

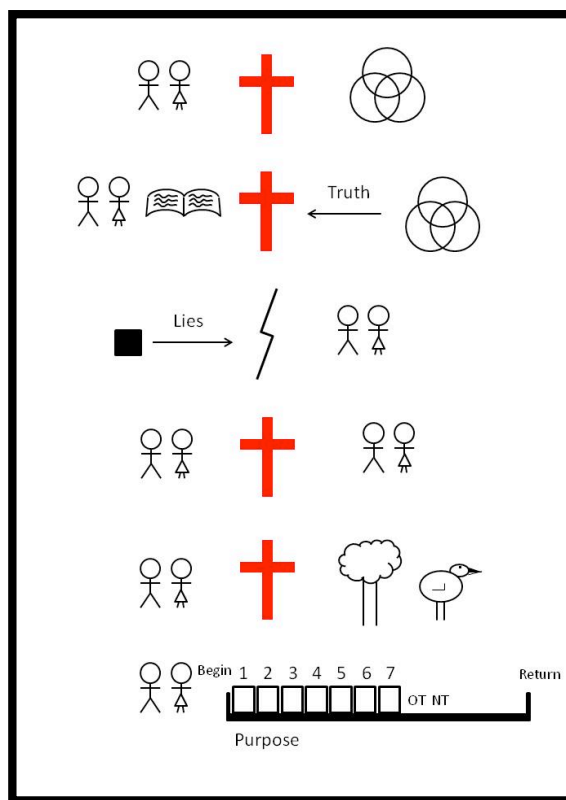
Truth and reconciliation

Worldview of the Kingdom of God

Jesus Christ reconciled all things

A summary of the gospel of the kingdom

Teacher guide



Training of Pastors in Africa

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Jesus Christ reconciled all things

A summary of the gospel of the kingdom

Teacher's guide

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Acknowledgement

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- The Truth and reconciliation series are the integration of the thoughts and efforts of many dear African brothers and sisters, Koos van Rooy, Hein v Wyk, Lizanne Aucamp, Truth Centred Transformation, Hope for Africa, Disciple Nations Alliance and Missionet.
- I would like to thank our loving and caring God, my family and all other dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ that contributed in any way to develop this series for churches and church leaders in Africa. Specifically I want to mention Hein van Wyk, who demonstrated and taught me the gospel of the kingdom. May this series contribute to disciple and transform families, communities and nations in Africa.
- *From Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To God be the glory for ever. Amen (Rom 11:36).*

johannes aucamp

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Lesson 1: Jesus Christ sends

Who are sent to make disciples?

Read John 17:17-20

Every believer is sent into the world.

Ask the group to name people they know that are serving Jesus Christ full-time. Mostly they will name some pastors they know. In verse 18 Jesus said that He sends his disciples into the world. In verse 20 it is clear that with disciples Jesus meant every believer.

To what place are we sent to make disciples?

Mark 5:18-20

Most of us are sent to make disciples in our own community.

In this passage our Lord Jesus Christ saved a man from demons. The demons begged Jesus to permit them to go into a herd of pigs. After Jesus gave the demons permission to enter the pigs, the pigs ran into the sea. The people of that place asked Jesus to leave. When Jesus wanted to leave, the man that had the demons, begged Jesus that he may go with Jesus. Jesus said no. He sent the man to his family and community. He was sent to them to tell them about what Jesus did for him. Some Christians are sent to far away places, but most of us are sent to our own community. If we want to tell our community what Jesus has done, we must know why Jesus died on the cross.

Why did our Lord Jesus Christ die on the cross?

Read Colossians 1:15-23

Jesus Christ died on the cross to reconcile all things with Himself.

History is about God. It is **HIS** story. To understand our true identity and role in **HIS** story, it is very important that every person knows why our King and Lord, Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross.

When this question is asked, most Christians would answer that Jesus died on the cross to save us. This is true, but only a part of the truth. Colossians 1:20 helps us to understand the whole story of God. Jesus died to reconcile **ALL THINGS** with Himself. The meaning of reconcile is that Jesus died to restore or bring together that once was perfect, but got destroyed.

What are all the things that Jesus Christ reconciled to Himself?

