

# Life Matters

## Worksheet 4



If you can drive a car, can you remember back to when you first got behind the wheel and drove for the first time? It's a common experience that we think that driving will be easy, after all we've watched people drive with no problem at all and how difficult can it really be? Then we try to control the clutch! Then we try and change gear, whilst keeping our eyes on the road, and steering, and concentrating on the other cars, and checking our mirrors, and keeping an eye on the speedometer, and listening to our instructor, and on it goes. We soon discover that driving is really, really, difficult at first. We thought that we would be the combination of Stirling Moss and Lewis Hamilton, only to find that we are more like newborn lambs trying to walk for the first time.

We have thought that we are at a particular standard of skill and behaviour and then we discover that we are way short of the required standard. There are so many aspects of life today where we fail to hit the target. I still remember the pain of failing all (apart from 1) of my O' levels and let's not even think about A' levels! If you have ever experienced the joy of playing a sport like Golf, then you will also know that there is at least an equal, if not more, amount of failure to go with that joy!

### QUESTIONS:

- **What can you think of in your life, where you've failed to hit the necessary standard?**
- **If you've ever tried a new hobby, are you the type of person who assumes that they can achieved greatness straight away, abject failure or something in between?**

Sometimes even your best is not good enough. If I was to play my very best, train hard so that I was the very fittest and strongest that I could be, if I was to alter my diet to eat perfectly, then I would still not be good enough to play rugby for Wales! My best is just not enough. I'm too old, too slow, not powerful enough and lack the necessary skills! Apart from that there's still a chance? If only! Even my very best still falls way short of the standard that would be necessary. My best is not enough.

The bible is very clear about the standards that we achieve in life. In Romans chapter 3, Paul is writing to the church Rome and writes "for all have fallen short of the glory of God". If the glory of God is perfection, then we all must confess that we are not up to this. The standard has been set by God that we all fall short of. It is like sitting the exam of life and the pass mark is set at 100% perfection. If 'to err is human' then we should not be at all surprised that we all fail. Is this fair? Is it fair that God sets a perfect pass mark for erring, imperfect human beings? Well, we could argue that it's not, however the bible also makes it clear that God has also done something about our lack of perfection. If someone asks you to clean the corner of the ceiling and they also supply you with a ladder to stand on, you can't really complain that you can't reach if you refuse to use the ladder. We may have fallen short of the glory of God, but Jesus didn't. That is why

Jesus came into this world, to live a life that you and I haven't, aren't and won't. The answer to the problem of falling short is relying on the Jesus who didn't fall short. The answer to the problem of you not being good enough, is that God has given us Jesus as the one who was good enough. God has provided us with the answer to our failure and his name is Jesus.

In John chapter 1 verse 14, he writes "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." As an eyewitness, John is saying that he has seen the glory of Jesus. When we think of something 'glorious, we know that it is something that is full of glory. That is how John describes Jesus and the life that he lived. John is saying that Jesus as the Son of God is displaying the glory of God in a human body.

## **QUESTIONS:**

- **Have you ever considered that Jesus shows us the glory of God?**
- **What is the biggest problem in the world today?**

What is the biggest problem in the world today? It's a difficult question to answer isn't it. There is so much that is wrong and so much that is broken. We see the evidence of a broken society in the western world. When we think about it we also see that our lives as individuals are broken as well. Whether that is seen in broken emotions, broken relationships or broken bodies, the reality is that this is a broken world full of broken people.

It's every parent's worst nightmare when their child is seriously ill. So it was for a Royal official in Capernaum. As a royal official, this man would have had a certain amount of power, wealth and status. However this means nothing when your son is close to death. This is the situation that faces Jesus in John chapter 4. Jesus is in Galilee when he is confronted by this Royal official who is beside himself with worry for his son. In verse 49 we read these stark words "The royal official said, 'Sir, come down before my child dies.' 'Go', Jesus replied 'your son will live'. The man took Jesus at his word and departed." The royal official finds out that his son does live, and that the illness left him at the exact same time that Jesus told him to go home. Jesus heals this young son by just speaking. Here was the broken body of a young son, the broken and desperate spirit of a desperate Father, and a potential broken relationship caused by death. Jesus fixes all of this by speaking! Jesus fixes the broken. The answer to a broken world is Jesus. The answer to broken individuals is Jesus. The answer to broken relationship is Jesus.

## **QUESTIONS:**

- **What is broken in this world?**
- **What is broken in your life?**
- **How do you think Jesus can mend broken hearts and lives?**

We have considered that we are broken and that we don't match up to the standard that God sets us. If we fail to hit the necessary standard because we are part of a broken world then what is the answer? If your car fails its MOT test then you have two options, fix the problems or get a new car. When it comes to life, we struggle to fix the problems, and there is no option of anything new, or is there?

In chapter 3 of John's gospel, we have the meeting of a religious leader named Nicodemus with Jesus. This man, Nicodemus, really represents the very best of 1st century Jewish manhood. He's a good man who

you would love to have as your neighbour. He's a leader and influential, he extremely religious, and he's curious about Jesus. If anyone hits a good standard, then you would say that Nicodemus would. Nicodemus really measures up to the world's top standards. If you were to think of people who lived broken lives, the Nicodemus would be the last person you would think of. The conversation that Nicodemus has with Jesus is one of the most remarkable conversations in all of history and is famous for several the things that were said.

The conversation starts with Nicodemus saying some nice things about the authority of Jesus, he's saying that the miracles that Jesus has performed has shown that Jesus has been sent by God. Jesus seemingly ignores this and tells Nicodemus in verse 3 "no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." The kingdom of God is shorthand for heaven. Jesus is saying that to get to heaven you must be born again. Nicodemus understandably doesn't understand. He thinks that Jesus means that you need to go back inside your Mother and experience your birth again. Jesus is not talking about physical birth. Jesus is talking about new, spiritual life. A brand-new start, a new life. A spiritual life. That is Jesus' answer to the problem of brokenness and falling short. New life in Jesus. Being born again or literally born from above is God's answer to the problems of a broken world.

This is what God promises followers of Jesus Christ. A brand-new start. A spiritual life that is the fix for broken people like us. Please read for yourself John chapter three. There you will find the most often quoted verse in the bible in verse 16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." This is a broken world that needs fixing. This is a world that does not hit perfection that needs saving. We are reminded in these verses that it is Jesus who has been sent by God to save this fallen, broken world. We are all part of the problem, but God, in his amazing love for us, has given us the solution in Jesus Christ.

## **QUESTIONS:**

- **Have you experienced for yourself being 'born again or born from above'?**
- **Have you 'believed in the Lord Jesus Christ' for yourself?**

How would you like to explore this life in Jesus Christ that John wants you to know? This is your opportunity and invitation to do that. There are currently millions of people around the world who have experienced what life in Jesus Christ is really like. Why not commit to spend some time for the next few weeks exploring this for yourself? These videos and studies will be appearing twice a week and we will attempt to answer any questions you have via our email address [info@lfec.org](mailto:info@lfec.org)

In the next video and study, we will again consider the reasons that God the Father sent His Son into the world. Look out for these on YouTube, Facebook or on our website:

[www.lfec.org](http://www.lfec.org)