk 1:52-53, 6:24, 16:9-13; Jn 12:8; 2Co 8:9; 1Jn 2:15-17; CCC 525, 544, 716, 1397, 1723, 1932, 2443-46, 2448-49, 2544-48, 2551-54, 2737, 2833.

Question 4

St. James is very clear in declaring what is required of one who professes to have faith in Jesus Christ. Summarize the key point he makes in 1:22-25 and 2:14-26 in light of the following readings.

Readings: Dt 4:5-6; 1Ch 28:8; Ps 15; Jr 17:10; Mt 7:21, 24, 16:27; Rm 2:6-7, 13; 2Co 5:10; Ga 5:5-6; Ep 2:10; Ph 2:12-13, 3:17; Col 3:23-24; 1Tm 6:18-19; Hb 13:16; 1Pt 1:17, 2:15; Rv 20:12; CCC 901, 1038-39, 1814-16, 1969, 1974, 2044, 2447.

Lesson 7

James 3 – 5

Question 1

After reading chapter 3, summarize what is revealed from the comparisons St. James makes in vv. 1-12 about learning to control our tongue. (What does Scripture say about undisciplined speech and the practice of true religion; cf. 1:26?) Using the readings below, summarize what God reveals about human speech as evidence of righteousness (or condemnation). What are some of the ways we often inadvertently offend truth, justice or charity in our daily speech?

Readings: Prv 10:19, Si 5:11-15, 7:12-14, 8:10-11,17-19, 11:7-9, 18:27-29, 19:4-12, [NAB 19:5-11], 20:1-8,18-20,24-26 [NAB 20:17-19,23-25], 21:16-28, 22:27, 23:1-6, 27:4-7,16-21, 28:8-26; Mt 5:37, 12:33-37, 15:19-20; Lk 6:43-45; Ga 5:19-21; Ph 4:4-9; 1Pt 2:1-3; CCC 736, 2145-49, 2464, 2468, 2470, 2475-87, 2540.

Question 2

According to Ja 4:1-12, what is at the root of most battles in family and Church life, and how can we strengthen ourselves to say and do what is right in every situation and avoid giving into our sinful tendencies?

Readings: 2Ch 15:1-2; Ws 8:21, 9:1-6; Zc 1:3; Mt 7:7-8; Lk 10:25-28; Ep 6:10-13; 1Pt 5:6-11; 1Jn 2:15-16; CCC 2093, 2098, 2612, 2633, 2646-49, 2725, 2737, 2742.

Question 3

What instructions does God give His Church in Ja 5:13-18, and what does He reveal about the connections between human afflictions and repentance, prayer and healing? How is divine revelation in Ja 5:13-14 connected to the sacrament of Anointing?

Readings: Pss 32, 88; Prv 28:13; Si 4:26; Mt 3:5-10, 10:8; Mk 2:3-12, 6:12-13; Lk 18:13-14; Ac 3:16; 1Jn 1:8-10; CCC 853, 1421, 1428, 1499-1501, 1506-07, 1510-23, 1525.

Lesson 8

1 Peter

Question 1

What does St. Peter mean when he repeatedly refers to Christians as living in exile (1Pt 1:17, 2:11)? Since our exile is filled with “all sorts of trials,” persecution and suffering (1Pt 1:6, 3:13-17, 4:12-14), how can we have “a joy so glorious it cannot be described” (1Pt 1:8)?

Readings: Pss 126, 137; Ep 2:19-22; Ph 3:20-21; Col 3:1-4; Hb 11:13-16; CCC 769-771, 2795-96.

Question 2

2a. Describe the life St. Peter exhorts the baptized to embrace while we live in exile (1Pt 1:13-21). In 1:23-25 and 2:4-10, what comparisons or images does he use in speaking of our life in Christ?

Readings: Ex 19:3-6; Dt 10:14-15; Is 40:6-8, 43:21; Mt 5:48, 13:38, 21:42-43; Lk 12:35-39; Ja 1:18; 1Jn 3:3,9; CCC 709, 782, 803, 901, 1141, 1227-28, 1268, 1546.

2b. In the central section of his letter (2:11 – 3:17), what instructions does St. Peter give concerning our attitudes and actions as Christians living under various kinds of authority, even when that authority might not be configured to the mind and law of Christ? Do we have an obligation as Christians to cooperate with governments and other social institutions?