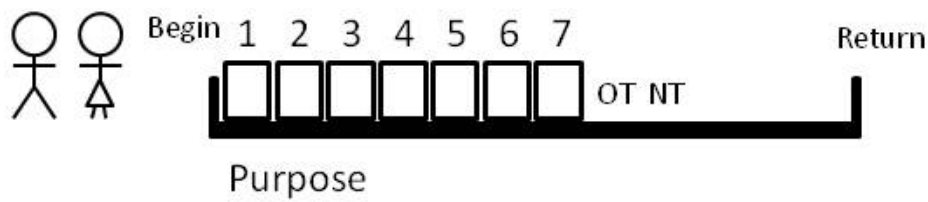
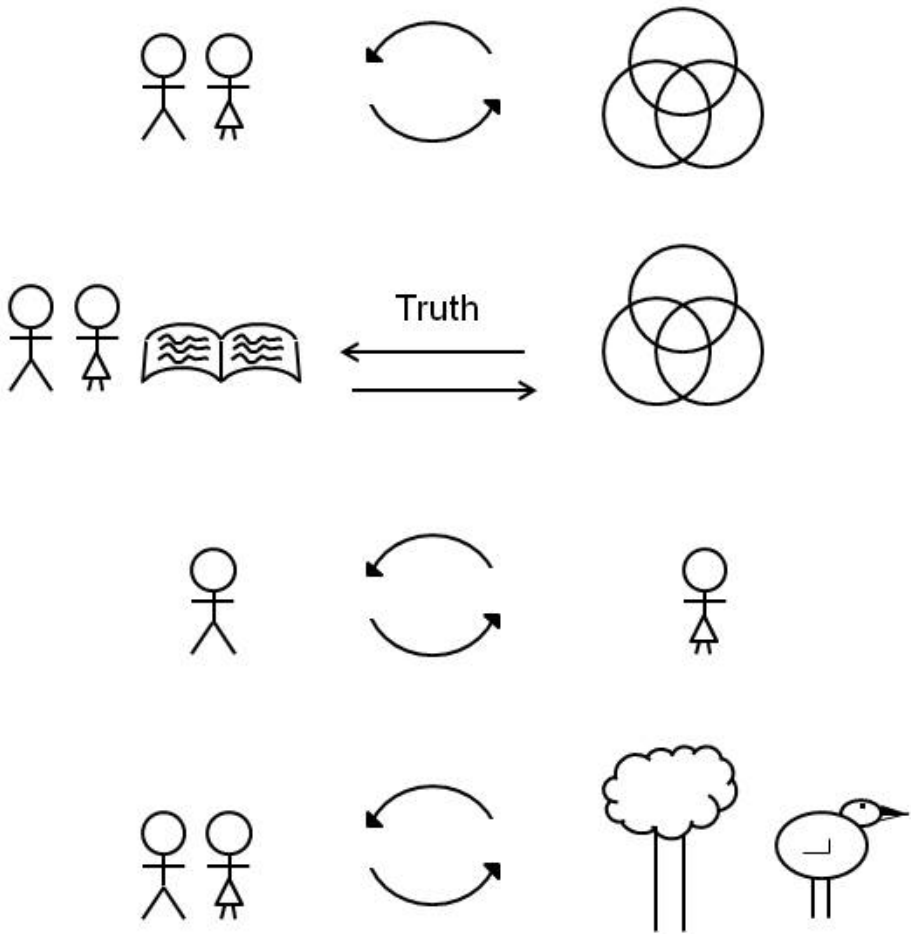
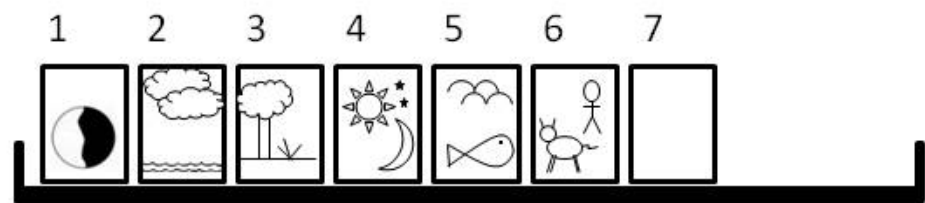
Read Colossians 1:15-23

Lets go to Genesis 1 to try and see what was perfect in the beginning.

If we want to understand the **ALL THINGS** of Colossians 1:20, we need to go to Genesis 1 to see what things were perfect and to Genesis 3 to understand what are all the things that got destroyed. Only then it will be possible to understand what are the **ALL THINGS** that Jesus Christ reconciled through his blood on the cross. Only then we can find our Christian identity and role in **HIS** story.

Lesson 2: In the beginning

Genesis 1 & 2



In the beginning

Genesis 1 & 2

God created a perfect world

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. On the first day God created light. God saw that the light was good and He separated the light from the darkness. On day two He separated the waters on the earth from the waters in the sky. On the third day God put all the water in one place and He let the dry ground appear. God saw that it was good. He created plants and He saw that it was good. On the fourth day God created the sun, the moon and the stars. Again He saw that it was good. On the fifth day God created the birds and the fish and saw that it was good. On the sixth day God created animals and saw that it was good. On the sixth day He also created people. People were created in the image of God. Male and female were created in the image of God. After the sixth day God looked at his work, at everything He had made and it was very good. On the seventh day God rested and did no work.

God is the Creator. He gives life to everything. God worked six days and rested on the seventh day. God uses time, day one to seven, purposefully to create and to rest. Everything He created was **perfect**.

The relationship between God and people was perfect

In the beginning the relationship between God and people was **perfect**. There was no separation. God was powerful and was very close to people. God visited them and talked with them. **People trusted in God alone**.

People had perfect knowledge

People had **perfect knowledge** because they could listen and talk to God directly. They could know the **truth** because **God was their source of truth**. They believed and obeyed what God said.

