

NSS Ethics and Religious Studies Curriculum Support Materials

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Change of sovereignty 3 - 27

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Topic 10

The development of the basic beliefs of Christianity: Paul's and James' Perspectives of Salvation

Suggested teaching time: 4 Periods (1 hour per period)

Main points:

1. Change of sovereignty
2. Mystical transformation
3. Justification by faith
4. Faith and work

Text Interpretations:

Paul interpreted Jesus Christ's salvation to humankind from three perspectives when he preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Early Church.

Firstly, Paul interpreted Jesus' salvation using the concept of "change of sovereignty". Paul realised that people did not obey God's rules, but submitted to one's own desires and evil thoughts, so that they were controlled by sin (Rom 3:9). As a result, people did evil things involuntarily. They found it hard to follow their conscience to do good acts. God then sent His Son Jesus to earth to redeem humankind and release people from the slavery of sins. Jesus was crucified on the cross. He sacrificed himself and died so that the humankind would be given salvation and could live under God's sovereignty. Human beings desisted from being the slaves of sins and came to accept God's sovereignty. The fulfillment of the change of sovereignty enabled people to stay away from sin and turn to God. Those who believed in salvation would receive an eternal life.

Secondly, Paul interpreted Jesus' salvation using the concept of "mystical transformation", which regenerated and transformed the believers. Jesus Christ loved the humankind and he was willing to sacrifice himself on the cross. If people experienced Jesus' love and were willing to live according to God's will, he/she would live a life of Christ and become a newborn man, being rewarded a new life. This was what mystical transformation meant. Paul stated that the idea of "human beings and God live and die together" was equivalent to mystical transformation, illustrating that one should live a new life and not to

judge others with worldly standards.

Finally, Paul interpreted God's salvation plan using the idea of "justification by faith". Justification by faith meant that the humankind should have faith so that they could receive God's grace and be called sinless. By doing so, they could re-establish a good relationship with God. At that time, the Jews deeply believed that if one wanted to have an eternal life, they should not only believe in God but should also undergo circumcision and observe the Jewish laws. The idea of Paul's justification by faith exempted the gentiles from observing the Jewish laws, that's why Christianity spread rapidly throughout the gentile areas during Early Church.

During Early Church, James also interpreted the relationship between Faith and Work in his book. It could be seen as supplementary notes to Paul's Justification by Faith. James thought that people should not rely solely on faith to achieve justification (having an appropriate relationship with God). Rather, they had to "work" and behave well. Faith without work is dead faith. James emphasised that people should not be justified by faith alone, but also by work which made his/her faith complete.

James' teachings supplemented Paul's idea on justification by faith. Their teachings enabled Christians of the Early Church to understand that the meaning of salvation should be fulfilled by behaving virtuously and living a life with faith and work.

Period 1: Change of Sovereignty

1. Biblical reference: 1Corinthians 7:23; Romans 6:15-18, 7:15-23

2. Objectives:

- To understand Paul's concept of the change of sovereignty. All human beings are controlled by sins. They should turn away from sin and live under God's authority.
- To understand that people are controlled by sins to do evil things. Their ability to do good is deprived.
- To understand that God sent His own Son Jesus Christ to save the humankind. He died on the cross to redeem human beings from the mastery of sin.
- To understand that people's sovereignty of life can be transferred from sin to God by believing in Jesus Christ. Hence, their lives will be managed by God and they will live a new life with new directions and new principles.
- To learn to transform one's life and enhance the quality of life through the power of religious belief.



3. Teaching strategies

Background Information

- All human beings are controlled by sin to do evil things. Their ability to do good is deprived.
- God sent His Son Jesus Christ to save the humankind. Jesus died on the cross to redeem human beings from the mastery of sin.
- By believing in Jesus Christ, people's sovereignty of life can be transferred from sin to God. Hence, their lives will be managed by God and they will live a new life with new directions and new principles.

Issues for Explorations

- How should people live a new life after they have experienced the change of sovereignty?

Enquiry Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Paul, what authority do people live under? • How can people turn away from sin and let God manage and guide their lives? • How can the concept of changing one's sovereignty from sin to God become the direction for people to lead a brand new life?
Learning Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through discussing selected news articles, understand that people, under the control of sin, always do evil involuntarily and fail to do good. • Through making a salvation plan for human beings, understand God's salvation by sacrificing His own Son Jesus Christ to free people from the slavery of sin. • Through watching the testimony of Ngai Chi-heng and Lam Po, explore how one's quality of life can be enhanced, and how one's value system, attitudes and behaviour can change tremendously once a person believes in Jesus Christ and transfer his sovereignty of life from sin to God.
Key Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of sovereignty • Sin
Generic Skills, Values and Attitudes Involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the 'Generic Skills, Values and Attitudes' tables included in the corresponding lesson plans.
High-order Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What important role does religion play in life transformation and life renewal?
Extended Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out the difference in Paul's value system, attitudes and behaviour before and after his conversion; explore how religious belief enhanced his quality of life.

Activity One

Enquiry Questions	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
According to Paul, what authority do people live under?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Holy life, truth, self-reflection

Teaching Steps:**Step 1. Teacher does warm-up exercise with students by asking them to think about the meaning of sovereignty and the change of sovereignty**

- Teacher raises the questions:
 - i. Have you heard about the term ‘sovereignty’? Under what situations do we usually hear about this term? (Guide students to spell the terms such as “national sovereignty”, “Sovereignty of Taiwan” and “Sovereignty of Diaoyutai Islands”, etc.)
 - ii. Teacher continues, “According to the international law, sovereignty means the exercise of power within a state or a nation. De jure sovereignty is the legal right to do so, de facto sovereignty is the ability in fact to do so.”
- Teacher says:
 - i. Sovereignty, such as the sovereignty within a nation or a place, is subject to changes. Did Hong Kong experience the change of sovereignty? What were the changes to Hong Kong government’s object of allegiance, the system of Hong Kong and people’s life style? (Guide students to give more examples of changes.)
- Teacher and students discuss:
 - i. Are there any examples of the change of sovereignty in our daily life? Who are affected by the changes? What are the impacts? (Guide students to give as many examples as possible. Teacher can inspire students to think further by quoting the following example: Before smoking was banned in restaurants, people could decide whether to smoke in the restaurants. However, after the ban was implemented, the sovereignty of making the decision has been changed. As a result, Hong Kong people can no longer smoke in restaurants as freely as before.)

Step 2. Teacher points out:

- In brief, owning something means having the right to use it or to decide its future. In our daily life, we have encountered situations that are related to the change of sovereignty.
- The change of sovereignty often exerts great impact on people, bringing drastic changes to their life.
- The concept of ‘change of sovereignty’ could be found in Christianity. What kind of ‘change of sovereignty’ was it?

Step 3. Teacher carries out the “Who Has the Sovereignty?” activity with students, allowing students to explore Paul’s concepts on who took hold of human life’s sovereignty.

- Teacher raises the questions:
 - i. Although we cannot do whatever we want, who has the right to rule over our lives? (Guide students to answer “we ourselves”)
 - ii. What rights do people have when the sovereignty of their lives are in their own hands? (After students have expressed their opinions, teacher guides them to answer: When the sovereignty of human beings is in their own hands, they have the rights to make decision and set directions for their own lives.)
 - iii. In reality, to whom do we usually entrust the sovereignty of our lives?
 - iv. Teacher distributes ‘Appendix 1’ (Two news articles) and ‘Worksheet 1’ (Who has the sovereignty?) to students, and asks students to form groups to complete the first part of ‘Worksheet 1’ based on the information in ‘Appendix 1’.
- Teacher discusses with students the questions on the worksheet:
 - i. What mistakes did they make?
 - ii. What thoughts and values the people were subject to when they made such mistakes?
 - iii. Perhaps we will not commit theft or hit-and-run as the people mentioned in the news articles, however, have we been controlled by similar thoughts and values which led those criminals to commit crimes? (Teacher asks students to give examples.)
- After discussion, teacher invites each group to present their ideas.

Step 4. Teacher and students read Romans 6:15-18, 7:15, 18-23 and 1 Corinthians 7:23, then complete the second part of ‘Worksheet 1’.

- Teacher and students discuss questions on the worksheet:
 - i. According to Paul, What are the laws that control people so that they cannot do good but evil? (The law of sin)
 - ii. What will people become if they follow the law of sin? (The slaves of sin)
- Teacher goes further to discuss with students:
 - i. According to Paul, people are controlled by sin so that they cannot help doing evil and find it difficult to do good. What is your opinion about his interpretation? (e.g. I don't do the good I want to do; instead, I do the evil that I do not want to do. (Rom 7:19))
 - ii. Paul thought that people are controlled by sin, which means that they have given the sovereignty of their lives to sin and become the slaves of sin. As a result, people cannot help doing evil and find it difficult to do good. Have we ever been in such situation? (Teacher guides students to suggest examples or asks students to refer to the answer of Question 1c on 'Worksheet 2'.)
 - iii. Why do people live under the mastery of sin and become the slaves of sin? (Teacher asks students to write their answers on the blackboard, such as being happier when behaving as they please, being not rational enough, being unable to stand firm, etc.)
- Teacher shows 'PowerPoint 1' (Paul's View on Sin) to illustrate Paul's viewpoint on sin, such as the origin of sin and the relationship between sin and humankind. The emphasis is on how human beings, ignoring God's Law and living under the mastery of sin, follow their desires and evil thoughts and become the slaves of sin.

Step 5. Teacher summarises:

- Paul thought that human beings do not follow God's Law but live under the mastery of sin. People follow their own desires and evil thoughts and become the slaves of sin.
- Human beings, being the slaves of sin, do evil involuntarily and find it difficult to do the good they want.

Step 6. Teacher distributes 'Students' Reference: Material 1' (Paul's View on Sin), briefly explains it and wraps up the activity.

Activity Two

Enquiry Questions	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
How can people turn away from sin and let God manage and guide their lives?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Holy life, truth, love

Teaching Steps:**Step 1. Teacher raises the question:**

- Through Activity One, we know that human beings have become the slaves of sin. Do you think people can be transformed from the slaves of sin into God's servants?
- In other words, people must be redeemed from the mastery of sin and let God become their master. (In Christianity, this is called "redemption") Teacher can illustrate the concepts by writing the words "Sin" and "God" on the blackboard. Draw a man below the word "Sin" and tell students that what we have to do is to find out ways to move the man to God's side.

Step 2. Teacher carries out the "Angel's mission" activity with students.

- Teacher asks students to form groups and work on 'Worksheet 2' (God's Salvation Plan). Students imagine that they are angels (God's messengers) who are working out a plan based on the characters of God and people, so as to redeem human beings from the mastery of sin and bring them to live under God's management.
- Teacher and students study the following four proposals. Which proposal will you recommend to God?
 - i. Proposal A: God forces all people to follow Him by means of severe punishment. Those who refuse to follow God will suffer from severe punishment.
 - ii. Proposal B: God deprives people of their freedom so that they can no longer choose between following Him and not following Him. Everyone will have to live under God's rule.
 - iii. Proposal C: God gives people more freedom, reasoning power and the ability to make a rational decision on whether to follow Him.
 - iv. Proposal D: God forgives people's sin unconditionally. People can choose whether to follow Him and live under His rule.
- Teacher discusses the following questions on the worksheet with students:
 - i. Why would you recommend the above proposal to God as a means to save people?
- After discussion, teacher invites each group to present their ideas.

Step 3. Teacher carries out the “God’s Salvation Plan” activity with students.

- Teacher raises the question:
 - i. How did God forgive people’s sin unconditionally so that they can choose whether to follow Him and live under His sovereignty?
- Teacher shows ‘PowerPoint 2’ (God’s Salvation Plan - Simplified version of God’s Salvation Plan) or ‘PowerPoint 3’ (God’s Plan: The Road to Salvation - Full version of God’s Salvation Plan), introducing God’s salvation plan to students, emphasising the following (based on the simplified version of ‘PowerPoint 2’ on God’s Salvation Plan):
 - i. Human beings, whose hearts are controlled by sin, cannot restore the relationship with God by themselves.
 - ii. God sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth as a sacrifice to redeem human beings from the mastery of sin so that people can live under God’s authority.
 - iii. In the Old Testament times, redemption is a process through which sin will be redeemed by offering a sacrifice as the atonement for sin. For instance, the Israelites offered the blood of sacrifices for redemption.
 - iv. Paul made use of the concept of redemption to illustrate how Jesus Christ was offered as a sacrifice to redeem people’s sin so as to free them from the mastery of sin and transfer their sovereignty of life from sin to God.
 - v. It is very important for people to believe in Jesus Christ and get rid of sin so as to live under God’s authority.
- Teacher goes further to discuss with students:
 - i. Why did God save the humankind and forgive them unconditionally so that people can choose to follow Him and live under His authority? (The following answers are used in Section two of ‘Worksheet 2’. Teacher can guide students to answer the question by considering (i) The characters of God and human beings; (ii) God’s unconditional love for the humankind; (iii) The human nature of sinning; (iv) The fact that God shows respect to people’s freedom.)

Step 4. Teacher summarises:

- God sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth as a sacrifice to redeem human beings from the mastery of sin so that people can live under God’s authority.
- Paul made use of the concept of redemption to illustrate how Jesus Christ was offered as a sacrifice to redeem people’s sin so as to free them from the mastery of sin and transfer their sovereignty of life from sin to God.

Step 5. Teacher distributes ‘Students’ Reference: Material 2’ (God’s Salvation Plan), briefly explains it and wraps up the activity.

Activity Three

Enquiry Question	Generic Skills	Values & Attitudes
How can the concept of changing one's sovereignty from sin to God become the direction for people to lead a brand new life?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Holy life, truth, love

Teaching steps:**Step 1. Teacher raises the question:**

- When people believe in Christ, they will be free from the mastery of sin and their lives will be managed by God. What important impact will the conversion bring to believers' lives?

Step 2. Teacher carries out the “Transformation of Life” activity with students.