Readings: Mt 22:21; Lk 2:51-52; Rm 13:1-7; 1Co 9:19; Ep 6:5-9; Ph 2:7-8; Col 3:22-25; 1Tm 2:1-4; Ti 2:9-13, 3:1-2; CCC 1818, 1884, 1888, 1897-1917, 2238, 2242-43, 2254-57.

2c. What does St. Peter declare in 3:18-19 and 4:6, and how is this truth connected to everything he has said up to this point, and continues to say after (cf. 4:1-19), with regard to Christians and our mission to preach the Good News of salvation?

Readings: Is 53:11-12, 61:1-2; Jn 5:25; Ac 3:16, 10:40-42, 26:17-18; Rm 10:6-8, 14-15; 2Co 4:10, 5:5; Ep 4:7-13; Hb 2:14-15; 1Pt 2:21; CCC 605, 634-35, 637, 1269-70.

Question 3

What does St. Peter emphasize in his closing words, first, to the shepherds of the Church (1Pt 5:1-4), and, secondly (II), to God’s children (1Pt 5:3-11)? With what are we to clothe ourselves (1Pt 5:5) as children of God’s Church?

Readings: Si 3:17-18; Is 40:10-11; Ez 34:1-16; Mt 20:24-28; Jn 21:15-18; Ac 20:17-21,28; 1Co 4:16-17; Ti 1:7-9; Hb 12:1; CCC 754, 861-62, 874, 896, 1550, 1564, 1567, 1584, 2179, 2686.

Readings (II): Dt 34:9; 1Sm 12:12-15; Prv 15:33; Zp 2:3; Ep 4:1-3; Col 3:12-15; CCC 87, 732.

Lesson 9

2 Peter and Jude

Question 1

The Second Letter of St. Peter and *The Letter of St. Jude* both communicate a similar sense of urgency about the same matter. Both speak of certain “false teachers” (cf. 2Pt 2:1-3,13-22, 3:3-7; Ju 1:4,8,10-19) in the Christian communities who are doing a great deal of harm. According to chapter 1 of St. Peter’s letter, how is the apostle’s teaching different from other teachings that claim to possess true knowledge (cf. 2Pt 1:8-9,16-21)? What do the apostles say about these false teachers and their destructive presence in the Church? (How can we discern which teachers are a threat to the life of faith?)

Readings: Dt 13:2-6; Mt 7:15-16, 23:15; 24:11-13,23-25; 2Co 11:13-15; 1Tm 1:3-7, 4:1-2; 1Jn 4:1-6; CCC 1791-92, 2034-35, 2037, 2050-51, 2088-89, 2284-87.

Question 2

Both apostles speak very directly about the eternal punishment merited to those who rebel against the Truth (i.e., God and divine Revelation) and live in ways contrary to the will of God. Why do Sts. Peter and Jude remind us of the fallen angels, the Flood and Noah’s ark, and Sodom and Gomorrah (cf. 2Pt 2:4-10; Ju 1:5-7)? Secondly (II), some people question, dispute or deny the possibility of eternal punishment (hell), claiming that divine Revelation is not very clear on this matter. What does the Word of God reveal (cf. 2Pt 2:3b-4,9b-10,12, 3:7; Ju 1:5-7,14-15)?

Readings: Lk 10:18-20; 1Co 10:1-13; CCC 392-93, 414, 845, 1219, 1950.

Readings (II): Is 33:14, 66:24; Mt 5:29-30, 7:13-14, 10:28, 13:36-43, 25:45-46; Lk 3:17; Rm 6:15-16; 2Th 1:8-10; Hb 6:4-8; Rv 14:9-12, 20:9-10; CCC 162, 1014, 1033-37, 1056-57, 1861.

Question 3

How do the apostles refer to those people who not only live wicked lives, but also lead others astray (cf. 2Pt 2:12-13,22; Ju 1:10)? How is their understanding of divine Revelation connected to their erring ways (cf. 2Pt 1:16-21, 2:12, 3:1-7,15-16; Ju 1:10)? Secondly (II), how do we best resist the influence of false teachers in our midst, and is there hope for those already confirmed in evil (cf. 2Pt 1:5-13, 3:8-9,14-17; Ju 1:3,20-25)?