The relationship between people was perfect

The relationship between people was **perfect**. There was no separation. There were peace and unity between people. When Adam saw Eve for the first time, he was very happy. **All people, male and female are created in God's image** (Gen 2:27)

The relationship between people and creation was perfect

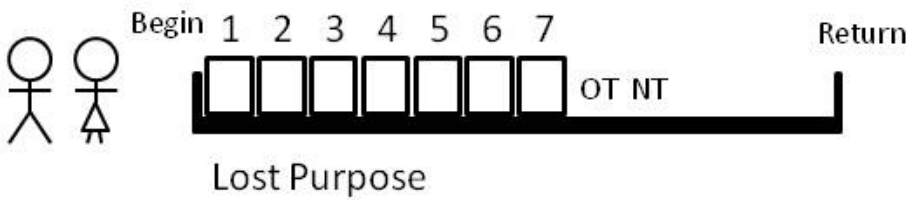
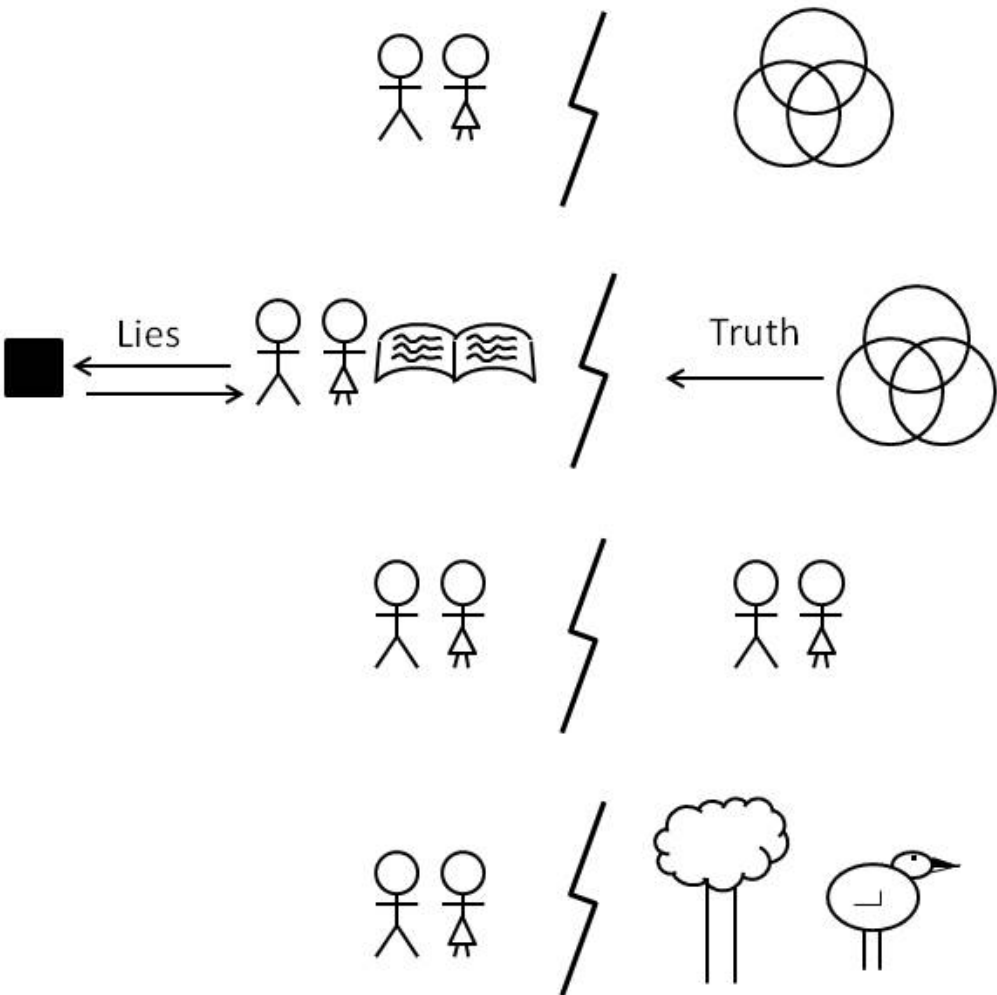
The relationship between people and the creation was **perfect**. There was no hunger. God gave life to everything. Everything belonged to Him. He made people the caretakers of his creation. **People had to rule and take care of creation**.

People used their time purposefully

People also knew that God was the beginning of time. **God had a plan and a purpose with their lives**. They had to multiply and be fruitful. God gave them work. They had to rule and take care of creation. **They understood that the purpose of their lives was to glorify God**.

Lesson 3: The rebellion

Genesis 3-6



The rebellion

Genesis 3-6

The relationship between God and people was destroyed

In Genesis 3 we see a change in the relationship between God and people. The **unity** between God and people was **destroyed**. When God came to visit Adam and Eve, they hid behind the trees (Gen 3:8). They became afraid of God (Gen 3:10). God was still the same. He didn't change. People changed.

Why did Adam and Eve become afraid of God? Why did they not trust in God anymore?

People exchanged the truth of God for the lies of Satan

Adam and Eve believed the lies from Satan. They exchanged the true knowledge from God for the lies from Satan. They became blind. They could not see truth anymore. Their disobedience led to death and destruction.

