

# Introduction

---

## About these lessons

### The place of these lessons in the CSSU syllabus

The CSSU Study Class Lesson notes are part of a series which set out to teach the message of the Bible to children and young people.

- Infant Lessons – for children aged 3-6
- Junior lessons – for children aged 7-10
- Senior Lessons – for students aged 11-14

#### Study Class Lessons, for young people aged 14+

- From Beginning to End – A one-year course which forms a bridge between the Senior Lessons and 'The Way of Life'
- The Way of Life – a course for teenagers aged 14+, published in 3 parts. The lessons cover all the first principles of the scriptures, and also deal with the many practical issues of everyday life that face teenagers.

Full details of these and of the many other publications available from the CSSU are on the website at [www.cssu.org.uk](http://www.cssu.org.uk).

#### Students notes

Accompanying these lesson notes is a set of Study notes, for use by the young people, each of whom should have a copy.

### The aim

The aim of this set of lesson notes is to give an overview of the Bible, the books and the major themes and doctrines.

### Who is it for?

When children first learn about the Bible they learn stories in isolation - which is fine because they have little sense of chronology.

As they get older, however, they need to get to appreciate the big picture: how God's purpose spans the ages, and how events recorded in one part of the Bible can be reflected, years later, in another part.

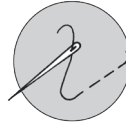
So if you have a group of young people who know the events recorded in the Bible, but may not yet appreciate how they all fit together, these notes are for them.

### 'Books' lessons and 'Threads' lessons

There are 35 lessons. Some cover a book or a group of books - we have called these 'Books' lessons - and some which consider scriptural themes - we have called these 'Threads' lessons.



The 'books' lessons generally revise the events of the Bibles, look at the historical background and pick out interesting topics. You could add anything that enthuses you.



The 'threads' lessons set out to show how God's purposes have been the same right through scripture.

### Lesson titles

No doubt you will have spotted already that the lessons have a main title, and a subtitle that is more relevant to the students. In the students' books, these titles are reversed.

### How to approach this course

There are 35 lessons so the course can be completed in a year. If you do everything suggested, it will take much longer, and it is probably best not to do this. If you can keep stepping back, picking out what interests you and your class they will get a better overall picture. With this in mind we have tried to present the material with a 'pick and mix' approach.

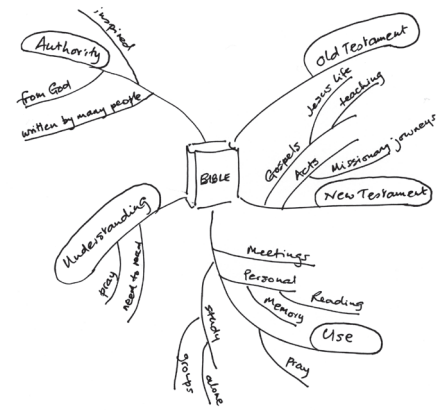
Because in many Sunday schools several teachers take one class in turns, and because there is an important overall message and common theme to the lessons, it is important that there is good communication between teachers between lessons.

You may decide only to do the 'books' lessons - especially if you are intending to start a first principles course soon. With this in mind we have used a 'books' symbol and a 'threads' symbol to distinguish between them.

## Brainstorming and 'mind mapping'

Some lessons begin by suggesting that you 'brainstorm' with the young people. This means simply getting a large sheet of paper and writing down anything they think of about a subject. Mind-mapping is a way of doing this by creating a diagram which gives a basic structure to their ideas - there is a simple illustration here.

It may seem that this is a messy way to start and you may feel that you lose control of the lesson direction, but it helps the students take 'ownership' of their learning and makes it more relevant to them. They may also be surprised by how much they actually know. Children are most receptive at the beginning of a lesson, so rather than taking time introducing the subject by telling them things they may already know, these techniques involve them and provide a quick way of establishing a basis for what follows. The result can also be a useful resource to refer back to later in the lesson.



## Picture Memory Joggers

All the 'Books' lessons have a set of pictures which depict events from those books. They can be used in a variety of ways.

- These can simply be used for the students to recognise the stories;
- They can be photocopied (or printed from the CSSU web site) and arranged on a timeline, or linked to the correct chapters in the books.
- You could invent games where the students have to say 3 interesting things about each story or ask each other questions about them. Some lessons have suggestions for how to do this.

## Comments

We hope that you will all find this material useful. We would welcome any comments that you would like to make on the form or content of the notes - please write to

The CSSU Secretary, 17 Sherbourne Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 6AD, UK

We pray that the young people in your care will grow in understanding and love of our Father in heaven and his Son Jesus Christ, and that they will all be led to commit their lives to him.