Readings: Prv 26:11; Ws 3:9-12, 4:17-19; Is 5:20-21; Mt 6:22-23; Mk 1:13; Ac 8:30-31; Rm 1:18-25; 1Co 15:32-34; 1Tm 6:3-6; Ti 1:10-16; Rv 16:13-16; CCC 89, 93, 137, 1704, 1955, 2038, 2518.

Readings (II): Jr 26:2-6; Am 5:10,13-15,18-20; Jo 3:4-10; 1Th 5:1-4; 1Jn 2:21; CCC 30, 1058, 1865, 1874, 2092.

Lesson 10

1 John 1 – 2:11

Question 1

Read 1 John 1:1-7. What does Saint John say is the theme of his whole letter (cf. 1Jn 1:1, 2:12-14)? Secondly (II), what does St. John announce of God in verse 5, and what are the implications of this for all mankind (cf. 1Jn 1:5-7)?

Readings: Jn 1:1-18, 3:31e-36, 5:24,37-38, 15:11, 18:37; Ac 4:20; 1Jn 5:20; CCC 51-52, 68-70, 73, 101-02, 124, 237, 241-42, 279, 291-92, 426, 468.

Readings (II): Gn 1:1-5; Ex 10:23, 13:21-22; Pss 27:1, 104:1-2, 119:105; Ws 18:1-4; Is 9:1, 49:6, 60:19; Mt 2:2, 4:16, 5:14-16; Lk 2:26-32; Jn 3:19, 8:12, 9:5,39-41, 12:35-36; 2Co 4:6; 1Tm 6:16; Ja 1:16-17; Rv 21:22-24; CCC 26, 37-38, 234, 257, 280, 697, 748, 1147, 1189, 1216, 1243, 1785, 2466.

Question 2

In the central section of this letter (1:5 – 5:12), Saint John explains what it means to live as children of light and children of the God of love. The following questions, as well as those of the next two lessons, examine these truths and the conditions of their fulfillment.

2a. **1 John 1:8 – 2:2:** St. John tells us: if we say that we have never sinned, we make Christ a liar. What does this mean? How is the sacrament of Confession which Christ institutes an especially privileged instrument of grace for those who want His Word to find a permanent home in them (cf. 1Jn 1:10, 2:4)?

Readings: Jb 9:1-4, 14:1-4; Pss 130, 143; Prv 20:9, 28:13; Ec 7:20; Mt 6:12; Lk 1:76-77, 24:47; Jn 8:21-28, 15:22, 16:8-13, 20:21-23; Ac 2:36-38, 13:38-41; Rm 3:19-20,25-26; Ja 5:16; 1Jn 3:8b; CCC 386-87, 430, 1433, 1440, 1446-49, 1454-56, 1458, 1847.

2b. **1 John 2:3-11:** How is 1 John 2:6 a sort of proving ground of one's love for God? How can we know what is required of us to fulfill God's command (cf. 1Jn 2:3-11)?

Readings: Dt 7:8-11; 1Kg 11:38; Pss 101, 119:97-104; Ec 12:13-14; Si 6:37, 23:27; Ba 3:9-14; Mt 19:16-17, 22:36-40; Jn 10:27, 13:15,34-35, 14:15,21-23, 15:9-12; 1Co 7:19; 1Jn 3:23, 5:3; 2Jn 1:6; CCC 1724, 1952, 1961, 1965, 1971, 1980-84, 2064-66, 2072-75.

Lesson 11

1 John 2:12 – 4

Question 1

Read 1 John 2:12-17. In light of the mystery we now possess in Christ, what kind of love is St. John cautioning us against? How do we embrace the “disordered” kinds of love he refers to in vv. 16-17?

Readings: Mt 16:26; Mk 9:43-48; Lk 12:29-31; Jn 17:15-16; 1Co 7:29-31; Ga 4:3-5, 6:14; Ph 3:17-21; Ja 4:4-10; 1Pt 4:1-4; CCC 377, 407, 1739-40, 1809, 2288-91, 2514-16, 2531-32, 2534-43, 2551.

Question 2

In 1 John 2:18-29 and 4:1-6, St. John is telling us to be on guard against “the Antichrist” (1Jn 2:18,22, 4:3; 2Jn 1:7). Who or what is the Antichrist and how can we recognize him? Has the Antichrist already come or is he yet to come? (How can the spirit of the Antichrist delude and destroy whole nations?)