- Teacher raises the following:
 - i. Some people believing in Christ have had the experience of regeneration which brings drastic changes to their lives. The old life is gone and a new chapter begins. Let us look at the stories of Nagi Chi-heng, a promising young man in the advertising profession and Lam Po (Uncle Po), a person who had been sentenced to death twice.
- Teacher shows the following TV clips, asks students to form groups and finish ‘Worksheet 3’ (Transformation of Life):
 - i. *TV0890 – Temptation of Fame and Money* (“Shower of Blessings”, 2007-05-17), visit <http://video.google.ca/videoplay?docid=162275699673495366> or <http://youtube.com/watch?v=jdT0q09Qoig>
 - ii. *TV0729 – The Way Out* (“Shower of Blessings”, 2006-08-1), visit <http://video.google.ca/videoplay?docid=-1380171889817097738&q=SOBEM+%28%E6%81%A9%E9%9B%A8%E4%B9%8B%E8%81%B2%29+-site%3Ayoutube.com&total=163&start=0&num=100&so=2&type=search&plindex=22> (If students cannot visit the above websites, they can just read the testimony of Lam Po extracted from “Shower of Blessings” on <http://www.singpao.com/20070617/feature/920549.html>).
- Teacher discusses the questions on the worksheet with students:
 - i. What kind of change of sovereignty have they experienced?

- ii. How would you comment on the changes in their lives?
- iii. How did these changes benefit them and those around them?
- iv. What is the power behind the great changes in their lives? (Guide students to understand that people are originally enslaved to sin, but they can let God manage their lives through following Christ. The change of sovereignty brings people new directions and enhances the quality of life.)

Step 3. Teacher goes further to discuss with students:

- What is the important role of religion in transforming and renewing one's life? Teacher guides students to think and respond according to the following three areas: :
 - i. Religion is the direction of life, conferring meanings to life.
 - ii. Religion is the guidance of life, setting ethical standard for one's behaviour, developing one's character, and working out charity.
 - iii. Religion is the support of life, providing spiritual consolation and mutual care among believers. It supports one's growth as well.

Step 4. Teacher summarises:

- When people's sovereignty of life is changed from sin to God, they are no longer controlled by sin but they will be ruled and guided by God. The change of sovereignty of life enables people to do good and say "no" to evil, granting them a new and eternal life through the salvation of Christ.
- When people experience the change of sovereignty from sin to God, their values, attitudes and behaviour will be transformed and the quality of their lives will be enhanced.

Extended Activities:

1. Teacher asks students to refer to Acts 9, 22 and 26 to identify the changes Paul had experienced before and after his conversion, and complete the following table.

	Before Paul's conversion	After Paul's conversion
Values (What was the highest value in his life? What was the goal of his life?)		
Attitudes (What was his attitude towards his own life?)		
Behaviour (What were his attitudes towards himself and others?)		

2. Teacher asks students to think about the following questions with reference to the above materials.
- What kind of change of sovereignty had Paul experience?
 - What are your comments on the changes he experienced after his conversion?
 - Why did Paul experience such tremendous changes?
 - What was the role of Christianity in Paul's life?
3. Teacher can invite students do sharing in the following period. Teacher shows the DVD on 'BBC Saint Paul', allowing students to know more about the life of Paul and how the concept of "change of sovereignty" applied to him.

Appendix 1: Two News Articles

News 1

Student from HKU involved in circulation of sex clips arrested

A student from HKU lost his memory stick containing his resume and video clips of him having sex with his girlfriend. A student got it and spread the videos. A man was arrested.

Sources revealed that the owner had reported the loss of his memory stick to the police. A university student was arrested yesterday after investigation. The police spokesman confirmed that the 21-year-old student, who was suspected to be involved in the theft, was still in detention for further investigation. The video clips were circulated when the student lost his memory stick after doing physical exercise on campus. Soon after the memory stick was picked up by a student from another residential hall, the video clips were widely spread and even appeared on the Internet recently.

The Student Union issued a statement criticising that HKU students have no sense of respect towards the privacy of others. The statement also pointed out, "The incident has put the victim in a very difficult and embarrassing situation since his hallmates will definitely mock the victim. How can a university student bear such great pressure? If you were the victim, would you wish your private life to be exposed?"

Extracted from: <http://hk.news.yahoo.com/080309/12/2q875.html>

News 2

A truck driver fled after his truck killed a woman

A 23-year-old woman was knocked down and killed by a heavy truck on Shing Mun Road in Tsuen Wan this morning. The truck left the scene without stopping after the accident.

This morning at 7:08, the police received a report that a woman was found lying on 8 Shing Mun Road, probably due to a traffic accident. The paramedics rushed the woman, whose head and right side of the body were rolled over by a vehicle, to the Princess Margaret Hospital. She was certified dead upon arrival at the hospital. At the scene of the accident, the police could not find the truck involved in the incident. The hit-and-run driver left the belongings of the victim scattering on the ground. The braking track on the road showed that the woman was probably rolled over by a heavy truck.

Extracted from: <http://hk.news.yahoo.com/080109/12/2mqeg.html>

Material 1: Paul's Views on Sin

1. Paul's Views on Sin

a. Sin & Righteousness (Romans 6:15-23):

- In both the kingdom of sin and the kingdom of righteousness, we will become either the slave of sin (resulting in death) or the slave of obedience (obeying God and resulting in righteousness), depending on whom we surrender our lives to and whose commands we obey.

	Slave of Sin	Slave of God
Life Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrender oneself as slave to impurity and wickedness for unlawful purposes • Not being bound by righteousness • Do things that you may find shameful in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrender oneself as slave to righteousness • Obey the teachings wholeheartedly
Difference in the destiny of one's life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result in 'death' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free from the control of sin • Result in holiness and eternal life

b. The law of sin and the law of God (Romans 7:15-24)

- The law of sin and the law of God are incompatible.
- The law of sin, clinging onto man's heart, is difficult to get rid of.
- The law of sin drives people to do evil involuntarily and prevents people from doing good.
- The law of sin inflicts people with sufferings and deprives them of the ability to do good.

2. The general definition of sin in Christianity

- Sin is defined as any thought, behaviour, language or state of mind that is against God's law or His will.
- In Greek, the original meaning of "sin" is "missing the target" (as if it were the centre of the dartboard), "the path deviating from righteousness".
- Sin is the intrinsic law governing people. All humans are sinful in nature. (Galatians 3:22)

- Sin is the wrong doings against God. Paul stated that “the sin and evil of the people” (Romans 1:18), in which “sin” refers to those who cannot obey God and do not follow His commands, while “evil” refers to those who are unjust to their partners.

References:

1. <http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%BD%AA%E8%AB%96>
2. <http://www.pastorlau.org/pages/sermon/Rom6.html> °
3. http://www.geocities.com/jpl68_99/p/note2.htm

Material 2: God's Salvation Plan

1. Paul's views on sin are as follows:

	Scripture
Humans are sinned and are held captive by sin. God is perfect and holy. He defies all kinds of evil.	Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. (Romans 3:23)
In the Old Testament, the traditional penalty for sinning is death. Hence, all sinners will end up being executed.	When you were the slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. What did you gain from doing the things that you are now ashamed of? The result of those things is death! (Romans 6:20-21) For sin pays its wage — death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)
How can people be forgiven? Someone must die as a sacrifice. Only through his blood can sins be forgiven.	Indeed, according to the Law almost everything is purified by blood, and sins are forgiven only if blood is poured out. (Hebrews 9:22)
Who is sinless? Whose blood is holy and pure?	It was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without defect or flaw. (1 Peter 1:19)
God chose Jesus Christ, His own Son, to die for the humankind. With His holy and unblemished blood, humans are set free from the slavery of sin and live under God's management.	For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God. (Ephesians 1:7) Then you should all know, and all the people of Israel should know, that this man stands here before you completely well through the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth — whom you crucified and whom God raised from death. (Acts 4:10)

<p>However, it is very important for people to choose to get rid of the mastery of sin and become God's servants.</p>	<p>At one time you surrendered yourselves entirely as slaves to impurity and wickedness for wicked purposes. In the same way you must now surrender yourselves entirely as slaves of righteousness for holy purposes. (Romans 6:19)</p>
<p>Therefore, through Christ's death and his blood, people are redeemed from the mastery of sin and they can live under God's sovereignty. This is a perfect salvation for all humankind.</p>	<p>But thanks be to God! For though at one time you were slaves to sin, you have obeyed with all your heart the truths found in the teaching you received. You were set free from sin and became the slaves of righteousness... But now you have been set free from sin and are the slaves of God. Your gain is a life fully dedicated to him, and the result is eternal life. (Romans 6:17-18, 22)</p>

2. In brief, Paul's views on salvation are as follows:

- Human beings are under the control of sin. They cannot restore the relationship with God by themselves.
- God sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth. Jesus sacrificed himself and died on the cross to redeem humans from the mastery of sin, so that humans can live under God's authority.
- In the Old Testament, "redemption" was a process through which sin would be redeemed by offering a sacrifice as the atonement for sin. For instance, the Israelites offered the blood of sacrifices for redemption.
- Paul made use of the concept of 'redemption' to illustrate how Jesus Christ sacrificed himself to redeem people's sin so as to free them from the mastery of sin and to help people change their sovereignty of life from sin to God.
- It is important for people to believe in Jesus Christ and choose to get rid of the mastery of sin and live under God's authority.

References:

http://www.lsmchinese.org/big5/02new_believer/books/read.asp?file=10-909-003-39
<http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%BD%AA%E8%AB%96>

Worksheet 1: Who owns the sovereignty?

1. Please complete the following table with reference to the two news reports in Appendix 1. Put a ✓ in the appropriate .

	News Report One: A University Student Involved in Theft	News Report Two: A Driver Involved in a Hit-and-Run Traffic Accident
a. What have they done wrong?		
b. What drove them to make such mistakes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Being selfish and only concerned about one's own happiness and interest <input type="checkbox"/> Being greedy <input type="checkbox"/> Neglected the interest of other people and did not care about their life or death <input type="checkbox"/> Evaded responsibilities <input type="checkbox"/> Disregarded law and order, and acted against justice <input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Being selfish and only concerned about one's own happiness and interest <input type="checkbox"/> Being greedy <input type="checkbox"/> Neglected the interest of other people and did not care about their life or death <input type="checkbox"/> Evaded responsibilities <input type="checkbox"/> Disregarded law and order, and acted against justice <input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____ _____

<p>c. Have we ever been tempted by similar values and thoughts that drove us to make mistakes? (You can cite some real examples)</p>		
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2. Please complete the following table with reference to the exposition under Romans 6:15-18, 7:15 & 18-23.

<p>What is the imperative that leads people to sin instead of doing good?</p>	
<p>When people choose to follow their sinful thoughts, who has the sovereignty over their lives?</p>	

Worksheet 2: God's Salvation Plan

1. Imagine that you were an angel (i.e. a messenger from God). Which salvation plan would you propose to God so as to save humankind from the mastery of sins and lead people towards God's sovereignty? (Consider "God's Attributes" and "Nature of Humankind" explicated below).

Condition 1: God's Attributes

1. He loves all humankind and cares for their needs.
2. He is full of grace and freely gives us mercy.
3. He is all loving, kind and holy.
4. He is always just and fair.
5. He absolutely disapproves sins of any kind.
6. He does not tolerate any injustice.

Condition 2: Nature of Man

1. We are given free will and can freely decide what to think about or what to do.
2. We have emotions, namely joy, anger, sorrow and happiness.
3. We can reason, think, and even build civilization.
4. We are all sinful by nature.
5. We incline to pursue surpassing the supernatural and spiritual worlds.

2. Please put a ✓ in the appropriate to indicate the salvation plan that you would propose:

Plan a

- God forces man to follow Him by means of severe punishment. Those who refuse to follow God will suffer from severe punishment.

Plan b

- God deprives people of their freedom so that they can no longer choose between following Him and not following Him.

Plan c

- God gives people more freedom, reasoning power and the ability to make a rational decision on whether to follow Him.

Plan d

- God forgives people's sin unconditionally. People can choose whether to follow Him and live under His rule.

2. Which plan would you recommend to God as a means to save the humankind? Explain.

Worksheet 3: Transformation of Life

1. Please refer to the video clips of the testimony of Ngai Chi-heng and Lam Po and complete the following table:

	(Ordinary people) Before Ngai Chi-heng's conversion	(Ordinary people) After Ngai Chi-heng's conversion
Values (What was the highest value in his life? What was his life goal?)		
Attitudes (What were his attitudes towards his own life?)		
Behaviour (What were his attitudes towards himself and others?)		

	(Serious criminal) Before Lam Po's conversion	(Serious criminal) After Lam Po's conversion
Values (What was the highest value in his life? What was his life goal?)		
Attitudes (What were his attitudes towards his own life?)		
Behaviour (What were his attitudes towards himself and others?)		

2. What kind of change of sovereignty transfer had they experience? _____

3. Evaluate the changes in their lives after their conversion. Please put a \checkmark against the appropriate box .

- There has been a tremendous change.
- There is not much difference.
- Quality of life has improved.
- Life has become gloomier.
- Life direction has changed.
- There has not been any significant change.
- Their hearts are renewed so that they can do good instead of evil.
- They live with new values and new goals.
- They follow the new standard and behave well.
- Their lives are more or less the same as before.
- Their attitudes towards people and the world have changed.
- Others: _____

4. How did the change brought by their conversion benefit themselves and the people around them?



Material 1: Paul's Views on Sin

1. Paul's Views on Sin

a. Sin & Righteousness (Romans 6:15-23):

- In both the kingdom of sin and the kingdom of righteousness, we will become either the slave of sin (resulting in death) or the slave of obedience (obeying God and resulting in righteousness), depending on whom we surrender our lives to and whose commands we obey.

	Slave of Sin	Slave of God
Life Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrender oneself as slave to impurity and wickedness for unlawful purposes • Not being bound by righteousness • Do things that you may find shameful in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrender oneself as slave to righteousness • Obey the teachings wholeheartedly
Difference in the destiny of one's life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result in 'death' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free from the control of sin • Result in holiness and eternal life

b. The law of sin and the law of God (Romans 7:15-24)

- The law of sin and the law of God are incompatible.
- The law of sin, clinging onto man's heart, is difficult to get rid of.
- The law of sin drives people to do evil involuntarily and prevents people from doing good.
- The law of sin inflicts people with sufferings and deprives them of the ability to do good.

2. The general definition of sin in Christianity

- Sin is defined as any thought, behaviour, language or state of mind that is against God's law or His will.
- In Greek, the original meaning of "sin" is "missing the target" (as if it were the centre of the dartboard), "the path deviating from righteousness".
- Sin is the intrinsic law governing people. All humans are sinful in nature. (Galatians 3:22)

- Sin is the wrong doings against God. Paul stated that “the sin and evil of the people” (Romans 1:18), in which “sin” refers to those who cannot obey God and do not follow His commands, while “evil” refers to those who are unjust to their partners.