The relationship between people was destroyed

Their disobedience destroyed the relationship between people. Adam blamed Eve for their disobedience (Gen 3:12). Their first child Cain murdered his brother Abel (Gen 4:8).

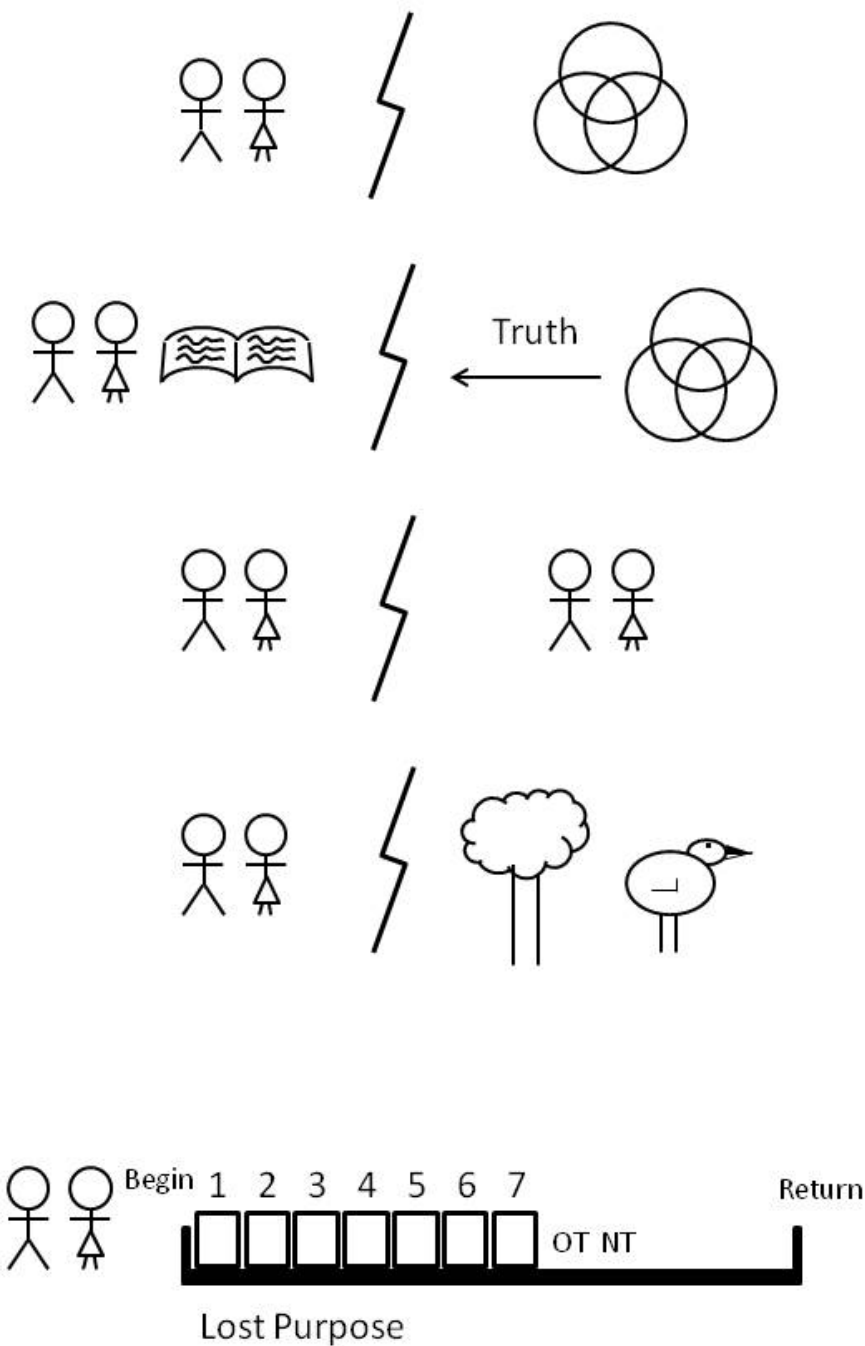
The relationship between people and creation was destroyed

The relationship between people and creation was also destroyed. People and creation became enemies. The snake would bite people, people would kill snakes and thorns would hurt people (Gen 3:15-18). It was the beginning of hunger and poverty.

People used their time to sin

People lost the purpose of their lives. They sinned and did evil all the time. God was sad that He created people and punished his creation through the flood (Gen 6:5-6).

Lesson 4: God’s mission (plan) Rest of Old Testament



God's mission (plan)

Rest of Old Testament

In the rest of the Old Testament we see God's plan to restore all the things that were destroyed in Genesis 3. He saved **Noah**, his family and the animals in the ark. He called Abraham and promised that **all nations** will be **blessed** through Abraham's descendant. This was a promise in the Old Testament of the coming of Jesus Christ.

God called and sent prophets, priests and kings to show people his plan and truth, but people remained blind and followed the lies of Satan. **All the relationships remained destroyed**. Throughout the whole Old Testament it is clear that people continued in sin.

The relationship between God and people remained destroyed

In the Old Testament we see that people started **worshipping creation**. They worshipped the sun, trees, money, people and spirits of the dead.