Readings: Mt 24:11-14; Mk 13:21-23; Lk 18:7-8, 21:10-15; 2Th 2:3-12; 1Tm 4:1-2; 2Jn 1:7-12; Rv 13:7-14, 19:1-2, 20:7-10; CCC 675-76, 2422-25.

Question 3

3a. St. John repeatedly reminds us that we are children of God, as if this is something new (cf. 1Jn 2:29, 3:1-2, 4:7-21). Is it? Weren't we children of God when we were created? Describe the kind of love that characterizes children of God.

Readings: Pss 90, 149; Jn 1:12-13, 3:7; Rm 8:14-19, 9:8; Ga 4:19,22-29; Ep 1:3-7a; 1Th 5:5; Hb 2:11-14; 2Pt 1:3-4; CCC 1, 239, 270, 396, 526, 736, 742, 1153, 1186, 1213, 1250, 1691-92, 1700-01, 1708-09, 1813, 1996, 2157.

3b. St. John says the reason the world does not acknowledge God's children is that it did not acknowledge Christ (cf. 1Jn 3:1b,13, 4:5-6). Using the readings below, explain why the First Commandment is foundational to being a child of God, and why the spirit of the world is one which responds to Christ with indifference, denial, rejection or hatred, while at the same time seeking power in the occult or in divination.

Readings: Ps 115; Ws 13:1-9, 14:12-14,22-31; Is 44:9-20; Jr 10:1-16; Mt 10:22, 24:9-10; Jn 3:31e-32, 14:6-7, 15:18-21, 17:1-3,14-16; Rm 1:18-23; CCC 27-29, 199, 2083-85, 2094, 2108-28, 2566.

Lesson 12
1 John 5
2 and 3 John

Question 1

St. John reminds us that the children of God have in them the power to overcome the world. Where does this power come from (cf. 1Jn 2:14, 5:4-13,18-20)? Secondly (II), how many witnesses to the Truth are there (cf. 1Jn 5:6-9), and who are they?

Readings: Lk 3:8; Jn 8:39, 11:51-52, 16:33, 17:3; Rm 1:16-17; CCC 178-80, 217, 222-27.

Readings (II): Ex 17:5-6; Zc 14:8; Jn 1:33, 3:33-36, 4:10-14, 7:37-38, 19:34-35, 20:31; 1Co 10:2-5; Rv 21:6-7, 22:17; CCC 232-33, 267, 684, 694, 766, 1225.

Question 2

In the final words of St. John's *First Letter* (1Jn 5:14-15; cf. also 3:21-22), what is God revealing about the boldness with which God's children can approach Him and the power we possess in placing our requests before our Father in heaven?

Readings: Mt 7:7-11, 11:25-27; Mk 11:24-25; Jn 14:13-14; Rm 8:15b-16,26-27; Hb 7:25, 9:24; Ja 1:5-8; CCC 2565, 2610, 2621, 2639, 2650, 2736, 2738-41, 2765-66, 2777, 2827.

Question 3

St. John's *Second Letter* includes mysterious salutations "to the Lady, the chosen one, and to her children . . . from the children of your sister, the chosen one" (2Jn 1:1,4-5,13). Who is this chosen Lady? (Is she spoken of in the Old Testament?) In other words, what do the apostles understand and teach about the Church as mother, queen, and victor in Christ?

Secondly (II), what evidence do 2 and 3 John give for the oral transmission of divine Revelation and the need for Christians to be docile to the apostolic Church as our teacher (cf. 2Jn 1:12; 3Jn 1:9-14)?

Readings: Gn 3:20; Ru 4:13-17; Jt 8:32-34, 10:19, 14:18b-19, 15:8-10, 16:22; Es 2:17-18, 7:1-10; Mt 1:20, 2:10-11; Lk 1:26-28,35,48-49; Jn 3:29; Ac 1:12-14; Rv 19:8, 21:1-2; CCC 169, 488-89, 501, 505, 507, 721, 723, 725-26, 757, 773, 808, 829, 965-66, 968, 972-75, 1172, 1370, 2030, 2674, 2853.

Readings (II): 1Co 11:2; 2Th 2:15, 3:6; CCC 76, 82-85, 2032-33, 2037, 2039-40.