References:

1. <http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%BD%AA%E8%AB%96>
2. <http://www.pastorlau.org/pages/sermon/Rom6.html> °
3. http://www.geocities.com/jpl68_99/p/note2.htm



Material 2: God's Salvation Plan

1. Paul's views on sin are as follows:

	Scripture
Humans are sinned and are held captive by sin. God is perfect and holy. He defies all kinds of evil.	Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. (Romans 3:23)
In the Old Testament, the traditional penalty for sinning is death. Hence, all sinners will end up being executed.	When you were the slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. What did you gain from doing the things that you are now ashamed of? The result of those things is death! (Romans 6:20-21) For sin pays its wage — death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)
How can people be forgiven? Someone must die as a sacrifice. Only through his blood can sins be forgiven.	Indeed, according to the Law almost everything is purified by blood, and sins are forgiven only if blood is poured out. (Hebrews 9:22)
Who is sinless? Whose blood is holy and pure?	It was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without defect or flaw. (1 Peter 1:19)
God chose Jesus Christ, His own Son, to die for the humankind. With His holy and unblemished blood, humans are set free from the slavery of sin and live under God's management.	For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God. (Ephesians 1:7) Then you should all know, and all the people of Israel should know, that this man stands here before you completely well through the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth — whom you crucified and whom God raised from death. (Acts 4:10)

<p>However, it is very important for people to choose to get rid of the mastery of sin and become God's servants.</p>	<p>At one time you surrendered yourselves entirely as slaves to impurity and wickedness for wicked purposes. In the same way you must now surrender yourselves entirely as slaves of righteousness for holy purposes. (Romans 6:19)</p>
<p>Therefore, through Christ's death and his blood, people are redeemed from the mastery of sin and they can live under God's sovereignty. This is a perfect salvation for all humankind.</p>	<p>But thanks be to God! For though at one time you were slaves to sin, you have obeyed with all your heart the truths found in the teaching you received. You were set free from sin and became the slaves of righteousness... But now you have been set free from sin and are the slaves of God. Your gain is a life fully dedicated to him, and the result is eternal life. (Romans 6:17-18, 22)</p>

2. In brief, Paul's views on salvation are as follows:

- Human beings are under the control of sin. They cannot restore the relationship with God by themselves.
- God sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth. Jesus sacrificed himself and died on the cross to redeem humans from the mastery of sin, so that humans can live under God's authority.
- In the Old Testament, "redemption" was a process through which sin would be redeemed by offering a sacrifice as the atonement for sin. For instance, the Israelites offered the blood of sacrifices for redemption.
- Paul made use of the concept of 'redemption' to illustrate how Jesus Christ sacrificed himself to redeem people's sin so as to free them from the mastery of sin and to help people change their sovereignty of life from sin to God.
- It is important for people to believe in Jesus Christ and choose to get rid of the mastery of sin and live under God's authority.

References:

http://www.lsmchinese.org/big5/02new_believer/books/read.asp?file=10-909-003-39
<http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%BD%AA%E8%AB%96>

Period 2: Mystical Transformation

1. Biblical reference: 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 16-17

2. Objectives:

- To understand Paul's teachings on mythical transformation, which means one will always live according to Christ's teachings and remember the sacrifice Christ had done for people.
- To learn that believers should live for Christ and be governed by Christ's love.
- To learn not to judge others according to earthly standards, and learn to perceive life with Love.



3. Teaching Strategies

Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul taught people that if one is governed by Christ's love, he/she is willing to live for Christ and therefore, has Christ in his/her life. He/she becomes a new person. • The believers should be governed by Christ's love and live for Christ and should not judge others according to earthly standards.
Issues for Explorations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the redemptive experience "mystical transformation" help believers perceive lives from different perspective so that their lives can undergo regeneration?
Enquiry Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will one's life regenerate when he/she believes in Christ? • According to Paul, what can help a person achieve regenerated life and become a new person? • How should a person live a new life with reference to Paul's teaching on mystical transformation?
Learning Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By watching Sammi Cheng the pop star's baptism testimony, help students understand how the life of a Christian can regenerate, and help them perceive life and the world from different perspectives. • By reading Alfred Cheung the local director's testimony and the biblical verses 2 Cor. 5:14-15 and 17, help students learn that those who are willing to live for Christ will become a new person because of Christ's love.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By watching a programme about the story of a staff at the Correctional Services Department, Kai-hung the discharged prisoner and Pastor Yeung, help students learn that Christians are willing to live for Christ and will not judging others by earthly standards.
Key Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mythical transformation • God's love
Generic Skills, Values and Attitudes Involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the 'Generic Skills, Values and Attitudes' tables included in the corresponding lesson plans.
High-order Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you know anyone who lives for Christ and does not judge others according to earthly standard? What are their contributions and influences to society?
Extended Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the film "The Miracle Box" to students and help them understand how Dr. Tse Yuen-man lived a life for Christ and how the notion of "mystical transformation" influenced her attitude towards life.

Activity One

Enquiry Questions	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
How will one's life regenerate when he/she believes in Christ?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Truth, sanctity of life, self-reflection

Teaching Steps:**Step 1. Teacher does warm-up exercise with students by asking them to think about the meaning of "Love can move people."**

- Teacher raises the questions:
 - i. Have you ever experienced or heard of people being moved by love so that their lives undergo changes?
 - ii. Teacher shows 'PowerPoint 1' (The Little Girl's Cross) or tells students the following story:

"One night, Taiwan's most wanted criminal Chen Jinxing, who murdered Bai Xiaoyan, abducted the family of a South African diplomat and confronted with the police. The diplomat and his elder daughter were shot by stray bullet. Astonished by the terrible scene, the younger daughter Christine burst into tears. She didn't understand why God allowed these things to happen to her father and sister. She could only calm down after praying to God

Christine was so grieved that she picked up a pen and a piece of paper. She wanted to express God's love by drawing. She believed that God would protect her family no matter how terrible the situation was. After finishing drawing, Christine looked at Chen Jinxing and felt pity for him. She gave her drawing to Chen with her head down, scared to look into Chen's eyes.

Christine's mind was settled after praying. The drawing of a cross filled with God's Love moved Chen Jinxing. After struggling for several hours, Chen finally surrendered.

After the diplomat had recovered, he and his wife brought the Bible and some gifts to visit Chen Jinxing in prison and forgave him.

- Teacher discusses with students:
 - i. Why did the criminal surrender? What moved him?

Step 2. Teacher points out:

- Love can often move people. It changes people and enables them to live a new life.
- How can one's life be regenerated?

Step 3. Teacher carries out the “Testimony for Regeneration” activity, allowing students to explore how one’s life will change after believing in Christ.

- Teacher discusses with students:
 - i. Do you know who Sammi Cheng is? Why is the 9th Dec of every year so important to Sammi Cheng (Teacher visits the website: http://www.gospelherald.com.hk/news/cul_1068.htm, and states that Sammi Cheng was baptised on the 9th Dec 2007 and became a member of the church).
 - ii. According to Sammi Cheng, how has her life changed after the baptism?
- Teacher shows Sammi Cheng’s testimony (<http://www.jgospel.net/content/content.aspx?id=4386> or <http://youtube.com/watch?v=NhR6UiyOiE8&feature=related>) or hands out ‘Appendix 1’ (Sammi Cheng’s testimony)
- Teacher asks students to form groups of four, discuss the questions on ‘Worksheet 1’ (Testimony for Regeneration) according to Sammi Cheng’s testimony:
 - i. Have Sammi Cheng’s perceptions of the world and the people around her changed? What are the changes?
 - ii. How would you comment on Sammi Cheng’s transformation? Can her transformation be regarded as “renewing the old life and living for a new life”?
 - iii. What is the motivation of pursuing regeneration for the believers?
- After discussion, teacher invites groups to present their ideas.

Step 4. Teacher summarises:

- If one believes in Christ, the religious belief will change one’s perspective of oneself and the world.

Activity Two

Enquiry Questions	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
According to Paul, what can help a person achieve regenerated life and become a new person?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Truth, sanctity of life

Teaching Steps:**Step 1. Teacher raises the question:**

- Which convictions in Christianity help believers perceive himself/herself and the world from different perspectives and help them live a new life?

Step 2. Teacher carries out “The Source for New Life,” activity, allowing students to understand the significance of Christ’s love to humans.

- Teacher asks students to form groups of four and hands out ‘Worksheet 2’ (Mystical Transformation) and ‘Appendix 2’ (Alfred Cheung’s testimony) to each group.
- Teacher asks students to discuss the questions on the worksheet with reference to Alfred Cheung’s testimony and 2 Cor. 5:14-15 and 17.
 - What changed Alfred Cheung’s and other believers’ views on life?
 - According to 2 Cor. 5:14-15 and 17, what did Christ do for humankind?
 - According to 2 Cor. 5:14-15 and 17, what made Christ take the above action?
 - According to 2 Cor. 5:14-15 and 17, how should one respond to Christ?
 - According to 2 Cor. 5:14-15 and 17, how would one’s life be different after responding to Christ?
- Teacher may refer to ‘Worksheet 2’ (Mystical Transformation - Suggested answer) for reference.
- After discussion, teacher invites groups to present their ideas. Teacher can show ‘PowerPoint 2’ (The Supreme Performance of Christ’s Love: Death and Resurrection).

Step 3. Teacher goes further to discuss with students:

- What is the relationship between Christ’s love, death, resurrection and the believer who becomes a new person? (Christ loves humankind, and is willing to die and rise for all human beings. The person who accepts Christ in his/her life will become a new person).

- Is the relationship between Christ and Christians mentioned above implied in Sammi Cheng's and Alfred Cheung's testimonies?
- Teacher points out:
 - i. If one experiences Christ's love and is willing to live for Christ, one can have Christ in his/her life and becomes a new person. That is the meaning of "mythical transformation".

Step 4. Teacher summarises:

- Jesus loved the humankind. He was willing to sacrifice himself and die on the cross to save all humans. Those who accept Christ will have Christ in their lives and they will be transformed into new people.
- Christ's love moves people to live for Christ, and have Christ in lives. The changes undergone by believers are called "mythical transformation."

Step 5. Teacher distributes 'Students' Reference: Material 1' (Paul's Teachings on "Mystical Transformation"), briefly explains it and wraps up the activity.

Activity Three



Enquiry Questions	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
How should a person live a new life with reference to Paul's teaching on mystical transformation?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Truth, sanctity of life, love

Teaching Steps:

Step 1. Teacher raises the question:

- Once a believer decides to follow Christ, it implies that he/she decides to live with Christ. How would the new life of the believers be?

Step 2. Teacher carries the “Viewing the World from another Perspective” activity with students, allowing students to understand how Christian faith changes the views on life and the world through the sharing of a staff at the Correctional Services Department, a discharged prisoner and a pastor.

- Teacher visits the following websites to play the video:
 - TV0849f Forgive those in prison I* (“Shower of Blessing”2007-1-27)
<http://tw.foo000.com/watch.php?id=b3f728a15c31685d2e57e5664bcc22ce> or
http://hk.youtube.com/watch?v=CNl6_ewHfQs
 - TV0850 Forgive those in prison II* (“Shower of Blessing”2007-1-27)
<http://tw.foo000.com/watch.php?id=cea11c956d7d4801864feda17333432c> or
<http://hk.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJsJUn8MohU>
- Teacher hands out ‘Worksheet 3’ (Viewing the World from another Perspective) and discusses the questions of Part 1 with students:
 - How do people in general regard the prisoners?
 - What are the changes regarding the views on life for the staff at the Correctional Services Department?
 - What are the changes regarding the views on life for Kai-hung (a discharged prisoner)?
 - What are the changes regarding the views on life for Pastor Yeung?
- After discussion, teacher invites groups to present their ideas.

- Teacher asks students to read 2 Cor. 5:14-17 and guide students to complete Part 2 on 'Worksheet 3':
 - i. According to 2 Cor. 5:14-17, why do the staff at the Correctional Services Department, Kai-hung (a discharged prisoner) and Pastor Yeung hold different views regarding prisoners when compared to the general public?
 - ii. According to 2 Cor. 5:14-17, have the life goals of the staff at the Correctional Services Department, Kai-hung (a discharged prisoner) and Pastor Yeung changed?

Step 3. Teacher goes further to discuss with students:

- Do you know anyone who lives for Christ and does not judge others according to earthly standards? What are their contributions and influences to society?

Step 4. Teacher summarises:

- When a believer dies and rises with Christ, h/she will be ruled by Christ's love and live for Christ. He/She then becomes a new person.
- Paul's teaching on "mythical transformation," which means "humankind dies and rises with Christ," states that believers should live a new life and should not judge others by earthly standards.

Extended Activities

1. Teacher asks students to read newspaper-cuttings and watch some news clips to review the social situations during the outbreak of SARS in 2002-2003:
 - Everyone was running scared.
 - Nurses and medical workers were stressed and they felt helpless when they were facing the unknown disease.
 - However, a lot of nurses and medical workers persisted to serve the sick ones.
 - The contribution of Dr. Tse Yuen Man as a Christian.
2. Show the film “The Miracle Box” to students and help them understand how Dr. Tse lived a life for Christ and how the notion of “mystical transformation” influenced her attitude towards life.
3. Teacher discusses with students:
 - How did the notion of “mystical transformation” help Dr. Tse live a new life?
 - How did the notion of “mystical transformation” help Dr. Tse perceive her life from a different perspective?
 - The notion of “mystical transformation” motivated Dr. Tse to contribute herself. What was the importance and influence of her act to society?



Appendix 1: Sammi Cheng's baptism testimony



We are used to living according to the values of the world.

Most people lack the courage to live according to their own standards. I was one of them.

I am Sammi Cheng, a singer as well as an actor. I am 35 years old this year. I have made certain achievements; however, I have never lived for myself. I used to live under sets of values, for instance, I thought my self-esteem would be higher by attaining greater achievements. However, when I almost got all the things most people are longing for, I found my heart empty.

The emptiness of my heart was thorough. I tried to attain even greater achievements to fill up the empty spaces in my heart but I failed.

Therefore, I decided to put an end to this never-ending pursuit of achievements. I put aside my 10-year career to look at what was remained in my life.