God stayed the same. He alone is God of all nations (Isa 45: 20-22). God alone is the provider and giver of life (Deut 30:20). He remained strong and close but **people did not trust God alone**.

People exchanged the truth of God for the lies of Satan

We see in the rest of the Old Testament that people continued to exchange the truth of God for the lies of Satan.

God speaks the **truth** (Isa 45:19) but people tried to get knowledge from mediums that consulted the dead. God does not permit his people to go to mediums (witchdoctors) or the dead (Deut 18: 9-14). He said that there are no action, thought, knowledge or wisdom to gain from the spirits of the dead (Eccles 9:10).

The relationship between people was destroyed

The relationship between people remained destroyed in the rest of the Old Testament. We read about war, hate and oppression. Children did not honour their parents. People killed each other. They stole each other's property. Husbands and wives divorced each other.

The relationship between people and creation was destroyed

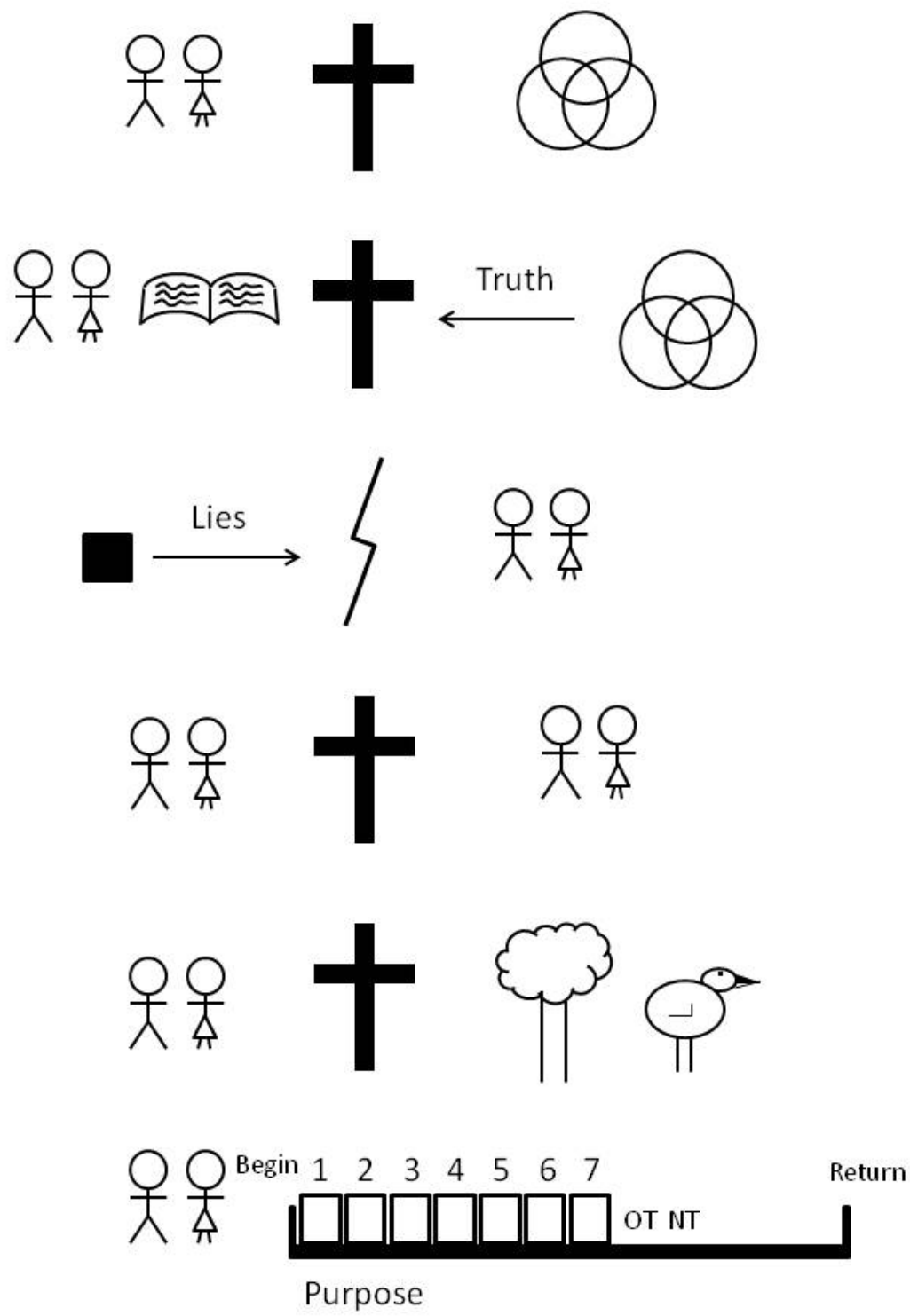
When we read the Old Testament it is clear that the relationship between creation and people stayed destroyed. There were drought, hunger, poverty and diseases. Wild animals were dangerous and could kill people. God still wants people to take care of his creation, but they misused creation.

People used their time to sin

Throughout the whole Old Testament it was clear that people continued to sin. They did not have hope and purpose. In spite of God making his will clear through prophets, priests and kings, people were without hope and direction. Their lives had no meaning because they did not trust in God alone. They did not understand that God created them with a calling and a purpose. Just as He called Jeremiah to be his prophet for the nations when he was still inside his mother's womb (Jer 1: 5-6), God created each person for his purpose and to be part of His story.

