those outside of their family, God said it was an abomination. This will be looked at further in Lesson 3. After Christ came, this responsibility was then passed on to the church with the same requirements as before His coming.

READ

Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47, 13:1-2; Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 1:3-6

ANSWER

In the Old Testament, God worked through His chosen people, the nation of Israel. According to New Testament passages like Acts 13:1-2, God worked through the church. The church is a group of people _____[5] by God for His service, and it is God's place of protection for His Word. According to Matthew 16:18 and Acts 2:47, who built or prepared the church? _____[6].

Wherever God's church meets, it is a _____[7] place where He can meet with them. According to Ephesians 5:27, what does God desire His church to be?_____[8].

The church is also a _____[9] place for His Word. Just as in the Old Testament, the kings and priests were to guard the Word of God, today, the church has been given the care of God's Word. According to Revelation 1:3 & 6, what has God made us? _____[10].

THINK

If the Bible is important to God, and the church is where God has chosen to preserve His Word for every generation, how are you helping the church do its job? Are you telling others about God? If unsaved people had to depend on you to get a Bible, would they ever receive one? Will your faithfulness to God and His Word result in the next generation receiving God's pure Word?

Answer Key

1. *place them in the ark*
2. *prepared*
3. *holy*
4. *safe*
5. *prepared*
6. *Jesus Christ*
7. *holy*
8. *holy and without blemish*
9. *safe*
10. *kings and priests*

NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

TEEN LESSON 2

GOD'S PLACE

FOR PROVIDING HIS WORD TO EVERY GENERATION

LESSON **TWO**

God's Place For Providing His Word to Every Generation

THINK

God was very specific as to how the written Word was to be handled. For it to be preserved, it had to be taken care of in a very certain way. It could not be handled and treated as any ordinary household item. How long would an item of value last if it were mishandled on a regular basis, and not kept in a secure location? Not very long. Definitely not from generation to generation.

Valuables which are passed down from one generation to the next are usually not handled and used daily. You might have coins, baseball cards, sports memorabilia, china, or other items you value. Some people have things that may not be of great monetary value, but they hold a special place in their heart. The things people value are generally placed in locked areas or safe boxes where they will not be damaged, stolen, or mishandled. In this lesson, we will discuss the plan God set in place to ensure His Word would be handled correctly, and not be destroyed or mishandled through time.

READ

Deuteronomy 10:1-5

ANSWER

Moses broke the first set of stones on which the Ten Commandments were written. According to this passage, what did God command Moses to do with the second set of commandments?_____[1]

THINK

God protected His written Word by having it put inside the Ark of the Covenant. God was so serious about protecting His Word, that if anyone were to touch the Ark of the Covenant, they would be instantly struck dead. The Ark was specially prepared by God's people. God gave them detailed instructions how the Ark was to be made in Exodus 25:10-22.

Not only was the Ark overlaid with gold, but also the mercy seat of pure gold was placed on top of the Ark. The mercy seat was in the Holy of Holies, a part of the Tabernacle (See verses 21-22). So, God's Word was not only kept in a prepared place (inside the Ark), but it was also kept in a holy place where God would meet with and talk to His people!

ANSWER

The Scriptures were kept in a _____[2] place (Exodus 25:10-16).
The Scriptures were kept in a _____[3] place (Exodus 25:21-22).
The Scriptures were kept in a _____[4] place (Numbers 18:1-7; Deuteronomy 10:5).

THINK

The priests were chosen by God to be the guardians of His precious Word. Not only were they responsible to preserve the text from error, but also to copy it so it could be passed down to future generations. Jewish history reveals that meticulous care was given to detail and accuracy of the duplication of manuscripts. A newly copied manuscript was just as accurate and powerful as the one from which it was copied. Opinions, additions, or deletions would never pass through the proofing stage of these writings.

That was the process that remained in place throughout the Old Testament. Then a miraculous event occurred that changed everything. The Word became flesh (John 1:1, 14). Jesus began to personify what a life with perfect application of the Old Testament looks like in real time. He added to what had been given in writing by speaking and teaching in person. He then gave the command for that to be taken to the world, not just the Jews (Mt. 28:19-20). Everyone who would believe the message of the Gospel that was brought to them and place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation would become a part of a much larger group than the Jews alone. God places them into a group that Jesus loves and gave His life for, the church (Eph. 5:25).

Although God began to use a different group of people as the revealer of Himself to the world, His plan of revealing Himself to the world has not changed. Holy men of God were inspired to pen down everything God wanted mankind to know to reveal Himself to us (II Peter 1:19-21). These writings were to be cared for in a very particular place. Throughout the Old Testament, God gave the responsibility of caring for the writings to the Levitical priesthood, namely the Kohathites. His plan has always been for a very specific group of His people to handle and produce that which is holy. Ezekiel 44 records God's view of what happens when this plan is not followed. When they gave their responsibility to