God granted me about 1,000 days to have a thorough reflection on my past life. I discovered the truth about success and money. These things might have helped me build up my life, but they could not satisfy me.

The value of life should be more dignified. In the words of God, I discovered a clear direction and orientation.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve....” On the way to my future life, I have more important missions. I do not know how God has planned my life, but I know that he will guide me step by step.

Such peace of mind is priceless.

God had sternly rectified me in the last 1,000 days. He granted me an exile so that I could find my own heart. My heart has been closer to God and I am no longer afraid, no longer timid. I can live for my self.

To live for the higher value of life and not to surrender, distorting the value of life. This is my commitment to God.

References:

1. <http://www.vinemia.org/public/articles/read.php?id=210>
2. <http://www.jgospel.net/content/content.aspx?id=4386>

Appendix 2: Alfred Cheung's Testimony



Alfred Cheung knew Jesus through panic disorder

Local director Alfred Cheung appears to be an optimistic and humourous man. However, out of everyone's expectation, he suffered from panic disorder in early 2002.

He said he felt "completely hopeless" during the dark period. The search for a belief made him realise God's companion, which greatly eliminated his panic, and thereafter he decided to believe in Christ. He was also courageous to make his illness known to the public in order to set an alarm for other people.

In fact, the instinct of panicking that God grants humankind has positive functions. However, when the level of panic does not match the actual situation, it may degenerate into "pathological panic" such as panic disorder. Alfred Cheung told us that his index finger has been uncontrollably jittering occasionally. He suspected himself to have the Parkinson's disease and he had visited six to seven specialists in a month, including brain specialists, psychiatry and immune system specialists. Their diagnoses were nearly the same, "We are not sure if you have the Parkinson's, but you certainly have the symptoms of the disease."

Alfred Cheung lived in unceasing fear due to the uncertain cause of the symptom. The most serious situation was that he would rouse up from sleep ten times a night, being unable to sleep. So, even Cheung himself was quite sure that he had got the Parkinson's disease.

Feeling hopeless and helpless, Cheung had suffered from insomnia for more than a month. On one night, he kneeled down and prayed to God. During the daytime, he talked to some Christian friends and asked them to pray for him.

One night, after his friend had prayed for him, Cheung felt amazingly peaceful. He slept well for eight hours. "I have not been sleeping so well in more than a month."

Since then, Alfred Cheung actively sought to understand the Christian faith, including reading the Bible and praying. These acts could help him to a certain extent. However, he felt the Heavenly Father was still remote and aerial. He later read the Gospels and understood that Jesus Christ came to this world and sacrificed himself on the cross in order to cleanse the sins of the entire humankind. The readings enabled Cheung to feel God's cordiality.

Cheung heard a lot of people saying that one could find God when he/she feels sad. However, one of his friends told him that “In fact, God is always around us.” Dr Choi Yuen-wan also taught him that “don't live with Parkinson, do live with God.”

At that time, Cheung still suffered from tremor in his fingers. He still believed that he had the Parkinson's, but he decided to believe in Christ in a church in Causeway Bay on the 3rd March this year. “Christians also suffer from illness; I only hope that God will not let me be a stay-home patient. Even if I suffer from the Parkinson's, I wish to share my witness and help patients suffering from the Parkinson's.”

Half a year later, Cheung found that the shaking of his fingers was caused by the displacement of his hand-joint. Although his fingers were still shaking slightly, he was able to rely on God to have a calm and joyful mind, which he had never had before. “I have never experienced such great pain in my life, I really feel that God has saved me from the abyss.”

Alfred Cheung's sharing on his changes before and after accepting Christian faith

“After I accepted Christian faith, the greatest change in my life was related to my work. Before I believed in God, I was like most people in Hong Kong, superstitious and worshipping various gods. I spent a few hours waiting for a coloured Dragon King. I know I was stupid, but I felt insecure if I do not do that. I also believed in Fung Shui. Both my wife and I think we were stupid when we look back.”

“The greatest difference in my work is that, I do not wish to retire at present, I will keep on producing film though the production will be relatively less. Secondly, I make use of drama to do business training, but I regard it as a sermon every time. Thirdly, I used to have Monday-depression and thought, ‘Rushing and Rushing, time passes and what should I do?’ All of us will have to retire one day! However, I do not wish to retire at this moment. Being a film director can have no retirement. I can provide training to people as long as I can stand and speak.”

In addition, I would like to be an evangelist when I get old, just like Cheung Ching and Roy Chiao of my same profession, to preach in different places. Once I have such aspiration, my motivation for working becomes higher. Later, I worry less.

“In the past I indulged myself in earning money, but now I discovered that money could not bring happiness. Instead, it brings a lot of worries. I think this is similar to what I have shared in some insurance talks. A Christian insurance agent always has two sets of insurance policies. One is earthly and the profit it brings is money. If the earthly policy cannot meet the quota, the Christian insurance agent still has the heavenly one. The latter one can bring him/her the heavenly commission. When we help others, care for others, we are not asking God to bestow us money commission but joy.”

“People always ask, ‘You always talk about Jesus. Can you tell me where Jesus is?’ I did not know how to respond to this question in the past, but I do now: ‘Where is Jesus? He is at the place where I care for you.’”

Cheng used to be harsh and mean, even his words of sympathy were superficial. However, he has learned how to concern others from the bottom of his heart. “Sometimes, people cannot feel the presence of Jesus because he is like the wind. However, when we care about the others, we made sure others can feel Jesus’ presence. I had been scared to comfort other people, but now I am willing and able to do so. For instance, we visited a couple yesterday. They moved away from a 3,000-square-foot residence to a 500-square-foot flat four months ago. None of their friends have visited them since then. However, we went to their flat and prayed for them.”

The couple therefore knew that Christians will not dislike and avoid them even though they were not as wealthy as before. “I cannot show them my concern without God’s love. I will probably avoid them. I do not look down on them, but I cannot face them in such situation. When you are successful, I feel happy meeting you. But when you are in difficulties, how can I face you? Now it is different.”

References:

1. <http://lba.luke923.org/cgi-bin/topic.cgi?forum=40&topic=30&show=0>
2. <http://www.angelfire.com/super2/wordofheart/bible/bible3.htm>
http://www.sharehymns.hk/redpockets/mess_ting.htm

Appendix 3: The Beautiful World that was Once Veiled

Discharged offender: The veil was uncovered to reveal the beautiful world after I have experienced Jesus Christ's love.

There are around 12,000 people in Hong Kong serving their terms of imprisonment. The figure is fluid, meaning that some people are being put to jail while some are being discharged almost every day. The problem lies not only on the 12,000 prisoners, but their family and a few thousand stressed staff members from the Correctional Services Department (CSD). Care and acceptance from the society are in great need.

Pastor Man Tsz-on has participated in providing pastoral care for prisoners for more than 20 years. He is familiar with the changes gone through by the CSD and he has witnessed many prisoners mending their ways. "A lot of prisoners are uncertain about the future. They often ask, 'Will I be able to leave this place? Am I going to die in here?'" Pastor Man introduced these frustrated prisoners to God and he has set up some religious and Bible classes for the prisoners. He wishes to love and embrace the prisoners just as what God has done to us, so as to let the prisoners know that they will be saved.

"The person in charge of the Shek Pik Prison once told us that some prisoners serving a long-term sentence had joined the Bible class, and it was as if they had transformed into another person. I was so glad that I told him it's called 'regeneration' in the Bible. It was as if they were born again." Pastor Man recalled.

Some Christians in the CSD has formed a group to spread the Good News to prisoners. They invited Pastor Man to be their consultant. They are not wearied by their everyday work facing the prisoners. Instead, they are very supportive towards the evangelisation work, hoping to help the prisoners.

Turning point in lives emerges

Confucius taught us to love others as we love ourselves. Jesus even sacrificed his life, being crucified on the cross, to cleanse the sins of humankind. Wishing to follow Jesus' example and make sacrifice, the staff of the CSD are willing to spend time on the prisoners and care for them. However, sometimes, even they themselves are not convinced that those intractable prisoners can be transformed, and Kai-hung were among one of those.

Kai-hung made some bad friends when he was studying Secondary 4 and he had almost abandoned school. In 1997, he was sentenced to a seven-and-a-half-year imprisonment due to

drug-dealing. Even though he was sent to prison, he was impenitent and obstinate, trying to protect himself.

“I had no regrets at all and I didn’t consider myself wrong. I said to myself, ‘I’m not going to be bullied in here, so when people hit me, I’m sure I will fight back.’ But the truth was that, I couldn’t really avoid being beaten up when I had offended so many people.” Kai-hung once had a fight with a Vietnamese prisoner on the ball court in prison. After that, he was revenged and beaten up severely. At that moment, I thought of my mother whom I had promised to behave myself so that she would not worry about me. I didn’t know how to explain to her why I got beaten up. People I had hurt came into my mind as well. The feeling of being hurt was so real at that time.”

Love and Forgiveness are two of the most important virtues

Kai-hung was fortunate to find a Bible in his friend’s cell. Curiosity drove him to borrow the Bible from his friend and read it. He read about Jesus teaching his disciples to pray (the Lord’s Prayer) and he memorised the verse by heart. From that time onwards, he said the Lord’s Prayer after reading the Bible each night. Sometimes, he felt asleep while praying, but he slept well and was satisfied.

“Life has become very different after I believe in God. Back when I looked at the world from behind the bars, I felt so desperate that I thought the world was colourless. Nothing delighted or interested me. After I believe in God, the world looks colourful and I feel much happier now.”

Kai-hung became a Christian when he was serving his term of sentence. He transformed from a fierce and obstinate prisoner into a mild and gentle person. Even his mother noticed his change. “My son has become much more obedient now and I consider it very miraculous. At first I didn’t believe that he mended his way until I got to know that he became a Christian. I didn’t know anything about the church at that time, but I thought as long as he started to behave well, nothing really mattered.” Kai-hung’s family did not know what he meant by “believing in God”, but they have surely witnessed his change which was so prominent. Now, Kai-hung even knows how to take care of his family and his relationship with his family has improved a lot.

The Prodigal son wishes to help those who are in the same situation as he was

A lot of people say that a person should never look back once he/she is discharged from prison. It is to avoid repeating the history and being sent back into prison again. After Kai-hung was discharged, like most of the other discharged offenders, he went seek a job. He worked hard in a restaurant without complaining about the heavy workload. But it was surprising that his biggest wish was to go back to jail! It turned out that he wished to devote his time to serving prisoners, helping them correct their lives.

Pastor Yeung, who has offered a lot of help to Kai-hung said, "I've known Kai-hung for about two to three years and I've witnessed his transformation. He is a promising and faithful young man who is always grateful towards God's grace. I truly appreciate a person like him, who is thankful and content with what he owns right now. Last year, he talked about going back to study and serving God. I encouraged him to pursue his dreams. Our organisation has provided a 2-year full subsidy for Kai-hung to further his study in theology and other practical skills." Kai-hung works at Pastor Yeung's office on weekdays and accompanies the pastor to do testimonies in some other occasions.

The Gospel is more powerful than a thousand words

Pastor Yeung understands Kai-hung's situation, for he himself was very rebellious before. After he believes in God, he mended his way. Since he started taking part in evangelising in prison 30 years ago, Pastor Yeung has never abandoned the prisoners. He firmly believes that every person can repent if he/she is given the opportunity.

"Sometimes, it is not that practical to merely "talk" to prisoners. But the Gospels have the power to motivate the prisoners to transform. I have experienced it myself. And when I see them change, I become motivated as well."

Pastor Yeung thinks that prisoners are able to transform because they all receive the Good News that God never abandons anyone on earth. God speaks to people through the Bible and listens to people through prayers. God wants people to understand and accept his love, so that they will not lose faith in life.

Reference:

<http://www.singpao.com/20070527/feature/917568.html>

Material 1: Paul's teachings on "Mythical Transformation"

1. Explanations for 2 Corinthians 5:14-17:
 - Christ's love referred to Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross for humankind in order to fulfill God's salvation.
 - Jesus, similar to the lamb in the Jewish tradition, was offered as a sacrifice. Jesus bore the sins of the entire humankind. Symbolically, although Jesus died as one person, he died for all and he rose from death for all.
 - Those who die and rise from death with Christ will have new lives. The regeneration will bring them changes in their lives.
 - Those who are alive should live for Christ.
 - People who live a new life should not judge others with earthly standards.

2. In Christ (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - Paul always used the phrases below to teach:
 - a. Christ and Christians are in close fellow relationship. Christians belong to Christ. (Gal 2:20 ; 2Cor 10:7 , 13:5)
 - b. Jesus Christ gives important influences on Christian's ethical behaviour.

References:

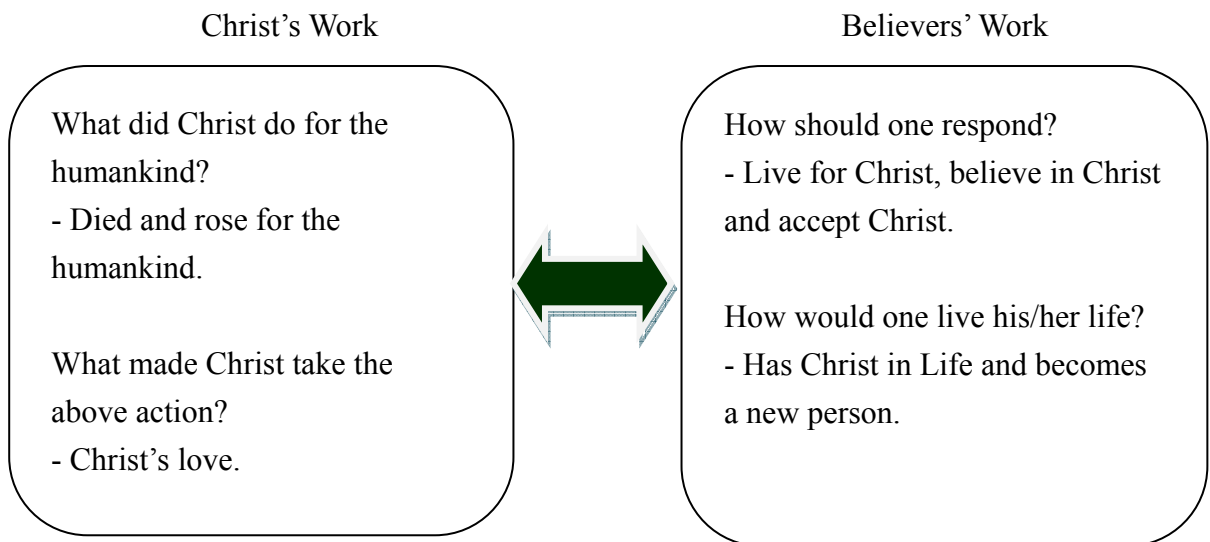
1. 巴克萊 (1983):《哥林多前後書注釋》,(頁 234)。香港:基督教文藝。
2. Raymond Brown, Joseph Fitzmyer ed. (1991). The New Jerome Biblical Commentary (p. 1409). London: Geoffrey Chapman.