Lesson 5: The cross

Colossians 1:19, 20



The cross

Colossians 1:19, 20

Jesus Christ came to reconcile all things that got destroyed in the beginning.

Now it is possible for us to understand why Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross. Jesus Christ came to reconcile all things that got destroyed in the beginning and remained destroyed in the rest of the Old Testament.

Jesus Christ reconciled our relationship with God

Jesus Christ reconciled our relationship with God. Through his blood on the cross He built a bridge between people and God. He is the only way back to God the Father (John 14:6). He is our only mediator (1Tim 2:5).

Jesus Christ reconciled us to the truth

Jesus Christ shows us who are the Truth and where we can find real truth. Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6) and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth that will lead us in all truth (John 16:13). If we stay in the Truth, Jesus promises that the Truth will set us free (John 8:31-32).

Jesus Christ opposed Satan and his lies

Jesus turned his back on the lies of Satan and stood against Satan. Satan is the father of all lies (John 8:44). His plan is to deceive all nations (Rev 20:3 & 8). Jesus turned to the truth of God. Jesus never sinned and therefore He could be the only sacrifice for all who believe (Heb 10:12). No other sacrifice is needed. No blood of animals can take our sin away (Heb 10:4). "When we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we are saved" (Rom 10:9-11).

Jesus Christ reconciled our relationship with people

Jesus Christ also reconciled our relationship with people. He loves people (Luke 10:27) and He serves people (Matt 20:28).

Jesus Christ reconciled our relationship with creation

Jesus Christ also brought reconciliation with creation and the destruction caused by the rebellion in Genesis 3. He gave food for the hungry. He healed the sick. He raised the dead. He has power over creation. He could command the wind and could tell his disciples where to cast their net to catch fish. He taught that God gives life. God takes care of the birds and gives plants their beauty.

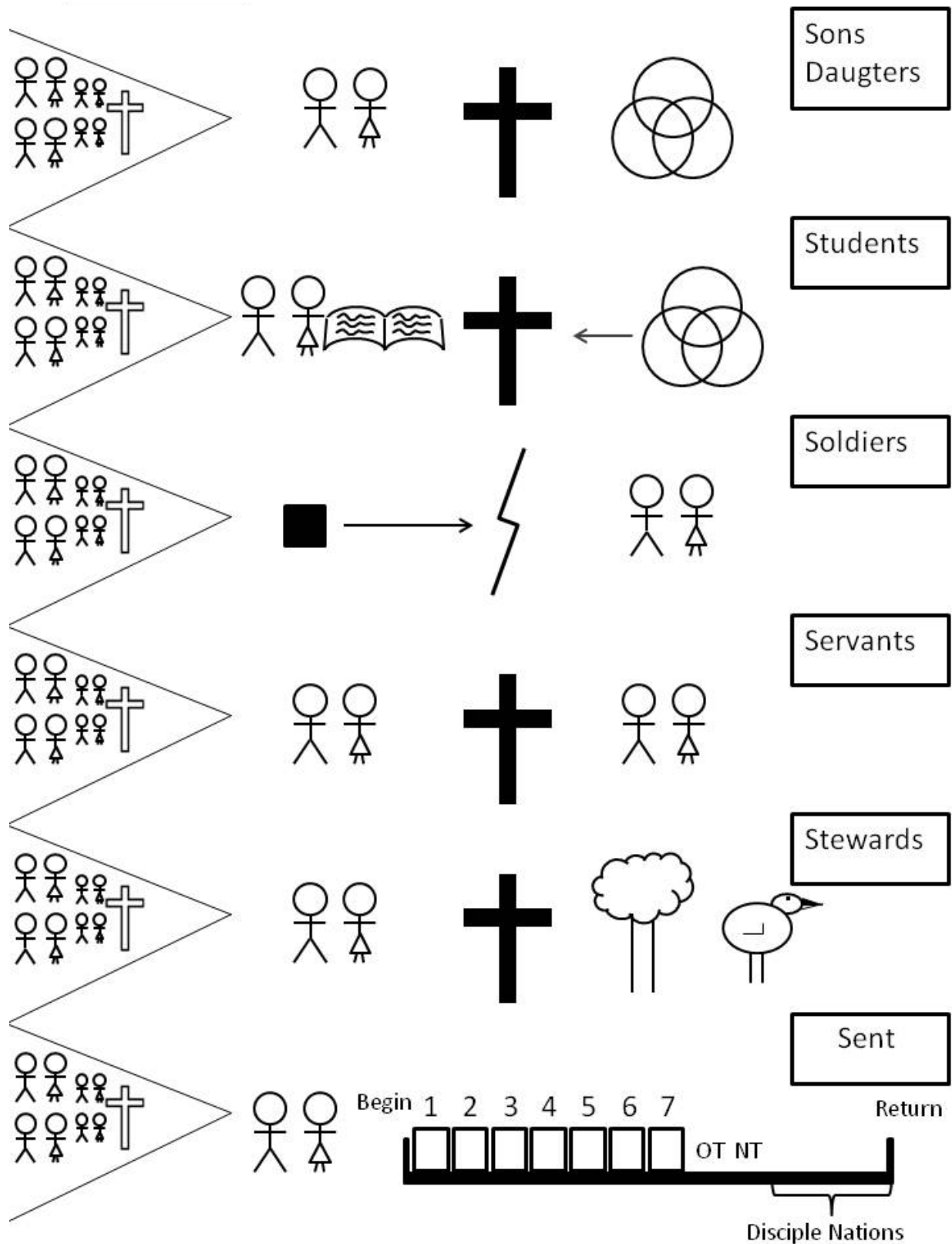
Jesus Christ completed the task He was sent to do