Worksheet 2: Mystical Transformation (Suggested answer)

1. What changed Alfred Cheung's and other believers' views on life? (put a √ in the appropriate box)

- Persistence
- Seduction of money
- Help from friends
- Inspiration from books
- Christ's love
- Others : _____

2. According to 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 17, complete the diagram below.



Worksheet 1: Testimony for Regeneration

1. Answer the following questions with reference to Sammi Cheng’s testimony; put a √ in the appropriate box.

	Changes after believing Christ
Sammi Cheng’s perception of the world and other people	<input type="checkbox"/> The greater the achievement, the higher the self-esteem <input type="checkbox"/> Most people lack the courage to live for themselves <input type="checkbox"/> To recognise that the values uphold by most people are valuable <input type="checkbox"/> To discover that her heart was empty in the past <input type="checkbox"/> To seek greater achievements to fill up her heart’s empty spaces <input type="checkbox"/> To notice the truth about success and money
Sammi Cheng’s view on herself	<input type="checkbox"/> To live a life of higher value <input type="checkbox"/> To emphasise peace of mind <input type="checkbox"/> To live for one’s true self <input type="checkbox"/> To pursue better appearance <input type="checkbox"/> To have a more important mission <input type="checkbox"/> To look for clear life directions and orientation

2. What are your comments on Sammi Cheng’s changes? Do you think her changes can be regarded as “renewing the old life and living for a new life”?

Yes, because: _____

No, because: _____

3. What is the motivation of regeneration for believers like Sammi Cheng?

- Friends' advice
- Apprehended by oneself
- Inspired by books
- Inspired by religious beliefs
- Help from parents
- Others : _____

Worksheet 2: Mystical Transformation

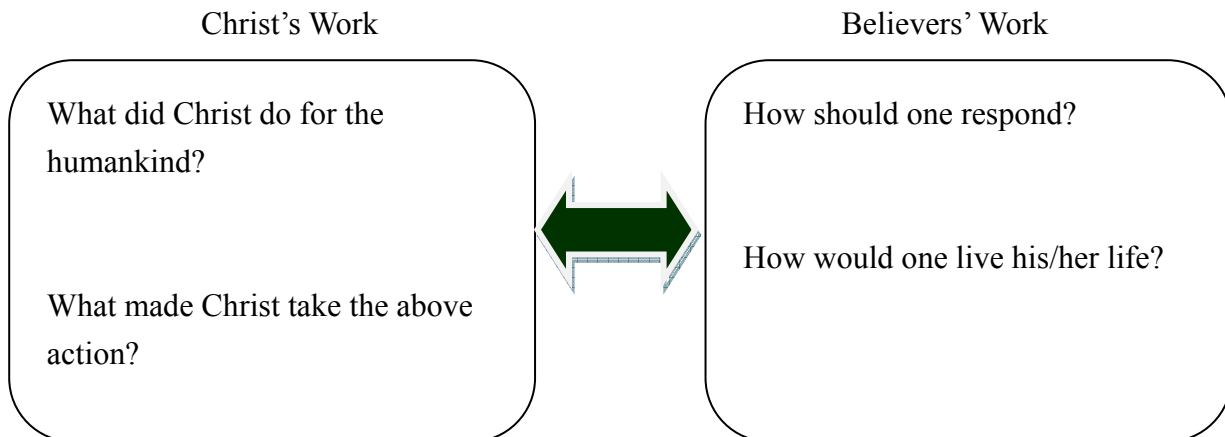
1. Complete the table according to Alfred Cheung’s testimony; write down the changes Cheung underwent after believing Christ.

Before Alfred Cheung believed in Christ	After Alfred Cheung believed in Christ

2. What changed Alfred Cheung’s and other believers’ views on life? (put a √ in the appropriate box)

- Persistence
 - Seduction of money
 - Help from friends
 - Inspiration from books
 - Christ’s love
 - Others : _____
- _____

3. According to 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 17, complete the diagram below.



Worksheet 3: Viewing the World from another Perspective

1. According to 'Appendix 3', answer the following questions, put a \checkmark in the appropriate box.

a. How do people in general regard the prisoners?

- Look down upon them
- No feelings at all
- Disregard them
- Not concerned
- Think that they deserve what they did
- Hope the prisoners will mend their way sincerely
- Others : _____

b. The changes of views on life of a
staff at the Correctional Services
Department

c. The changes of Kai-hung's (a
discharged prisoner) views on life

d. The changes of Pastor Yeung's
views on life

2. According to 2 Cor. 5:14-17, why do the staff at the Correctional Services Department, Kai-hung (a discharged prisoner) and Pastor Yeung hold different views regarding prisoners when compared to the general public?

3. According to 2 Cor. 5:14-17, have the life goals of the staff at the Correctional Services Department, Kai-hung (a discharged prisoner) and Pastor Yeung changed?



Material 1: Paul's teachings on "Mythical Transformation"

1. Explanations for 2 Corinthians 5:14-17:
 - Christ's love referred to Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross for humankind in order to fulfill God's salvation.
 - Jesus, similar to the lamb in the Jewish tradition, was offered as a sacrifice. Jesus bore the sins of the entire humankind. Symbolically, although Jesus died as one person, he died for all and he rose from death for all.
 - Those who die and rise from death with Christ will have new lives. The regeneration will bring changes to their lives.
 - Those who are alive should live for Christ.
 - People who live a new life should not judge others with earthly standards.

2. In Christ (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - Paul always used the phrases below to teach:
 - c. Christ and Christians are in close fellow relationship. Christians belong to Christ. (Gal 2:20 ; 2Cor 10:7 , 13:5)Jesus Christ gives important influences on Christian's ethical behaviour.

References:

1. 巴克萊 (1983):《哥林多前後書注釋》,(頁 234)。香港:基督教文藝。
2. Raymond Brown, Joseph Fitzmyer ed. (1991). The New Jerome Biblical Commentary (p. 1409). London: Geoffrey Chapman.

Period 3: Justification by Faith

1. Biblical reference: Romans 1:16-17

2. Objectives:

- To learn that Paul made use of the concept of justification by faith to express his perception of God's salvation.
- To learn that Paul proposed the idea of "justification" so that the gentiles could join the Christian church without following the Jewish laws.
- To understand that one only needs to believe in the Gospel of God, then one will be justified by God and he/she can establish a good, appropriate relationship with God.
- To understand how the Pauline idea of justification by faith influence the development of the Christian doctrine and religion.



3. Teaching Strategies

Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God wants to save all people, including the Jews and the gentiles, with the Gospel. • Being justified by God is a kind of grace. People can only receive God's grace by being faithful to the Gospel about Jesus Christ as well as establishing a good, appropriate relationship with God.
Issues for Exploration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do people have to do (as discussed in the previous two lessons) in order to obtain salvation from God?
Enquiry Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do people have to do (as discussed in the previous two lessons) in order to obtain salvation from God? • What was the significance of the Pauline idea of justification by faith to the Early Church? • How has the Pauline idea of justification by faith influence the development of Christianity?
Learning Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through discussion and reading the Bible, learn the meaning of justification by faith and God's way of saving the world. • Through studying the learning materials, explore the background of the Pauline proposal of justification by faith.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through watching the PowerPoints, learn the impact of the Pauline idea of justification by faith on the development of Christianity. For instance, Paul preached the gentiles and influenced Martin Luther's Reformation.
Key Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification by faith • Faith • Righteousness
Generic Skills, Values and Attitudes Involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the 'Generic Skills, Values and Attitudes' tables included in the corresponding lesson plans.
High-order Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore what different religions can do in order to increase the number of followers.
Extended Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and compare the ways and content of salvation proposed by different religions.

Activity One

Enquiry Question	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
What do people have to do (as discussed in the previous two lessons) in order to obtain salvation from God?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Truth, sanctity of life, love, respect for life

Teaching Steps :**Step 1. Teacher does warm-up exercise with students by asking them to think whether causal relation is common in our daily life.**

- Teacher raises the questions:
 - i. What are the meanings of the following phrases? (Teacher picks three from the following: (1) Getting good out of misfortune; (2) Misfortune brought by too much fortune; (3) Opportunity arising from destiny; (4) Failing due to a little trouble; (5) Accumulating merit by doing good; (6) Having good fortunes due to the good deeds done before.)
 - ii. Can you provide some real life examples to illustrate the above phrases?
 - iii. The above phrases have a common characteristic which describes a certain relation. What is it? (causal relation)
 - iv. What is the truth concerning causal relation revealed by the phrases? (Certain things must be done to obtain a certain result. Many things in the world happen according to this rule.)
- Teacher goes further to discuss with students:
 - i. In order to obtain certain results, one must work on the corresponding causes. However, would one definitely get the expected results when he/she works on the corresponding causes?
 - ii. Why don't the expected results come up every time? (Teacher suggests that even when one has successfully worked on a certain cause, one may not always get the corresponding result. Other than our own efforts, a lot of factors affect the results. These factors are usually out of our control. Therefore, even when one has worked on a certain cause, the corresponding result is not guaranteed.)

Step 2. Teacher points out:

- A lot of things in the world work according to the causal relation. A certain cause will lead to a certain result. However, the results are not always controlled by people. A lot of factors may affect the outcome and these factors are usually out of our control.

- In the Bible, Paul also used the logic of causal relation to express his theological ideas and explain the way of salvation in Christianity.

Step 3. Teacher carries out the “Making Amendments” activity with students.

- Teacher raises the question:
 - i. If a person has done something wrong and hurt an interpersonal relationship, what can he do in order to remedy for what is done and amend the relationship? (Students can suggest anything they can think of, such as an apology, restitution, doing one’s best to redress the wrong, etc.)
- Teacher can give the following example: If you carelessly break your friend’s favorite watch, making him very angry, how would you remedy for that and amend the relationship? (Teacher guides students to answer: restitution, apology, etc)
- Teacher may show ‘PowerPoint 1’ (Injury caused by hot beverage) pages 1 to 4, and discusses with students: How can the Kentucky Fried Chicken in Beijing remedy for injuring the customers? (Teacher guides students to answer: compensation, apology, etc. Teacher may show students the actual judgment from the court on page 5 of ‘PowerPoint 1’.)
- Teacher asks:
 - i. Are there any alternatives to remedy the incident?
- Teacher points out:
 - i. Paul used the causal relation to bring out the idea of justification by faith, so as to explain the way of salvation.
 - ii. Teacher shows ‘PowerPoint 2’ (The situation of man and the meaning of justification). Help students understand that Paul thought that people have no power to save themselves from sin (Students have learned in Lesson 10.1 that people are controlled by sin and cannot save themselves from their sinful nature). People can neither re-establish a good and appropriate relationship with God with their own effort as well. So, the humankind has to depend on God’s grace.

Step 4. Teacher reads Romans 1:16-17 and carries out “The Power of the Gospel” activity with students, allowing students to understand Paul’s concept of “justification by faith”.

- Teacher discusses with students: According to Paul, how can people re-establish a good and appropriate relationship with God?
- Teacher asks students to form groups of four and complete 'Worksheet 1' (The Power of the Gospel). Ask students to present after discussion. Teacher discusses the questions on the worksheet with students:
 - i. According to Paul, what was the causal relation concerning God's salvation in the Scripture (Romans 1:16-17)? (Justification by faith: God will justify people according to their faith. Justified people will be considered sinless and can establish a good and appropriate relationship with God.)
 - ii. What is God's role in the salvation? (To give the Gospel, i.e. to offer His Son Jesus as a sacrifice to be crucified on the cross; to justify the believers, i.e. to consider them sinless so that they can establish a good and appropriate relationship with God; to save those who believe.)
 - iii. What is the role of human beings in the salvation? (To believe, i.e. to trust and accept God.)
 - iv. In the salvation relationship, do you think that man has to give a lot? Why?
 - v. What are your comments regarding the causal relation suggested by Paul?
- Teacher further discusses with students the questions on the worksheet:
 - i. In this salvation relationship, does God have more to do or do people have more to do? Why?
 - ii. Compare and contrast the role of God and people in the salvation relationship, what are the special features of salvation in Christianity?
- Teacher points out:
 - i. Paul stated the causal relation of justification by faith, so as to explain God's salvation plan.
 - ii. Human can receive salvation from God only by believing in the Gospel of God.

Step 5. Teacher summarises:

- Through justification by faith, Paul explained God's salvation plan.
- God saves the world by the Gospel. People only have to believe in the Gospel of God in order to be justified by God, considered as sinless so as to re-establish a good and appropriate relationship with God.

Step 6. Teacher distributes 'Students' Reference: Material 1' (The explanation of the Pauline idea of justification by faith), briefly explains it and wraps up the activity.

Activity Two

Enquiry Question	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
What was the significance of the Pauline idea of justification by faith to the Early Church?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Truth, love, blessing for all humankind, equal opportunities, respect for life

Teaching Steps:**Step 1. Teacher raises the question:**

- The Pauline idea of justification by faith was very important to the early church. Do you know what its significance was?

Step 2. Teacher carries out “The meaning of Justification by faith” activity with students, allowing students to understand the meaning of justification by faith.

- Teacher asks students to form groups of four and distributes ‘Appendix 1’ (The problem with the views on salvation during Early Church) to each group. Students are expected to explore the significance of the Pauline idea of justification by faith to the believers of the early church.
- Each group plays the role of experts in Christian history. Based on the three pieces of information about the early church in ‘Appendix 1’, discuss the requirements for getting salvation as presented by the early Jewish Christians and by Paul in ‘Worksheet 2’ (The significance of the idea of justification by faith).
- Teacher invites students to present their ideas. Then, teacher may distribute ‘Students’ Reference: Material 2’ (The significance of the Pauline idea of justification by faith to the early church) and explain the answer, emphasising the importance of the Pauline idea of justification by faith to the early church. At that time, the Jewish Christians thought that the gentiles, other than believing in Christ, must also practise circumcision and observe other Jewish laws in order to join the Christian church. These regulations hindered many gentiles from becoming Christians. Paul, on the other hand, advocated that God had a new way of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The gentiles only had to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order to be saved, justified, and to establish a good and appropriate relationship with God.

Step 3. Teacher carries out the “Joy beyond expectation” activity with students.

- Teacher asks:
 - i. How would the gentiles feel when they learned the Pauline idea of justification by faith? (Teacher may ask some students to share their ideas.)

- Teacher describes the following situation:
 - i. Imagine you are walking down a street. Suddenly, a man approaches and stops you. He claims to be a staff member of Happy Radio. He says, “Do you want to receive the gift from our radio station: a super deluxe package of a nine-day tour in Japan? The package is going to cover the expense of the flight tickets, food and accommodation, and on top of that, you will be given \$10,000 for shopping! If you want to get this gift, you have to get into the van with me now and go to the radio station. If you don’t get in now, we will find another person and your opportunity will be gone. Now I will count from 1 to 5. You have to decide once I get to 5. One, two, three, four...” You have always dreamed of going to Japan. However, there is no way you can earn the travel expenses needed. Now you see a black van near the curb with the words “Happy Radio” on it. You are thinking whether you should say yes.
- Teacher raises the questions:
 - i. Do you believe this person who claims to be a staff member of Happy Radio? (Teacher asks students to indicate their answers with a show of hands and chooses two to three students to answer the following questions.)
 - ii. Why do you believe or not believe the above person? (Happy Radio is a famous and reputable radio station.)
 - iii. Why don’t you find other ways to achieve your dream? (Because there is no other way.)
 - iv. How can you show whether you believe or not? (To follow the person to the van.)
- Teacher states:
 - i. When we decide whether to believe or not, we would consider the reliability of the other party, or think about the alternatives to achieve the same purpose.
- Teacher goes further to discuss with students:
 - i. When Paul proposed the idea of justification by faith, how did the gentiles in the early church feel?
 - ii. With reference to the above activity, why were the gentiles happy? (At that time, the gentiles had longed for God’s salvation for a long time and they had no other ways to obtain salvation.)

Step 4. Teacher summarises:

- The Jewish Christians believed that observing circumcision and other Jewish laws, such as observing the Sabbath and diet rituals, were the only ways to receive salvation from God. They did not believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ could save them.
- Jewish Christians thought that the gentiles must first accept the Jewish traditions before they could join the Christian church. Their regulations hindered the gentiles from becoming Christians.
- Paul proposed the idea of justification by faith, making it clear that one only has to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order to be justified and become a Christian. His proposition allowed more gentiles to join the church.



Activity Three

Enquiry Question	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
How has the Pauline idea of justification by faith influence the development of Christianity?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Truth, blessing for all humankind, burden for core and auxiliary values

Teaching Steps:**Step 1. Teacher raises the question:**

- How has the Pauline idea of justification by faith influenced the development of Christianity?

Step 2. Teacher carries out “The influence of Paul” activity with students, allowing students to learn about Paul’s achievements and influences:

- Teacher shows ‘PowerPoint 3’ (The influence of the Pauline idea on the development of Christianity) and introduces the influences of Pauline theology as well as his missionary accomplishments.
- Teacher discusses with students:
 - i. With reference to the idea of justification by faith, what was Paul’s role in the early church? What were his influences?
 - ii. Which aspect of Paul’s idea of justification by faith had the most important effect to the development of the Christian church in later times? Why?

Step 3. Teacher goes further to discuss with students:

- How does Paul’s idea of justification by faith influence people in modern times? Is it easy for today’s people to accept his idea?
- Does today’s Christian mission still emphasise justification by faith? How can you tell?
- Did Paul mean that Christians need only faith but nothing else?

Step 4. Teacher summarises:

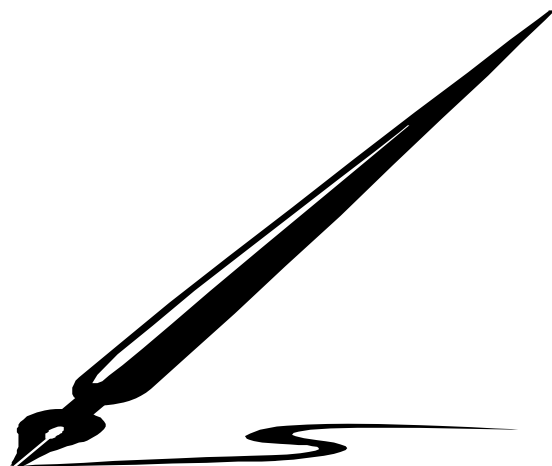
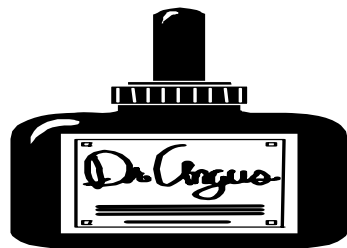
- Paul devoted his whole life to preach and reach for the gentiles. He proposed the concept of justification by faith, developed missionary journeys, wrote letters to instruct and exhort the gentile churches, thus enabling the rapid spread of the early Christianity in the non-Jewish world.

- The Pauline idea of justification by faith has been an important cornerstone of Christian theology. It has remarkable influence on Christianity in later times, especially on the birth of Protestantism.

Step 5. Teacher distributes ‘Students’ Reference: Material 3’ (The influence of the Pauline idea of justification by faith on the development of Christianity), briefly explains it and wraps up the activity.

Extended Activities:

1. Teacher asks students to look up in media sources such as books and websites for the views of different religions concerning salvation.
2. Teacher asks students to choose two or more religions and compare their:
 - Purpose of salvation
 - Requirements for salvation
 - The situation of believers after receiving salvation
 - Any other things that concern salvation
3. Teacher can invite students to do sharing in the following period.
4. Students may refer to the following websites:
<http://iwr.cass.cn/>
<http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%95%91%E8%B4%96%E8%AB%96>
<http://astrology.fightclub.com.pk/text/t-159911-p-1.html>





Appendix 1: The problem of the salvation view in the Early Church

The requirements for God's chosen people in Old Testament Times

- In Old Testament times, the Jews believed that they had to make a covenant with God in order to become God's chosen people, meaning that they had to undergo circumcision because circumcision was the "sign of the covenant with God".
- Other than circumcision, God's chosen people had to obey God's Law as well, such as the Ten Commandments, and follow the ritual laws of sacrifices, Sabbath and diet restrictions and other ethical laws in daily life.
- Circumcision and obeying the Law were the two most important requirements for becoming God's chosen people.

Some Jewish Christians' views on salvation in the early church

- In early church times, some Jews believed in Jesus and joined the Christian church.
- Some Jewish Christians believed that Jesus was the Messiah sent by God. Therefore anyone who wished to become a Christian must, on top of believing in Jesus, undergo circumcision and obey the laws in daily life. Only then could one become God's chosen people and receive salvation from God.
- Just as what some people taught at that time: "You cannot be saved unless you are circumcised as the Law of Moses requires." (Acts 15:1); "The Gentiles must be circumcised and told to obey the Law of Moses." (Acts 15:5)
- Since the Jews had always followed the laws in daily life and practiced circumcision, the above requirements were no hindrance to them.

Some issues the gentiles might consider when joining the early Christian church

- According to some teachings at that time, on top of believing in Jesus, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and told to obey the Law of Moses.” (Acts 15:5) in order to become Christians and join the Christian church.
- Circumcision: When gentiles wanted to join the church, they had to consider if they could accept circumcision which was totally alien to their own traditions.
- At that time, the Greeks believed that circumcision was a form of self-mutilation. Therefore, they despised the circumcised. This made it more difficult for the gentiles to decide whether to undergo circumcision in order to join the church.
- Obeying the Jewish Laws: Sabbath laws, diet laws and sacrifices were very traditional Jewish customs. Gentiles who obeyed such laws would have adopted the Jewish lifestyle, which greatly impacted on their personal and social life. Therefore, observing the Laws was a big hindrance to the gentiles.

Reference:

董俊蘭 (1999) :〈保羅書信中的「因信稱義」〉,《神學與教會》, 24 卷 2 期 ,
<http://www.tcs.org.tw/~church/24.2/11.htm>

Material 1: The explanation of the Pauline idea of justification by faith

1. The meaning of "faith"

According to Paul, "faith" is a word with a lot of meanings. "Faith" carries the meaning of having confidence in a belief. Yet, a more suitable meaning is "absolute trust and complete acceptance". It means that one does not only believe in the existence of God and Jesus, but one will trust the Gospel of Jesus Christ and believe that the Gospel can save one's life. "Faith" is not merely intellectual recognition, but also practices in action. "Faith" begins with acceptance, continues with complete obedience and modification in one's life, so as to practise the Christian teaching.

2. The meaning of "justification"

Justification means establishing a good and appropriate relationship between God and people. God's justification means that God treats the sinners as if they have never sinned. God treats sinners well as if they were His beloved children. God does not treat people as enemies, but as friends. God does not think people deserve punishments because they are sinful; rather, He thinks people are His children who deserve love.

3. The meaning of "justification by faith"

Anyone who truly believes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be justified by God. He/She can establish a good and appropriate relationship with God and is no longer controlled by sin. People can be justified not because of the things they have done, but because of God's grace. We can only receive this grace through faith. The love of God enables man to establish a good relationship with Him through faith, and even have an abundant life. As it is written, "The person who is put right with God through faith shall live." (Romans 1:17)

References:

1. Barclay, William (1955). *The Letters to the Romans*. Edinburgh: The Saint Andrew Press. pp. 8-14.
2. 董俊蘭 (1999) :〈保羅書信中的「因信稱義」〉,《神學與教會》, 24 卷 2 期
<http://www.tcs.org.tw/~church/24.2/11.htm>。

Material 2: The significance of the Pauline idea of justification by faith to the early church

a. The Jewish Christians' views on requirements for salvation

Some Jewish Christians' views on God's salvation during early church times	<u>Requirements for salvation</u>	<u>Advantages</u>
	i. Circumcision ii. Obey Jewish laws, such as the Sabbath and diet restrictions and sacrifices in the Mosaic Laws. iii. Believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the traditions in Old Testament times • The Jews did not have to change their established thoughts in order to accept the new faith
		<u>Limitations</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Jews had to make great sacrifices in order to fulfill the requirements for salvation according to the Jewish traditions • The requirements greatly affected the number of gentile Christians joining the early church

b. Paul's views on requirements for salvation

Paul's views on God's salvation	<u>Requirements for salvation</u>	<u>The group that benefited from Paul's view</u>
	Believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ	The gentiles

c. Summary

- The Pauline idea of justification by faith was very important to the early church. At that time, the Jewish Christians maintained that the gentiles, other than believing in Christ, must also practise circumcision and observe other Jewish laws in order to join the Christian church.
- This requirements hindered many gentiles from becoming Christians.
- Paul, on the other hand, maintained that the gentiles did not have to obey the Jewish laws in order to become Christians. Both the gentiles and the Jews were the same. They could all receive salvation from God.
- Paul thought that God had a new way of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The gentiles only had to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order to be saved, justified, and to establish a good and appropriate relationship with God, becoming God's people.

Reference:

董俊蘭 (1999) :〈保羅書信中的「因信稱義」〉,《神學與教會》, 24 卷 2 期 ,
<http://www.tcs.org.tw/~church/24.2/11.htm>

Material 3: The influence of the Pauline idea of justification by faith on the development of Christianity

1. Missions to the gentiles

In the early church, some Jewish Christians demanded that the gentiles joining the church must also practise circumcision and other Jewish laws such as observing the Sabbath and diet rituals and sacrifices. These laws were very traditional Jewish customs, which were very different from the gentile traditions. The requirements greatly reduced the gentiles' willingness to become Christians.

Paul received revelation from God and proposed the idea of "justification by faith". He suggested that the gentiles were same as the Jews. Both groups could become God's people and Christians by believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Gentiles who wanted to join the Christian church did not have to obey the Jewish laws, they only had to believe in the Gospel. The idea of "justification by faith" invited the gentiles to Christianity and it helped spread Christianity throughout the world in the following 2000 years.

2. Martin Luther's Reformation

After the Renaissance in the fifteenth century, the western churches were getting more corrupt due to financial problems. The voice yearning for reformation was raised in many places in Europe. One of the most important reformers was Martin Luther (1483-1546). During 1512-1519, Martin Luther read Romans 1:16-17 and understood that people's justification by God was completely based on God's grace. It was not based on anything done by people. People can only accept this grace of salvation with "faith".

Martin Luther reiterated the importance of Paul's thinking of "justification by faith". It helped people understand that people could only be justified by God by having faith in God. However, the Pope at that time did not accept his proposition and even expelled him from the church. Martin Luther insisted on his own idea, and his theological position stirred up religious reform movements in England, Italy and Spain. Eventually, the voice yearning for reforms spread throughout Europe and numerous religious sects supporting the new theological position sprang up. The Western Christianity eventually split into Catholic and Protestant.

3. The Pauline research

The theological idea of Paul was an important cornerstone of Christianity. Ever since the first century, the Pauline epistles and theology have been very important topics for research in Christianity and biblical studies. Scholars through the centuries have published innumerable works on Paul and the various aspects of his theology. Even today, biblical and Christian scholars are still eagerly discussing Paul's work, thus deepening our understanding of the Pauline theology and conditions of the early church.

4. Today's Situation

Since the religious reform, the doctrine of "justification" has become a controversial theological topic between the Catholic and Protestant traditions. The Catholic Church emphasised "justification by grace", i.e. righteous acts will come after receiving God's grace. On the other hand, the Protestant Church emphasised "justification by faith." At the end of the twentieth century, through the effort of the committees of the Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church, the two sides reached a consensus to relieve the unnecessary misunderstanding in the past. Although two different Christian traditions stressed and viewed the doctrine of justification in different ways, with the Catholic Church stressing "made just" and the Protestant Church stressing "accounted just", both agreed that sinners are accepted by God's grace, and will become righteous human beings if they have faith in Jesus Christ.