God the Father sent Jesus with a mission. He was born with a purpose. He had the purpose to testify about the truth and to reconcile all things. On the cross He said: "It is done" (John 19:30). He completed the task that his Father sent Him to do.

Lesson 6: Disciple making disciples

Matthew

28:16-20 / Acts 1:8



Disciple making disciples

Matthew 28:16-20 /

Acts 1:8

We are part of God's Family

Those of us who accept God's gift and believe in Jesus Christ are called the church. We are now part of a new family, the family of God. We are to become more and more like Jesus and we are to disciple others in all the areas that Jesus Christ brought reconciliation. We are now ministers of reconciliation.

We are sons and daughters of God

Now we are **sons and daughters** of God and we guide others to see that Jesus Christ is the only way to be reconciled with God. Everyday we live in the truth that God is strong. We believe that He is close to us and that He takes care of us. Jesus said He has all the power in heaven and on earth and that He is with us (Matt 28:16-20). He says that He takes care of the birds and plants and that He will take care of us. Like a good father, God will not give us a stone or a snake if we ask Him bread or fish (Matt 7:7-10). He knows how much hair is on our head (Matt 10:28-31). He promises that nothing can separate us from Him. No powers or demons can separate us from Him (Rom 8:31-39). Now we trust in God alone.

We are students of God's Word

We are **students** of God's Word. We now have a passion for God's word and we help others to love God's Word. Jesus says that we must not live from bread alone, but from every word that comes from God (Matt 4:4). Just like Ezra we are now students of the Bible. We read and memorise the Bible. We pray the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and understanding of God's Word. We live and apply the truth we found in the Bible in our lives and we teach others the Word of God (Ezra 7:10).

We are soldiers opposing Satan and his lies

In Jesus Christ we are now **soldiers** of truth fighting against Satan and the fallen angels that follow him (Eph 6:10-13). We also encourage others to be soldiers of the truth. We renew our minds. We oppose all lies in our lives and in our communities and replace it with truth (Rom 12:2). We do this under the guidance of the Holy Spirit with the sword of God's Word.

We are servants of people

Now we are **servants** of each other (Matt 20:25-28). In the same way that Jesus loves people and serves people, we are also called to love and serve people. We are called to guide others and inspire them to love and serve their neighbours in words and deeds. When we serve, we don't just do what is required. No, like the Good Samaritan we go the extra mile. When Jesus returns, his judgement will be based on the loving service we showed to the hungry, the naked, the thirsty, the sick and those in prison (Matt 25:31-46).

We are stewards of creation

We are **stewards** of creation. Everything belongs to God. In the beginning God made people the caretakers of his creation. When we are in Christ, we are renewed

in our relationship to creation. We are called to take care of creation and to help others to take care of creation. The Bible teaches that creation is longing for the sons of God to take up their role to nurture, conserve and rule over creation as God's stewards (Rom 8:19).

We are sent with a purpose

We are **sent**. We all live between the time that Jesus went to heaven and the time when He will return. We have hope and a calling. God has a plan with our lives. We are all sent to disciple nations in all areas of life (John 17:17-20). We are called to be ministers of reconciliation. We have a wonderful calling and purpose to glorify God with everything we do (1 Cor 10:31).

Key Biblical Worldview Truths

GOD

- God is **strong** and **close**.

Identity and response:

As **sons and daughters** our relationship with God is reconciled to trust God alone.

KNOWLEDGE

- God's Word is the **truth**.

Identity and response:

As **students** we are reconciled to believe, obey and follow God's truth.

SATAN (EVIL)

- Satan is the **father of lies** and he **deceives all nations**.

Identity and response:

As **soldiers** we are reconciled to oppose Satan and all his lies.

PEOPLE

- All people, male and female, are **created in God's image**.

Identity and response:

As **servants** our relationship to people is reconciled to love and serve our neighbors.

CREATION

- **Everything belongs to God** who created it

Identity and response:

As **stewards** our relationship to creation is reconciled to take care of creation.