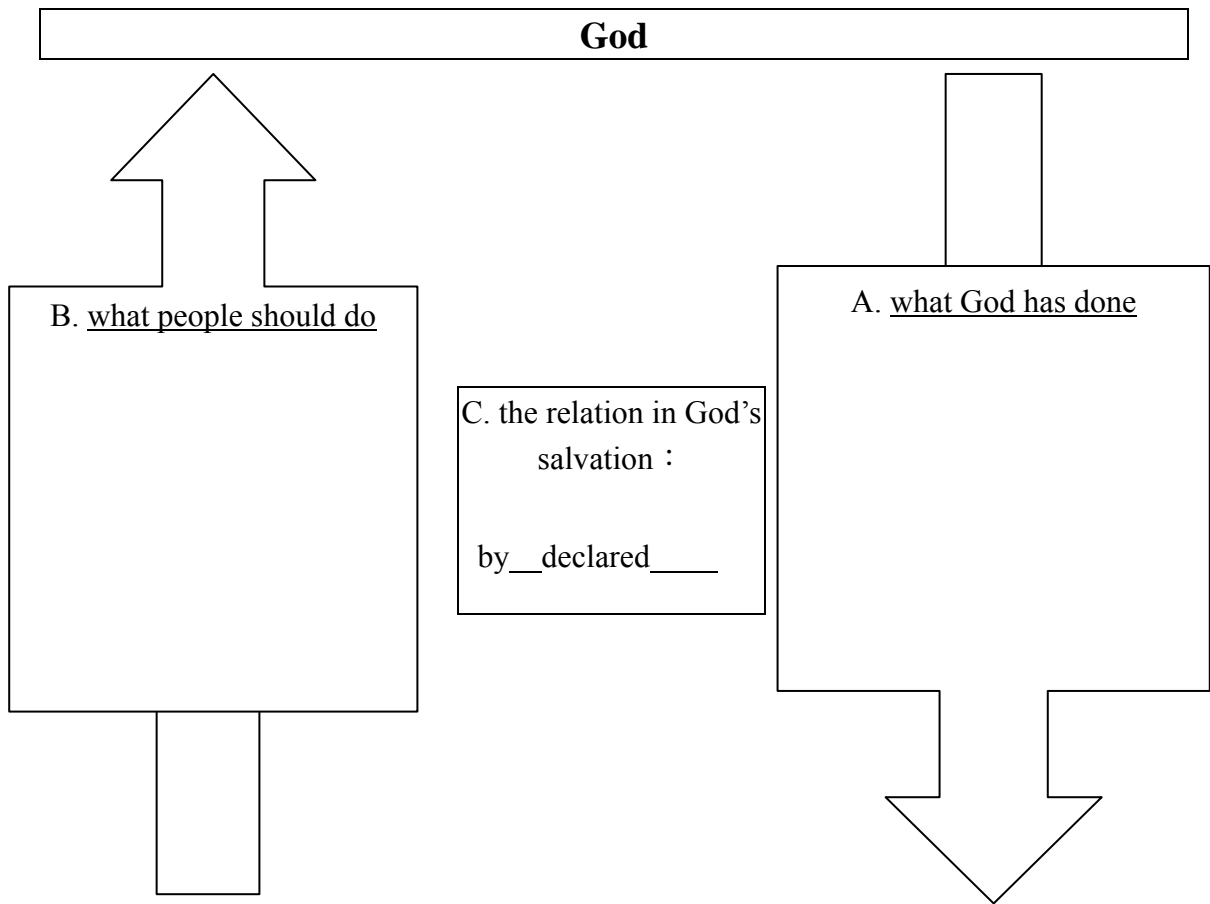
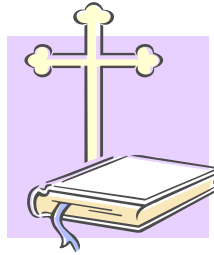
In addition, on the 31st October 1999, the clerical representatives of the Ecumenical Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation signed the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" (1997 final draft) in Augsburg, Germany. The full text can be viewed at <http://www.cathlinks.org/j-just.htm>.

References:

1. 董俊蘭 (1999) :〈保羅書信中的「因信稱義」〉,《神學與教會》, 24 卷 2 期 ,
<http://www.tcs.org.tw/~church/24.2/11.htm>
2. 王芃 :〈聖經解釋與社會責任〉,
<http://www.chineseprotestantchurch.org/Theological-Forum/200405.htm>
3. "Martin Luther," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_luther.

Worksheet 1: The Power of the Gospel

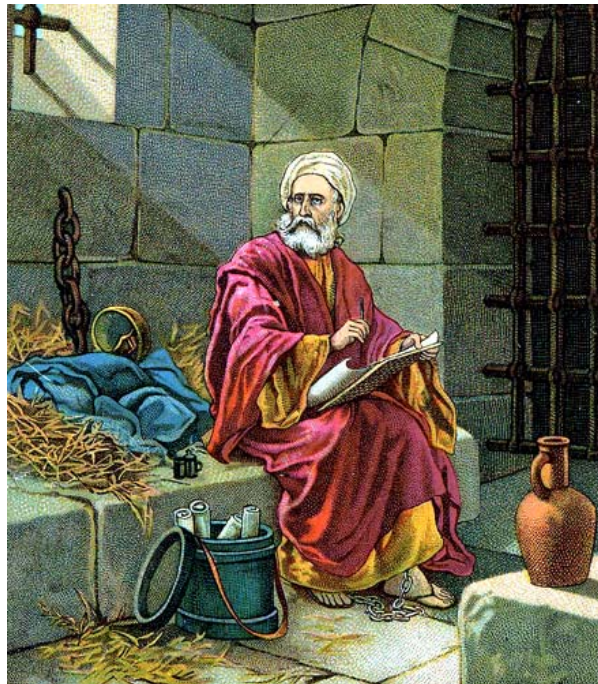
1. In the following chart showing causal relation, try to fill in what God has done and what people should do, and then answer the questions :



Humans (the Jews, Gentiles)

In the above salvation relationship, do people have to contribute a lot? Why?

2. How would you comment on the causal relation of salvation as suggested by Paul?



Worksheet 2: The significance of the idea of justification by faith

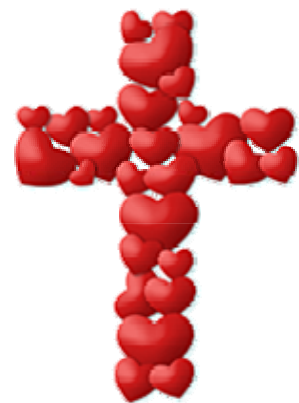
1. Based on ‘Appendix 1’, try to complete the following tables.

a. The Jewish Christians’ views on requirements for salvation

Some Jewish Christians’ views on God’s salvation during early church times	<u>Requirements for salvation</u>	<u>Advantages</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. ii. iii. 	<u>Limitations</u>

b. Paul’s views on requirements for salvation

Paul’s views on God’s salvation	<u>Requirements for salvation</u>	<u>The group that benefited from Paul’s view</u>
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Material 1: The explanation of the Pauline idea of justification by faith

1. The meaning of “faith”

According to Paul, “faith” is a word with a lot of meanings. “Faith” carries the meaning of having confidence in a belief. Yet, a more suitable meaning is “absolute trust and complete acceptance”. It means that one does not only believe in the existence of God and Jesus, but one will trust the Gospel of Jesus Christ and believe that the Gospel can save one’s life. “Faith” is not merely intellectual recognition, but also practices in action. “Faith” begins with acceptance, continues with complete obedience and modification in one’s life, so as to practise the Christian teaching.

2. The meaning of “justification”

Justification means establishing a good and appropriate relationship between God and people. God’s justification means that God treats the sinners as if they have never sinned. God treats sinners well as if they were His beloved children. God does not treat people as enemies, but as friends. God does not think people deserve punishments because they are sinful; rather, He thinks people are His children who deserve love.

3. The meaning of “justification by faith”

Anyone who truly believes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be justified by God. He/She can establish a good and appropriate relationship with God and is no longer controlled by sin. People can be justified not because of the things they have done, but because of God’s grace. We can only receive this grace through faith. The love of God enables man to establish a good relationship with Him through faith, and even have an abundant life. As it is written, “The person who is put right with God through faith shall live.” (Romans 1:17)

References:

1. Barclay, William (1955). *The Letters to the Romans*. Edinburgh: The Saint Andrew Press. pp. 8-14.
2. 董俊蘭 (1999): 〈保羅書信中的「因信稱義」〉, 《神學與教會》, 24 卷 2 期
<http://www.tcs.org.tw/~church/24.2/11.htm>。





Material 2: The significance of the Pauline idea of justification by faith to the early church

a. The Jewish Christians' views on requirements for salvation

Some Jewish Christians' views on God's salvation during early church times	<u>Requirements for salvation</u>	<u>Advantages</u>
	i. Circumcision ii. Obey Jewish laws, such as the Sabbath and diet restrictions and sacrifices in the Mosaic Laws. iii. Believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the traditions in Old Testament times • The Jews did not have to change their established thoughts in order to accept the new faith
		<u>Limitations</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Jews had to make great sacrifices in order to fulfill the requirements for salvation according to the Jewish traditions • The requirements greatly affected the number of gentile Christians joining the early church

b. Paul's views on requirements for salvation

Paul's views on God's salvation	<u>Requirements for salvation</u> Believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ	<u>The group that benefited from Paul's view</u> The gentiles
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c. Summary

- The Pauline idea of justification by faith was very important to the early church. At that time, the Jewish Christians maintained that the gentiles, other than believing in Christ, must also practise circumcision and observe other Jewish laws in order to join the Christian church.
- This requirements hindered many gentiles from becoming Christians.
- Paul, on the other hand, maintained that the gentiles did not have to obey the Jewish laws in order to become Christians. Both the gentiles and the Jews were the same. They could all receive salvation from God.
- Paul thought that God had a new way of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The gentiles only had to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order to be saved, justified, and to establish a good and appropriate relationship with God, becoming God's people.

Reference:

董俊蘭 (1999):〈保羅書信中的「因信稱義 / 因信成義」〉,《神學與教會》, 24 卷 2 期 ,
<http://www.tcs.org.tw/~church/24.2/11.htm>





Material 3: The influence of the Pauline idea of justification by faith on the development of Christianity

1. Missions to the gentiles

In the early church, some Jewish Christians demanded that the gentiles joining the church must also practise circumcision and other Jewish laws such as observing the Sabbath and diet rituals and sacrifices. These laws were very traditional Jewish customs, which were very different from the gentile traditions. The requirements greatly reduced the gentiles' willingness to become Christians.

Paul received revelation from God and proposed the idea of "justification by faith". He suggested that the gentiles were same as the Jews. Both groups could become God's people and Christians by believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Gentiles who wanted to join the Christian church did not have to obey the Jewish laws, they only had to believe in the Gospel. The idea of "justification by faith" invited the gentiles to Christianity and it helped spread Christianity throughout the world in the following 2000 years.

2. Martin Luther's Reformation

After the Renaissance in the fifteenth century, the western churches were getting more corrupt due to financial problems. The voice yearning for reformation was raised in many places in Europe. One of the most important reformers was Martin Luther (1483-1546). During 1512-1519, Martin Luther read Romans 1:16-17 and understood that people's justification by God was completely based on God's grace. It was not based on anything done by people. People can only accept this grace of salvation with "faith".

Martin Luther reiterated the importance of Paul's thinking of "justification by faith". It helped people understand that people could only be justified by God by having faith in God. However, the Pope at that time did not accept his proposition and even expelled him from the church. Martin Luther insisted on his own idea, and his theological position stirred up religious reform movements in England, Italy and Spain. Eventually, the voice yearning for reforms spread throughout Europe and numerous religious sects supporting the new theological position sprang up. The Western Christianity eventually split into Catholic and Protestant.

3. The Pauline research

The theological idea of Paul was an important cornerstone of Christianity. Ever since the first century, the Pauline epistles and theology have been very important topics for research in Christianity and biblical studies. Scholars through the centuries have published innumerable

works on Paul and the various aspects of his theology. Even today, biblical and Christian scholars are still eagerly discussing Paul's work, thus deepening our understanding of the Pauline theology and conditions of the early church.

References:

1. 董俊蘭 (1999):〈保羅書信中的「因信稱義 / 因信成義」〉,《神學與教會》, 24 卷 2 期, <http://www.tcs.org.tw/~church/24.2/11.htm>。
2. 王芃:〈聖經解釋與社會責任〉, <http://www.chineseprotestantchurch.org/Theological-Forum/200405.htm>
3. “Martin Luther,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_luther.

Period 4: Faith and Work

1. Biblical reference: James 2:14-26

2. Objectives:

- To understand the relationship between faith and work according to James' idea of justification.
- To understand that James considered faith and work to be complementary. Faith can be made perfect through work.
- To understand that James complemented the Pauline idea of justification by faith because real faith must be accompanied by good work. Their teachings help believers understand the significance of good deeds or charitable work.



3. Teaching Strategies

Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James considered faith and work to be complementary. Faith can be made perfect through work. • James thought that the justification of human beings (having an appropriate relationship with God) does not only base on faith, but also on work. • James complemented the Pauline idea of justification by faith because real faith must be accompanied by good work.
Issues for Explorations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can humans be justified by faith alone without the consideration of their work?
Enquiry Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did James propose that work is an integral part of salvation? • How did James understand the relationship between faith and work? • What is the impact of James' view on "integration of faith and work" on Christians in the modern times?
Learning Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through analysing the Scriptures, explore James' teaching that the justification of men (having an appropriate relationship with God) should not be based on their faith alone, but also on their work. • Through studying the story of Martin Luther and the role-playing lawyers involved in a court argument, explore how James complemented the Pauline idea of justification by faith.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through watching two episodes in the life of Nouwen, explore the importance of integration of faith and work in Christian's lives.
Key Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification • Faith • Work
Generic Skills, Values and Attitudes Involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the 'Generic Skills, Values and Attitudes' tables included in the corresponding lesson plans.
High-order Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is a life with faith and work complementing each other like? How does such a life benefit oneself and others?
Extended Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for policies, propaganda and slogans of governments, political parties and politicians. Explore whether the results of their implementation are consistent with what their promises. Thus, examine if governments, political parties and politicians truly believe in their own policies, propaganda and slogans.