TIME

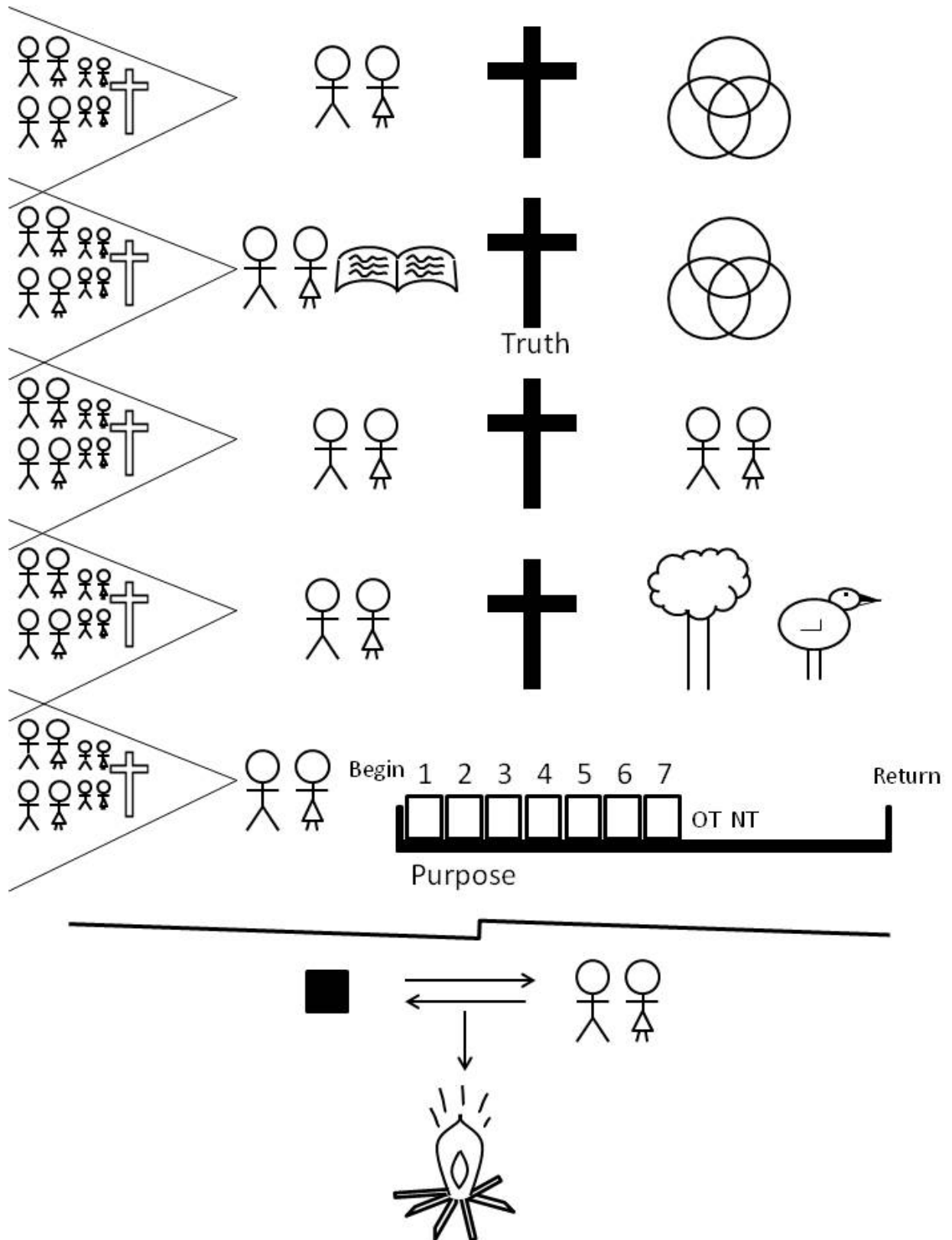
- **Time has a beginning and end**.

Identity and response:

Between the resurrection and return of Christ we are **sent** with a purpose to disciple nations.

Lesson 7: The return

Revelation 21:1-8



The return

Revelation 21:1-8

All things will be made perfect when Jesus Christ returns

When Jesus Christ returns, all things will be made new (Rev 21:5).

The relationship with God will be perfect again

People will have a perfect relationship with God. God will stay among us again (Rev 21:3). He will be our God and we will be his sons and daughters (Rev 21:7).

The relationship between people will be perfect again

The relationship between people will be perfect again. There will not be any mourning, tears, death and pain (Rev 21:4).

The relationship between people and creation will be perfect again

The relationship between people and creation will be perfect again. There will not be any mourning, tears, death and pain (Rev 21:4).

People will have perfect knowledge again

We will have a perfect relationship with God again and will have perfect knowledge. We will know the truth (Rev 21:5).

People will use their time purposefully again

We will live with perfect purpose. It is done; Jesus is the Alfa and the Omega, the beginning and the end. All things will be new and we will glorify God with everything we do (Rev 21:7).

Satan and those who followed his lies will be separated from God

At the end there will be a separation. Those who followed Satan and his lies will be separated from God and stay in hell forever (Rev 21:8).

Summary

Jesus Christ reconciled all things. A summary of the gospel of the kingdom for Africa

Sons and daughters of God: Reconciled to trust in God alone.

Students: Reconciled to follow God's truth.

Soldiers: Reconciled to oppose Satan and his lies.

Servants: Reconciled to love and serve people.

Stewards: Reconciled to take care of creation.

Sent: Reconciled to disciple nations in all areas of life.

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