Activity One

Enquiry Question	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
Why did James propose that work is an integral part of salvation?	Communication skills, collaboration skills, problem solving skills	Sanctity of life, rationality

Teaching Steps :**Step 1: Teacher does warm-up exercise with students and let them understand the relationship between faith and work.**

- Teacher raises the question:
 - i. Does faith simply mean believing in the heart, and no concrete work is needed?
- Teacher shows PowerPoint 1 (Walking on the Tightrope) and lets students discuss what faith is. The story is as followed:

A famous circus performer performed on the tightrope which was 20 metres long. He performed various acrobatics on the rope suspended in the air, 20 feet away from the ground below. The most spectacular was that he carried a person on his back and walked from one end of the tightrope to the other. Even though the circus had all the safety precautions, the audience was still in cold sweat. The performance was in great success, everyone was applauding. They all said to one another, ‘His tightrope walking was so perfect! I believe that his performance will always be successful. I have 100% faith in him.’

After the performance, the performer returned to the ground and challenged the audience, ‘Dear guests, who is willing to perform with me and let me carry you on my back as I walk across the tightrope?’ Everybody was astonished yet terrified. Nobody was willing to gamble on his own life. In case the performer slipped and fell off the tightrope, the volunteer would be hurt or even be killed... Though there were safety precautions, how would one know if they were reliable?

Wait a minute! Didn’t the audience just claim that they had a lot of faith in the fabulous skill and experience of the performer? How come they dared not to let the performer carry them on his back while walking across the tightrope now? Wasn’t it ironical and self-contradictory?”

- Teacher discusses the following questions with students:
 - i. If you were among the audience, would you accept the performer's invitation? Why?
 - ii. How would you evaluate the audience's faith in the performer? What was missing in their faith?

Step 2: Teacher summarises:

- The audience's faith was limited to mere admiration and recognition towards the performer. They failed to give evidence to their faith.
- In the first century, Christians once debated about the content of faith and the relationship between faith and work. Let us look at how they described the relationship between faith and work.

Step 3: Teacher carries out "The standpoint of James" activity with students and helps students understand the standpoints of James and his opponents.

- Teacher reads James 2:24-26 with students. Ask students to form groups and complete the first part of Worksheet 1 (James and his opponents) by writing down James' and his opponents' views on justification (having an appropriate relationship with God). Students need to use their imagination to deducing the standpoint of James' opponents from the Scriptures.
- Teacher must state clearly that "justification" is translated into "having an appropriate relationship with God" in today's Bible in Chinese version.
- Teacher discusses the questions on the worksheet with students:
 - i. James' standpoint on justification: people can have an appropriate relationship with God by work, not just by faith.
 - ii. The standpoint of James' opponents: people can have an appropriate relationship with God by faith alone, and need not to rely on any extrinsic act as aid or support.
- Teacher invites students to present the results of their discussions.

Step 4: Teacher carries out "James' justification" activity with students and helps students understand James' standpoint.

- Teacher reads James 2:14-26 with students. Ask students to stay in the same groups and complete the second part of Worksheet 1 (James and his opponents).
- Teacher discusses the questions on worksheet with students:
 - i. What was James' justification? (Faith with work is living faith, faith without work is a dead faith; faith and work are complementary, faith is made perfect

through work. Abraham and Rahab made clear that they had faith and work, and therefore God called them righteous people. People need work to prove their faith. A lot of people believe in God, even demons believe in God as well, but they do not take actions to prove their faith and therefore their faith is meaningless.)

- Teacher invites students to present their ideas.
- Teacher discusses with students:
Did James' justification fully support his standpoint that work is an integral part of people's salvation?

Step 5: Teacher summarises:

- James thought that the justification of human beings (having an appropriate relationship with God) should not be based on faith alone, but also on work.
- James made clear that faith without work meaningless. People need to prove their faith by work, and faith is made perfect through work.
- James used the examples of Abraham and Rahab to illustrate that faith and work are complementary.

Activity Two

Enquiry Question	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
How did James understand the relationship between faith and work?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Love, rationality, moral patterns

Teaching Steps:**Step 1: Teacher raises questions:**

- The great Protestant reformer Martin Luther exalted the Pauline idea of “justification by faith” (Romans 1:17), and stressed the concept that man is justified by God through faith.
- In the Book of James, it was written that “man is justified by work”. It contradicted the idea of “justification by faith” advocated by Martin Luther. Hence, Martin Luther claimed that the Book of James was an “epistle of straw” (meaning that its content had no values) and even wanted to remove it from the New Testament canon.
- James stressed work while Paul stressed faith as the way of justification. Are the two in conflict? Are you willing to defend James?

Step 2: Teacher carries out “The Trial of the Book of James” activity with students. Help students understand the background of James’ proposition that faith and work are complementary.

- Teacher hands out Appendix 1 (Were James and Paul in conflict?), asks each group to play the role of a defense lawyer and defend the Book of James against the two major accusations listed in Appendix 1, showing that James did not oppose the Pauline idea of justification by faith.
- Teacher invites a student to read the two accusations against the Book of James listed in Appendix 1. Each group should refer to the tips for defense in Appendix 1 and look for evidence to support the Book of James from James 2:14-26.
- After hearing the speech by each group, teacher asks all students to be arbitrators and vote whether James opposed or complemented the Pauline idea of justification by faith.

Step 3: Teacher carries out “The Mission of the Book of James” activity with students. Help students understand that the idea in the Book of James complemented the Pauline idea of justification by faith.

- Teacher asks students to complete Worksheet 2 (The Mission of James).
- Teacher discusses the questions on the worksheet with students (Teacher may refer to Teachers’ Reference Material 1 (The views on James and Paul towards faith and work) for reference answers):
 - What was the ground of justification according to James?
 - How did James describe the relationship between faith and work?
 - How did James describe the content of work?
 - Were Paul’s and James’ views on justification in conflict? (no)
 - Did James complement or oppose the Pauline idea of justification by faith? (He complemented the Pauline idea.)
- Teacher invites students to present the results of discussions.

Step 4: Teacher summarises:

- When James discussed faith and work, his emphasis was different from Paul’s. Hence, their views were not in conflict.
- James stressed the differences between the dead faith (faith without work) and the living faith (faith with work). Only faith with work is the kind of faith that can save people.
- James thought that work (good deeds, charitable work) and faith are complementary. Faith is made perfect through work and both contribute to the salvation of the humankind.
- James complemented the Pauline idea of justification by faith, helping the Christians of the Early Church understand the significance of good deeds and charitable work in salvation.

Step 5: Teacher distributes Students’ Reference Material 1 (The views of James and Paul towards faith and work), briefly explains it and wraps up the activity.



Activity Three

Enquiry Questions	Generic Skills	Values and Attitudes
What is the impact of James' view on "integration of faith and work" on Christians in the modern times?	Communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills	Love, respect for others, moral patterns

Teaching Steps:**Step 1: Teacher raises question:**

- How would you evaluate James' idea of the integration of faith and work?
- Is the integration of faith and work difficult?

Step 2: Teacher carries out "Integration of Faith and work" activity with students. Help students understand how the James' idea has influenced the believers.

- Teacher shows PowerPoint 2 (Two episodes in the life of Father Nouwen) and helps students learn the two incidents of which Father Nouwen put his faith into practice.
- Teacher hands out Worksheet 3 (Integration of Faith and Work) and asks each group to name two examples of Father Nouwen manifesting the spirit of the integration of faith and work in the Book of James. Also, ask students to put down the corresponding ideas of James on integration of faith and action.
- Teacher discusses the questions on the worksheet with students:
 - Was Father Nouwen a man of faith and work?
 - Is it easy to live according to the spirit of the integration of faith and action in the Book of James?
- Teacher invites students to present the results of discussion.
- Teacher points out:
 - In Christianity, "work" is considered as being obedient to God's will in every aspect of life. Hence, "work" is the medium for manifesting our faith.

Step 3: Teacher further discusses with students:

- How does a life of which faith and work complementing each other look like?
- How does such a life benefit oneself and others?

Step 4: Teacher summarises:

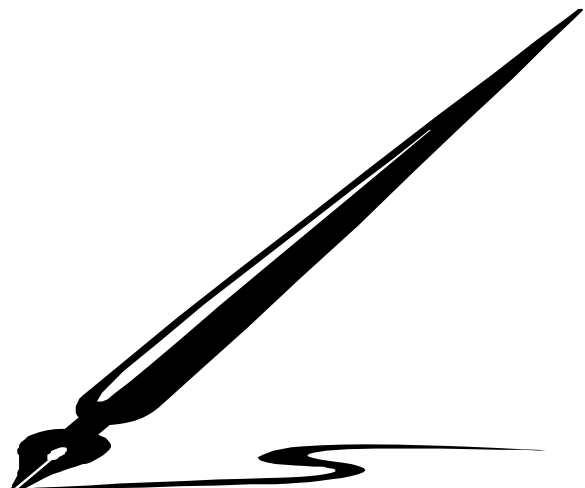
- James' idea on the integration of faith and work has become the standard for a living faith. It has significant influence on Christians of future generations.
- Father Nouwen had faith and work. He lived out James' idea of integrating faith and work.

Extended Activities:

1. Teacher asks students to look for the following:
 - Political propaganda and slogans of different political parties and politicians.
 - Propaganda and policies of the government, such as Action Blue Sky, Coming to Hong Kong, etc.

2. Teacher asks students the following questions:
 - What were the ideas behind the propaganda and policies?
 - Were these propaganda and policies been implemented?
 - Did the contents of the propaganda and policies match the results of the implementation?
 - If they had not been implemented, what would the reasons be?
 - Hence, did the government, political parties or politicians have faith in their own plans?

3. Teacher can invite students to do sharing in the following period.



Appendix 1: Were James and Paul in conflict?



Accusation against James

1. Paul thought that people should be justified by faith (Romans 1:17), yet James thought that people should be justified by work (James 2:24).
2. Paul affirmed faith and thought that faith was his way to justification, yet James claimed that “faith without work is dead” (James 2:26).

Tips for Defense

1. James’ definition of faith
 - Faith and work complement each other.
 - Faith is made perfect through work.
2. James’ view on work
 - People need good work to manifest their faith.
 - Faith without work is a dead faith.

Material 1: The views of James and Paul towards faith and work

	Paul	James (James 2:14-26)
Ground of justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By faith, not by work (the Law). 	a. Not just by faith, also by work at the same time.
The content of faith / Relationship between faith and work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People have to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that his death and resurrection aimed to save the humankind. The Gospel gives life. The Law brings death. 	a. Faith is shown by good work. b. Faith and work are complementary. c. Faith without work is dead. d. Faith is made perfect through work.
The content of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly means practicing the Jewish laws such as circumcision. Faith will produce corresponding work, e.g. faith will produce love. 	a. Good deeds, charitable work

Conclusion

- When James discussed faith and work, his emphasis was different from Paul's. Hence, he is not counted as opposing Paul.
- James stressed the differences between the dead faith (faith without work) and the living faith (faith with work). Only faith with work is the faith that can save.
- James thought that work (good deeds, charitable work) and faith are complementary, and he stressed the role of work in faith and salvation.
- James complemented the Pauline idea of justification by faith, helping the Christians of Early Church understand the significance of good deeds or charitable work in salvation.

Worksheet 1: James and his opponents

1. With reference to James 2:24-26, write down James' views on justification as well as his opponents'.

James' standpoint on justification

The standpoint on justification of James' opponents



2. With reference to James' justification, which of the following are the reasons for James to hold his standpoint? Put a √ in the .

The justification for James' standpoint

- Faith is the most important. Work is not important at all.
- Only faith with work is living faith. Faith without work is dead faith.
- To accept that God has sent Jesus to die for the world.
- Faith is perfect even without work.
- Faith and work are complementary. Faith is made perfect through work.
- The examples of Abraham and Rahab proved that, just by believing in God was enough to be called righteous people.
- The examples of Abraham and Rahab proved that they had faith and work, and therefore God called them righteous people.
- People need work to prove their faith.
- A lot of people believe in God, even the demons do. But they have no work to prove their faith, and therefore their faith is meaningless.
- A lot of people believe in God. It is good as long as they are willing to believe and their faith is already perfect.

Worksheet 2: The mission of James



1. Refer to James 2:24-26 and complete the following table.

	Paul	James (James 2:14-26)
Ground of justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By faith, not by work (the Law). 	a.
The content of faith / Relationship between faith and work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that his death and resurrection aimed to save the humankind. • The Gospel gives life. The Law brings death. 	a. b. c. d.
The content of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly means practicing the Jewish laws such as circumcision. • Faith will produce corresponding work, e.g. faith will produce love. 	a.

2. Based on the table above, circle the correct answers in the following two statements and briefly explain your answers.

a. There were (conflicts/no conflict) between Paul’s and James’ views on justification.

b. James (complemented/opposed) the Pauline idea of justification by faith.

Worksheet 3: Integration of Faith and Work

1. Try to complete the following table.

Examples of Nouwen manifesting the spirit of the integration of faith and work in the Book of James	Corresponding ideas of James on the integration of faith and work (James 2:14-26)

2. Was Nouwen a man of “faith and work”? Is it easy to live according to the spirit of the “integration of faith and work” in the Book of James?





Material 1: The views of James and Paul towards faith and work

	Paul	James (James 2:14-26)
Ground of justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By faith, not by work (the Law). 	e. Not just by faith, also by work at the same time.
The content of faith / Relationship between faith and work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People have to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that his death and resurrection aimed to save the humankind. The Gospel gives life. The Law brings death. 	a. Faith is shown by good work. b. Faith and work are complementary. c. Faith without work is dead. d. Faith is made perfect through work.
The content of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly means practicing the Jewish laws such as circumcision. Faith will produce corresponding work, e.g. faith will produce love. 	a. Good deeds, charitable work

Conclusion

- When James discussed faith and work, his emphasis was different from Paul's. Hence, he is not counted as opposing Paul.
- James stressed the differences between the dead faith (faith without work) and the living faith (faith with work). Only faith with work is the faith that can save.
- James thought that work (good deeds, charitable work) and faith are complementary, and he stressed the role of work in faith and salvation.
- James complemented the Pauline idea of justification by faith, helping the Christians of Early Church understand the significance of good deeds or charitable work in salvation.

Reference:

http://bible.fhl.net/bible_teach/apo/la-4.htm